



Issue 1 - October
2025

Open Minds Open Doors

A newsletter about the power of open-ended play as a pathway to inclusion



IN THIS FIRST ISSUE OUR EDITOR AND EXPERT DR ESTHER JOOSA TALKS ABOUT:

Presenting our
Parent Manual
Page 2

Parents as Partners
Page 3

Every day materials
as play resources
Page 4

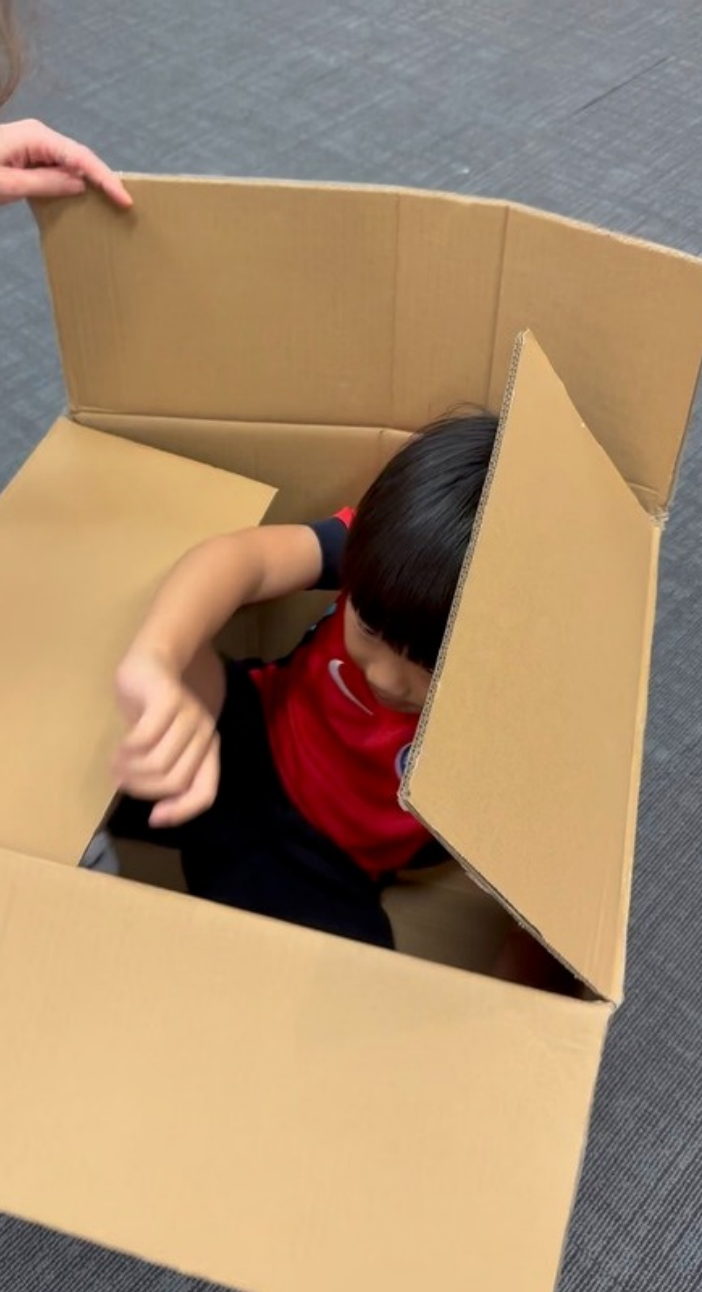
Play dates - Page 4

Open Minds Open Doors

Insights and updates about the OMOD program

As the Executive Director of Playeum, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the very first edition of our bimonthly newsletter, Open Minds, Open Doors. In this space, we aim to bring you regular updates on our OMOD program, share insightful perspectives on the power of play, and highlight the experiences of our participants and stakeholders.

This year marks seven years of bringing the OMOD program to the community. It has been a rewarding journey, made possible through the support of various philanthropic and community partners. We are grateful that the value of our work continues to resonate. The recent renewal of the President's Challenge grant is a testament to this impact and will enable us to continue our vital outreach. A key to our success has been the ongoing collaboration with Dr. Esther Joosa, our expert partner and content creator on family, creative, and inclusive play education.



As part of our mission, we are committed to demonstrating how play serves as the foundation for a more inclusive world. To support this, free parent manuals on play have been developed and will soon be available. Also during our regular play sessions Dr Joosa is there to answer your questions and share her knowledge and strategies for supporting child development through open-ended play.

We trust you will find this inaugural issue informative. Our larger goal is to amplify the voices of our families and children, advocating for inclusion and other important humanitarian issues within the community.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Charlotte Goh
Executive Director Playeum

"It takes a village to raise a child."

Pathways through Play to an inclusive world - Parent Education

By Esther Joosa

Pathways through Play is founded on the powerful idea and empowerment of parents to discover the transformative potential of play. Based on personal experiences and understanding open-ended play, families gain new insights into how simple, everyday materials can richly support every child's development. Our aim is to bring through regular sharing the OMOD initiative and the essence of rewarding play practices into your home.



Parents as partners in nurturing holistic development, autonomy and an inclusive world through play

By Dr Esther Joosa

In the design of Open Minds Open Doors, and finding pathways through play to an inclusive world parents play a vital role. They are our partners in nurturing the child's development by providing opportunities through open-ended play!

The OMOD program is firmly focused on our belief in children's ability to make sense of the world they encounter in their daily lives and the value of play in nurturing executive functions, 21st century skills and autonomy.

As adults and partnering with parents, our role is not to direct, but to create pathways towards a safe space, and emphasise the important role of adults in helping and nurturing children reach beyond their actual level of development.

As we partner with parents we share observations and support the emotions of parents. We take note of what captivates each child. With the provision of simple, versatile materials like boxes, fabric, or natural items parents will be able to extend play in a sustainable way. Our core idea is to empower families to continue at home with their exploration, and for parents to observe their abilities in their own living space, transforming everyday materials into ideas that celebrate diversity.



"Play is a powerful pathway to an inclusive world. Through play, children learn to connect, communicate, and create a shared 21st century world where differences are not just accepted but celebrated."



Bringing Play Home - Everyday materials as sustainable play resources

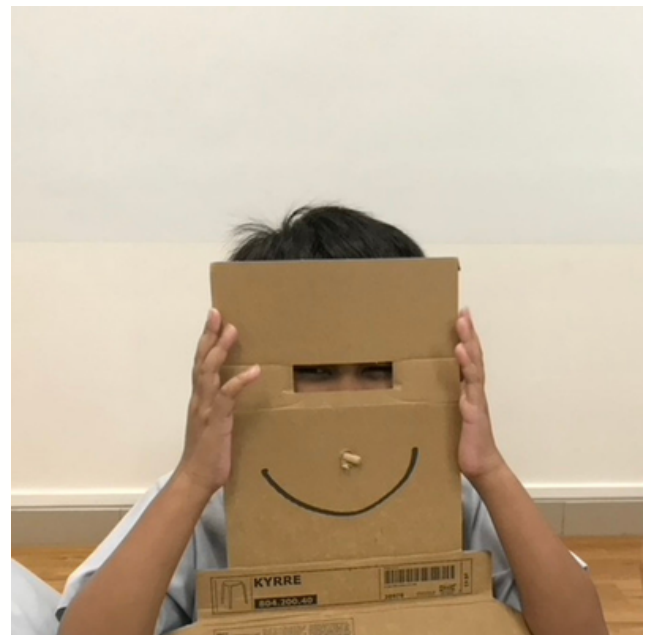
By Dr Esther Joosa

Open Minds, Open Doors is designed as an inclusive and sustainable play program to celebrate every child's unique developmental journey. It is also built on a powerful partnership with you, our families, because we know that play doesn't stop at our door—it simply begins here as a pathway to an inclusive community.

The essence of our program is to learn the values of open-ended play. By using repurposed, everyday materials it believes that the genesis of creativity and a sustainable mindset starts in the gift of apparent nothingness. A cardboard box is not just box, it can be a carriage, a boat, a mountain. In short, it's a spark for imagination and innovation. This approach naturally fosters inclusivity, as there is no "right way" to play, allowing children of all abilities and ages to explore, engage, and experience creativity and autonomy at their own level.

The open-ended materials invite questions: "What could you create with this?" or "Tell me about your idea." Most importantly, the nature of these materials encourages and presents the scaffolds for children's innate creativity, bring ideas and

opportunities for connection, discovery and autonomy. The directions of Open Minds Open Doors are a choice and philosophy to play this way. With the program and use of everyday materials we are doing more than lobbying for inclusion; We are sharing thoughts about building pathways in which children play for and create a sustainable world. We encourage our children to contribute to the community, and for the community to see potential, and to value resourcefulness. Together, we're building a safe space for different ways of critical thinking compassionate collaborators, and future custodians of a more inclusive and imaginative world.



Play Dates October 2025

- 18 October: OMOD play KidsSpace, Dempsey
- 25 October: OMOD play Common Ground
- 22/23 October: Online Parent Play workshop

For enquiry, please reach out to us at omod@playeum.com