

## NOTICE BOARD

# Embracing holistic early learning for a smooth educational transition

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For every child, early moments matter. When life begins, more than one million neural connections are formed each second – a pace never repeated. The brain grows with environment, experience, and surrounding people. This is why the early years of childhood come with both opportunities and risks.

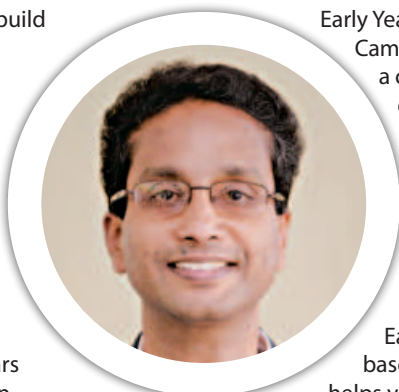
Early childhood is a critical stage for fostering healthy mental and overall well-being. Children's brains are influenced by genes and environment; simultaneously babies are born ready to learn. Vision and hearing pathways develop first. Then come the early language skills and high cognitive functions. Between age two and four, a child's vocabulary often quadruples. Thus the first 1,000 days happen to be crucial for overall personal development. Children actively participate in several activities relating to extensive brain development. With proper education, the brain is influenced to develop positive learning behaviours.

Children have to spend some time away from family in early childhood education. During this time, children learn the

most to be independent, build confidence and discover their surroundings and themselves. High-quality early childhood education and care provide them with a promising start. A proper early childhood education programme helps support children in the transition to school.

Learners from early years and primary curriculums in Bangladesh often have to go through numerous shifts and transitions from one level of education to another. The differences in each level impact their learning processes significantly. There could be a brand-new environment to get used to, new friends to make, and different teachers to get to know.

An early years programme that is holistic helps children to develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills they need for the next chapter in their educational journey. Bearing this in mind, DPS STS School Dhaka takes the lead as the first in Bangladesh to introduce the Cambridge



Early Years Programme by Cambridge Pathway. It gives a clear path to students' educational success from ages 3-19. This means whether they move on to Cambridge Primary or another programme, they can match up to any surrounding. Cambridge Early Years is a play-based programme that helps young learners develop independently.

The programme will help learners transition seamlessly to primary school, moving from informal, play-based learning to more formal teaching.

When we give children the best start, the benefits are immense. Fostering healthy and comprehensive early childhood curriculums must

be our key goal. Physical development, cognitive development, language, and communication development are the four key areas that ensure early childhood and social and emotional development. Cambridge Early Years programme helps learners to meet internationally established milestones for early development. More schools should begin emphasising children's early education as much as secondary education with the same or similar programmes.

Dr Shivananda CS is the Principal at DPS STS, Dhaka.



## The British Council is supporting the future arts leaders in South Asia

The South Asia Festival & Culture Academy, a partnership between the British Council and Edinburgh Napier University, is now accepting applications for its Intermediate Level course. This unique opportunity is designed for arts and festival professionals in South Asia, to develop their networks and learn from international leaders in arts management. The Academy's 10-week online course will create a platform for participants to enhance their business and management skills through an internationally recognised accreditation.

The curriculum's focus on building the skills across all aspects of arts management, from business sustainability to artistic vision development. The course also facilitates connections between festival and arts administrators from South Asia and the UK and offers students the unique opportunity to learn from industry

leaders in both regions.

Recognising the potential impact and growth this programme offers to the arts industry in South Asia, the British Council is substantially subsidising the course. Although the full cost of this course is £750 per participant, applicants will benefit from the British Council's subsidy, only paying £250 per participant.

The South Asia Festival & Culture Academy aims to strengthen the festivals sector across South Asia, contributing to capacity building and creating opportunities for exchange and learning.

Applications are now open and close on 19 November, 2023. For more information about the South Asia Festival & Culture Academy and to apply for the Intermediate Level course, please visit British Council Website.

## AIUB presents Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 at Dubai

Bangladesh Education Forum 2023, co-organised by American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) was held at the Crown Plaza, Dubai between October 14 and 15. AIUB BoT Chairman Ishtiaque Abedin led the team from AIUB.

Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 aims to reposition Bangladesh as a high-quality and cost-effective higher education destination in the world. Ishtiaque Abedin announced scholarships for students enrolling at AIUB from the UAE, stating, "We would like to welcome students from the GCC to Bangladesh, and let me announce that any student who enrolls from the UAE will qualify for scholarships. We want to support students in the UAE to benefit from the high-quality education that we provide."

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) member Dr Biswajit Chandra appreciated the role of private universities in the expansion of the education sector. Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE Muhammad Abu Zafar said, "Low-cost and advanced education is provided in Bangladesh. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is distributing free textbooks. The current government is doing everything to bring qualitative changes in education."

