

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY DR YEO NING HONG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE,  
AT THE KIM SENG 'A' RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE AND KIM SENG  
WOMENS' SUB-COMMITTEE CHILDREN'S ON THE SPOT ART COMPETITION  
AT BLOCK 92, ZION ROAD, ON SUNDAY, 13 JUNE 1982 AT 11 AM

Let me first of all thank the Kim Seng Zone 'A' Residents' Committee and Kim Seng Womens' Sub-Committee for organising this children's spot art competition to bring together the children of our constituency.

For me, it is always a joy to see large numbers of children giving vent to their free expression and creativity. Whenever possible, we should give our children a chance to show their natural talents. There is much that we adults can learn from children, particularly, the children's purity of thought; their freedom from prejudices and their total absence of hypocrisy. These innocent virtues of childhood are clearly reflected in their drawings.

In Singapore today, where the family unit is small, with an average of two children per family, it is important for community groups to organise functions such as these to provide opportunities for children to mix freely and to get to know other children in the same block or within the neighbourhood. They can then make friends with one another, get to know each other better and in the process, learn the importance of getting along with others. Such mixing between children of similar ages is extremely healthy and will help them grow up into well adjusted adults. For with children, it is never too young to teach them the social values of living together, learning from one another and helping one another. In fact, these are innate values present in children. Unfortunately, the process of growing up in some cases has eroded these basic values resulting in self-centered, intolerant and selfish adults.

Such community ....2/-

Such community activities also bring together parents and elders of the children. Parents should take advantage of these opportunities to get to know their neighbours better. They may be pleasantly surprised to find their neighbours just as friendly as themselves. This would provide them with friends in the neighbourhood, friends who can help them in times of need, where they have to leave their children for a while and know full well that their children will be happy and safe playing with other children. Likewise, they can help their neighbours when called upon.

In this way, both children as well as parents, will be greatly assisted. In the process, we will have better children, better adults and better friends giving us a better neighbourhood and a better society.

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