

Embrace a Different Kind of Mind



DRAMATIC
DYNAMIC
RESILIENT
INTELLIGENT
ENTREPRENEURIAL
EXCEPTIONAL
INVENTIVE
CREATIVE

Deborah Hewes



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EMBRACE DYSLEXIA



Embrace Dyslexia Commitment

Embrace Dyslexia intends to raise awareness of dyslexia in the Singaporean community with an aim to have as many people understand both the strengths and challenges that individuals with dyslexia face everyday.



Raise awareness for Embrace Dyslexia by:

- Sharing information about dyslexia in your workplace
- Inviting DAS to conduct Awareness Talks
- Including information about dyslexia in the staff handbook



Explore opportunities to work with DAS

- Workplace Giving or Volunteering Initiatives
- Mentoring DAS Alumni for internships or work experience



Champion dyslexic individuals

- Recognising their strengths and understand their weaknesses
- Providing appropriate support and encouragement



Donate to DAS Programmes

- Support low-income families by giving to the Bursary Fund



Advocate for Embrace Dyslexia

Embrace Dyslexia with us. Sign your commitment today.

www.das.org.sg/embrace-dyslexia



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION
OF SINGAPORE**
HELPING DYSLEXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE

The Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) is a vibrant organisation serving the specialised educational needs of over 2,900 students with learning differences. DAS has over 240 professional staff offering a wide array of services and operates 13 learning centres across Singapore.

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From a Struggling Child to a Shining Star

Muzdalifah Hamzah

Lead Educational Therapist, Speech & Drama Arts Programme Manager

Dyslexia Association of Singapore

Since the age of two years old, Kane Chia was moving from one childcare to another for various reasons. When he was three years old, he was placed in a new childcare with a big group setting. He struggled to settle in and faced many difficulties. Most times he would be alone and not interacting with the other children in his class. Then, he had to move to another preschool centre for his benefit. His parents hoped that a smaller classroom setting in one of Singapore's premium preschool would help. Unfortunately, Kane was still shy and not comfortable interacting with new people and new situations.

In his new kindergarten, despite practising regularly for his graduation performance, he backed out on the show day. He did not want to perform on stage with his friends. This was due to anxiety and extreme shyness. After receiving his teacher's feedback, Kane's parents decided to seek help from KKH. Kane was then diagnosed with Dyslexia.

After Kane was accepted in the Main Literacy Programme (MLP), Mrs Chia, Kane's mother found out about Speech & Drama Arts (SDA) through DAS Facebook and the newsletter. She believed the SDA programme would be able to boost her son's self-esteem and confidence level. Many studies had indicated that children with SpLDs such as Dyslexia, tend to develop low self-esteem and often have difficulties fitting in along with their peers.

Kane, 10 years old, has been in the SDA programme for 3 years now. In a recent interview with Mrs Chia, she pointed out that Kane has become a happier child. She's truly impressed by his ability to use correct words in his conversation and also at how confident he is now.



*Top Left:
Kane with his family*

*Top Right:
Kane with his mother, Mrs
Chia*

*Left:
Kane with his SDA teacher,
Ms Lifah, after receiving SDA
Shining Start Award 2019*

"There is an improvement in his reading skills – more fluent and he knows more words. He is comfortable speaking and expressing his opinions with friends and family".

"SDA programme opens up other possibilities such as leadership quality that can be seen in Kane now. He would take initiatives whenever he can at home and in school".

When the SDA programme was no longer offered in DAS Queenstown, Mrs Chia took up the offer to travel to Bishan every Saturday so that Kane will be able to attend SDA class there. Kane had the opportunity to perform three times on the big stage for both local and international audience in DAS events. This could be one of the factors for the trajectory of his confidence level.

Last year, Kane was awarded SDA Shining Star Award at the 17th DAS Student Graduation & Achievement Awards Ceremony which was held at Singapore University of Technological and Design (SUTD). This award is given to SDA students who have done well in their SDA classes. We are very proud of his achievement!

Kane was part of an ensemble in SDA Production 2017 – 'Journey of the Legends', held at Gateway Theatre.

A scene in Ramayana.



Below: A scene in Hang Tuah



Below: Kane as a Satay Seller in 'Hang Tuah – the great warrior' in 2018 Student Graduation & Achievement Award Ceremony, held at SUTD.



A scene in 'The Monkey King'.

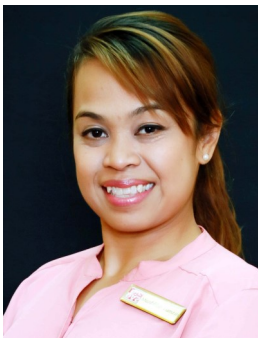


Kane as Mr Tiger in 'Tortoise and the Hare' in UNITE SpLD 2019, held at Lifelong Learning Institute.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR



MUZDALIFAH HAMZAH

Lead Educational Therapist & Speech and Drama Programme Manager

Muzdalifah has been with the DAS since 2012. She provides intervention for learners with dyslexia on the Main Literacy and Speech & Drama Arts (SDA) programmes. Currently, she is the Programme Manager for the SDA programme. Apart from teaching literacy and drama classes, her responsibilities include overseeing and leading a team in developing curriculum and teaching resources, ensuring the quality of the programme and overseeing the aspects of SDA performances in DAS events or showcases. In addition, Muzdalifah also conducts drama workshops for students in MOE schools.

Muzdalifah has a strong interest in social-emotional development in children with learning difficulties. She had presented her work in conferences and hopes to inspire her students to believe in themselves as unique individuals who possess boundless capabilities.