



Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports Halimah Yacob visiting the Modern Montessori International preschool at Bedok Reservoir yesterday. Teachers at childcare centres such as this will soon get more help with their administrative duties. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

New scheme to raise efficiency of preschools

TEACHERS at childcare centres may be able to spend more time interacting with pupils due to new measures that aim to make the administrative side of their work more efficient.

They will be encouraged to become more productive under a scheme launched yesterday by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

The programme will involve raising awareness of existing grants and funding provided by the ministry and agencies such as the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

Childcare operators will also

be encouraged to use cloud computing applications, which exist on the Internet rather than on an individual computer.

More information on this will be released in September.

Technology already in use includes the Vitals and Attendance Monitoring System, which measures children's temperature and weight as they stand on a platform, then feeds the information into the centre's database.

It also keeps a record of their attendance - with the process taking less than three seconds.

These tasks may traditionally require more than one teacher or

administrator. The new system is designed to free up staff for other duties.

It has been piloted in 13 childcare centres since September last year, and will be made available to all of the remaining 968 in Singapore this month.

Said Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports Halimah Yacob: "These tools clearly minimise routine, repetitive operational work, then you can release staff to do a lot more quality work, interacting and engaging the children."

She was speaking at the Modern Montessori International

(MMI) at Bedok Reservoir, one of the centres taking part in the pilot scheme.

MMI's deputy head of early childhood, Mr Michael Phillips, gave the technology his approval.

"Now we need just one teacher to do this job, while the other teacher can work on the development of the child, rather than record keeping," he said.

The system was developed by the ministry, the Media Development Authority, Temasek Polytechnic and a home-grown start-up company called Portege.

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