

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Epworth and MILK Fund Launch First Integrated Services Hub to Support Underprivileged Children with SEN in Mainstream Schools**



*Mr Suraj Upadhiah (Left), Executive Director, MILK Fund & Mr Tan Khye Suan (Right), Executive Director, Epworth Community Services*

**Singapore, 14 May 2026** Epworth Community Services (Epworth) and Mainly I Love Kids (MILK) Fund have launched the first non-profit Integrated Services for Child Development (ISCD) Hub to support children from middle and low-income families with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

This ISCD Hub, the first of its kind offered by a Social Service Agency, serves children aged five to 12 who are enrolled in mainstream schools and have SEN such as Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or exhibit ADHD-like behaviours, including screen dependency and other developmental and learning challenges. It aims to address gaps in access to timely and affordable psychological assessment and intervention.

Services provided include weekly group intervention programmes, comprehensive psychological assessments, caregiver support such as parenting sessions and parent support groups, and training consultations for professionals working with children.

This Hub is expected to support around 775 children, parents, and professionals over three years. It also seeks to equip professionals with skills to better support children with SEN and their families.

There has been an increasing number of children in Singapore diagnosed with ADHD or exhibit ADHD-like behaviours<sup>1</sup> attending mainstream schools. They may not be getting the help they need due to limited public providers that are accessible to middle to low-income families. The high cost of private psychological assessments, which can exceed \$2,000<sup>2</sup>, also makes it difficult for these families to receive these services. Long wait time to receive intervention further leads to delayed support.

Mr Tan Khye Suan, Executive Director, Epworth, said, “This Integrated Services for Child Development Hub provides holistic and timely support for children with Special Educational Needs, helping them better keep pace with their peers in mainstream schools. By bringing assessment, interventions, and caregiver support under one roof, we make it more convenient for families whose children face multiple learning challenges. It reduces the need to travel between different service providers. We are pleased to collaborate with the MILK Fund to make these services more accessible to families who need them.”

Under this partnership, Epworth will deploy manpower and professionals to deliver psychological assessment, interventions, consultation, and caregiver support services. The MILK Fund will provide partial funding for these services.

“When ADHD and ADHD-like behaviours are not identified and supported early, we risk mistaking unmet developmental needs for poor behaviour, while families who need help most are left to face cost and access barriers on their own. For many middle- and lower-income families, timely assessment and intervention are not always within reach. This partnership is important because it helps close that gap early, making support more accessible and ensuring that no child is left behind,” said Mr Suraj Upadhiah, Executive Director, MILK Fund.

Research indicates that delayed assessment and intervention may affect a child’s health, social-emotional development, and self-esteem. ADHD has been cited as the fourth highest contributor to disease burden (as measured in disability-adjusted life years) in Singapore children aged 14 and below<sup>3</sup>, and has been associated with negative outcomes such as reduced self-esteem and higher smoking rate<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.straitstimes.com/life/devastated-to-not-have-adhd-is-the-condition-overdiagnosed-in-singapore>[https://www.msf.gov.sg/docs/default-source/research-data/disability-trends-report-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=46eace93\\_8](https://www.msf.gov.sg/docs/default-source/research-data/disability-trends-report-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=46eace93_8)

<sup>2</sup> <https://dasint.org.sg/fees/assessment-fees/>

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health, Singapore. Singapore’s burden of disease and injury 2010. Singapore: Ministry

<sup>4</sup> ADHD Parenting Guide: [https://www.imh.com.sg/Documents/publications/educational-brochures/for-children-andadolescents/ADHD\\_Booklet.pdf](https://www.imh.com.sg/Documents/publications/educational-brochures/for-children-andadolescents/ADHD_Booklet.pdf)

The ISCD Hub will operate from Epworth’s current premises at 106 Bukit Batok Central and 471 Jurong West St. 41.

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For media queries:

Laura Jiang  
9177-6816  
[media@epworth.sg](mailto:media@epworth.sg)

### **About Epworth Community Services**

Epworth Community Services is a Social Service Agency incorporated in 1998 and has served around 40,000 individuals in almost 28 years. Epworth empowers children and youths to thrive by helping disadvantaged children and at-risk youths, creating a better world for them so that they can develop their potential. Epworth continues to be guided by its vision of “Strong Families, Resilient Living, Beautiful Minds”.

Epworth is a registered charity, a full member of the National Council of Social Service and an Institution of a Public Character. Epworth has won the Charity Transparency Award in 2023 and 2024, and will submit an entry for the 2025/6 award. Epworth’s Centre for Positive Recovery is the proud winner of the 2026 President’s Challenge for the “Bold Horizon” initiative, which provides early, community-based mental health support for children, youths and caregivers affected by adverse childhood experiences.

### **About MILK Fund**

**MILK (Mainly I Love Kids) Fund** believes that no child should be left behind regardless of disability, illness, or circumstance. Established in 2004, MILK was founded to support children facing adversity through a more holistic and sustained approach.

Rather than duplicating existing services, MILK focuses on plugging critical gaps in the social service sector. This is guided by ongoing and rigorous study of the non profit landscape, as well as the policies and systems that shape access to support.

MILK also invests in transformational programmes that empower children and their families to break out of the cycle of poverty. By addressing unmet needs and strengthening pathways to support, MILK helps children access, remain in, and complete their education.

At the heart of MILK's work is the belief that the most meaningful investment in our future is an investment in our children. Through strong partnerships and purposeful programmes, MILK seeks to nurture resilient, capable, and contributing members of society.