

PSHA's speech at opening ceremony of seminar on Designing Play Spaces for Children of Today (English only)

The following is the speech by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the opening ceremony of the seminar on Designing Play Spaces for Children of Today organised by Playright Children's Association today (July 11):

Ms Au, Professor Senda, Mr Wong, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here with you this afternoon at the opening ceremony of the Seminar on Designing Play Spaces for Children of Today.

It has been said many times before – and truisms bear repeating – that children are our future. In Hong Kong, we are wholeheartedly committed to providing children with a safe, healthy and happy environment in which to grow and mature. It does not only mean building up sound general knowledge, but it also includes acquiring creative and thinking skills so that our children can grow up to be well-rounded individuals. One of the most important ways is to enrich the life of every child through quality play.

Since its establishment in 1987, Playright Children's Association has been providing play resources throughout the community. We have been working closely with Playright in various projects. In particular, we appreciate very much their efforts in providing management and operating services for the Toy Library in the Hong Kong Central Library since 2004. Playright has also supported numerous public events so as to bring joy and harmonious spirit to different communities in Hong Kong. This can be best shown in their recent collaboration with the Yau Tsim Mong District Office in the Launching Ceremony of Yau Tsim Mong Domestic Waste Source Separation, in which the participants, be them children or adults, simply enjoyed very much the tailor-made games designed by Playright and had a lot of fun that afternoon.

Today, I am so glad that we can exchange ideas with professionals on play spaces design to kindle children's imagination and curiosity. sincerely hope that our partnership

with Playright would continue so that our children can enjoy safe and versatile play spaces throughout their stages of development.

It is true to say that all of us here have inherited this world from our ancestors. But, we are also borrowing it from our children. The future they enjoy rests with the care and attention we give them today.

I would like to thank Playright for organising this meaningful seminar, and I wish you all a very fruitful and enjoyable discussion. Thank you.

Ends/Saturday, July 11, 2009