Igniting Learning Journeys
點燃學習路程

Celebrating 50 Years of the CDC: The Journey of Growth with Families

Set in motion in 1976 by Mrs. Sarah Roe, the CDC began with a genuine desire to address the needs of non-Cantonese-speaking children with special needs. From humble beginnings in Sarah's living room, the Centre grew significantly over the following five decades. We were graciously hosted on the premises of the Matilda International Hospital for 39 years, a period which established a solid foundation for our early development. Subsequently, we relocated to Wan Chai, continuing to respond to community needs and expanding to services in Cantonese. We proceeded to set up an Early Education and Training Centre, provided by the Social Welfare Department, in North Point, whilst setting up a self-financed centre in Fortress Hill. These two spacious and well-equipped facilities allow us to provide high-quality individualised services for families, regardless of language background, socio-economic status, or level of need for intervention.

Our mission has remained steady in all this time: to ignite every child's individual learning journey. We believe all children can flourish by developing their unique strengths, and that every child deserves a fair opportunity to learn. Throughout our history, we have been dedicated to providing the most suitable services based on each child's individual needs.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, partners, and friends who have walked alongside us in building a more inclusive society. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our growth and impact.

To mark this golden milestone, we kicked off our anniversary celebrations on 17 January with our first CDC Charity Walk. Over 150 participants, including children, families, and their friends, joined us for a scenic walk along the East Coast Boardwalk. The event also featured a charity sale and various interactive activities, adding to the lively atmosphere. We were honored to have the presence of Eastern District Council Members: Ms Li Lee, Mr Eddie Ting, MH and Mr Lai Nuen San, who joined us in support of the occasion.

We extend our sincere thanks to our generous sponsors:

- **Diamond Sponsor:** *Yi Shan Asia Charity Limited*
- **Gold Sponsors:** *Chin's Cookies, Chui Fung Hong, The Fleming, The Fullerton, The Plus Group International Limited*

The event was a resounding success, setting the tone for a year of celebration and community engagement. Again, thank you all supporters for joining us to give 2026 and the CDC's 50th anniversary a great start. Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events planned for the year, including an open house for all and special activities for CDC children. Stay tuned for more updates!

Support Our Journey with a Box of CDC Charity Cookies!

If you would love to support us, why not get a box of our CDC charity cookies for a good cause?

We are delighted to introduce our special CDC Charity Cookies, freshly baked here in Hong Kong. Each box is beautifully presented, featuring a unique artwork cover created by one of the children at the CDC. Inside, you will find 12 delicious cookies in four exquisite flavours: Almond, Hojicha, Extra Rich Chocolate, and Blue Mountain Coffee.

Priced at HK$180 per box, this is more than a tasty treat. It is a story of love, care, and support that makes a real impact. All proceeds go directly to the CDC, funding essential assessments, early intervention programmes, and therapy for children with additional learning needs.

Treat yourself or share the joy with friends and family. Every bite makes a difference. They also make a thoughtful Chinese New Year gift.

Let's get one at: https://forms.gle/8oAJrrEwSXzMBXQ76

Event highlights

Wrapping Up 2025 with a Warm Christmas Celebration

On 18 December, we hosted our annual CDC Winter Celebration, bringing together children and families for an afternoon of festive activities and joy. A special thank you to William E. Connor Foundation for continuously sponsoring the event and several of its employees joining us in person to play and celebrate with the children! It was wonderful to see so many happy faces.

Reaching Out to the Community

In November and December 2025, the CDC visited various institutions to engage with professional educators, share our insights, and introduce our services. We highly value these opportunities to learn firsthand from educators about the needs and challenges they encounter when working with students. This exchange allows us to stay informed about the diverse and unique needs within our community while sharing our own professional experience. We are grateful to the Chinese International School for hosting the Student Support Mixer event and to the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) for providing the platforms to facilitate these valuable community connections.

SEN Resources

Our community partner, Optism, which is Asia's first autism support platform for families, runs a YouTube channel where experts share valuable knowledge on supporting individuals with additional needs. Our Head of Services, Dr Erika Kam, was invited to share practical advice for parents navigating the Primary 1 school application process. A wealth of valuable information is available!

Watch the video here: https://youtu.be/6zvLJcAXkkk?si=vzn9XYHe3ilCl8zR0Cu

Optism is an excellent platform for parents and educators to access expert insights on autism. We are proud that CDC's Chief Executive and Director of Programme Development & Learning, Dr Yvonne Becher, along with Senior Speech Therapist, Ms Joanne Li, and Senior Occupational Therapist, Mr Gundeep Singh, are featured in their expert hub, where they share knowledge and answer questions.

CDC Endorsement: The "Super Quirks" Children's Book Series

Looking for a captivating new series to share with your child? The CDC is delighted to introduce The Super Quirks! Meet three funny, adorable, and neurodiverse superhero animals who celebrate what makes them unique. Bound by the strongest friendship and the kindest hearts, these heroes love to help others and spread goodness.

With vibrant illustrations to engage every reader, this wonderful series, targeting the age group of 5 to 9, fosters empathy, self-acceptance, and tolerance. It is a great resource for both teachers and parents to support children who may feel different, helping every young reader see the superhero in themselves and others.

If you would like to get one, please visit www.superquirks.com

Community News

The CDC is delighted to have support from the community. Our long-term partner, Hong Kong Freemasons, gifted each CDC child a cosy panda buddy for the winter. The children enjoy a warm season with their new fluffy companions! They love to bring along their nice buddy everywhere!

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we can create a brighter, more inclusive future for every child.

Stay connected with us for updates on upcoming events and initiatives!

Check out more SEN-related events, talks and courses around Hong Kong on our SEN Events Calendar on our website. You can submit your own events to connect@cdchk.org

Make a Donation Today

Your Support Enables Us to Serve More Families In Need!

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The Child Development Centre

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