

Building Generational Bridges Through Play: Care Community Services Society Launches Innovative "RetroGems" Intergenerational Gameboard

Singapore, 25 July 2024 – Care Community Services Society (CCSS) is revolutionising intergenerational engagement with the launch of its "RetroGems" Intergenerational Gameboard. This unique gameboard and programme offer a first-of-its-kind game-based approach to foster meaningful connections, learning, and fun between preschool children and seniors.



Engaging All Generations Through Play

"RetroGems" breaks away from traditional intergenerational activities that often focus on craft projects. Developed by CCSS, the game provides an engaging platform for interaction, catering to the different needs and abilities of both children and seniors. This innovative format not only entertains but also incorporates educational elements designed to benefit both generations.

Learning Through Play: Educational Benefits of "RetroGems" for Preschoolers

"RetroGems" goes beyond pure entertainment by incorporating educational elements designed to benefit both children and seniors. For children, the game fosters the development of critical pre-math skills like subitising (instantly recognising small quantities without counting). Additionally, through gameplay, children are exposed to and become familiar with the English words used in the game, promoting basic literacy development. Furthermore, the collaborative nature of the game and interaction with seniors and facilitators encourage social and prosocial behaviours like teamwork, communication, and empathy.

Building Cognitive Functioning While Combating Isolation for Seniors

For seniors, the game stimulates brain function through strategic thinking and adaptability. This mental challenge can help keep seniors' minds sharp and engaged. But the benefits extend beyond the mind. By playing together, seniors forge social connections with younger generations, combating feelings of isolation and fostering a sense of purpose through meaningful interaction. "RetroGems" also creates a space for shared experiences and laughter, enriching the lives of both seniors and children.



Bridging the Gap with Playful Reminiscing

"RetroGems" goes beyond a typical board game by incorporating elements from the seniors' childhood, like potong ice cream, paper ball play, and gem biscuits. These nostalgic references spark conversation and shared memories between generations. This not only entertains but also allows younger children, with limited exposure to these traditions, to learn about their elders' experiences and bridge the cultural gap.

Building a More Inclusive Community

CCSS believes the innovative "RetroGems" gameboard initiative has the potential to significantly impact intergenerational interactions, especially as a tool and platform for our younger generation to begin volunteerism and intergenerational acts from a young age. The organisation hopes to replicate the programme's success to foster stronger bonds and create a more inclusive community where both children and seniors can learn and grow from each other.



A Timely Response for Singapore's Evolving Landscape

As Singapore moves towards a super-aged society, it presents a unique opportunity to leverage their experiences and wisdom. "RetroGems" was developed by CCSS in response to the Age Well Singapore initiative, aiming to provide a meaningful tool for engagement between seniors and preschoolers through engaging board game play.

On the other hand, Singapore's Alpha Generation (born after 2010) is becoming increasingly reliant on digital devices and electronic games. "RetroGems" offers a welcome break, encouraging physical and in-person interactions that build social and prosocial skills crucial for healthy development.

"The 'RetroGems' Intergenerational Gameboard represents a significant step forward in fostering positive connections between generations and building a more caring, inclusive society," says Dewin Lee, Executive Director of Care Community Services Society. "The smiles and laughter shared during 'RetroGems' tell the story. Especially for seniors without family, these sessions become a cherished time to connect with younger generations. Seniors light up as they team up with younger minds to tackle the game with playful determination, each move a shared victory. For the children, it's an eye-opening experience meeting diverse seniors, each with a unique story. It's a heart-warming exchange built on empathy and understanding, reminding us that age is just a number, and more so, connection blossoms through shared experiences."

Launch of Pilot Engagement for "RetroGems" Intergenerational Gameboard in the Community

CCSS is taking its groundbreaking "RetroGems" intergenerational gameboard to the next level with the launch of a pilot programme. This initiative will see the game put into action through a partnership with PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ 31 Balam Road and CCSS's CareElderly Active Ageing Centre at Circuit Road.

The pilot programme brings together up to 20 preschool children and up to 20 seniors for a series of "RetroGems" game sessions. By closely observing interactions and experiences within this pilot group, CCSS aims to gather valuable data on the game's effectiveness in fostering positive connections, learning, and social engagement between generations. This data will be crucial in shaping the future rollout of "RetroGems" and its potential to bridge the generational gap in Singapore.

About Care Community Services Society (CCSS)

Care Community Services Society (CCSS) is a registered charity affiliated with the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and an Institution of a Public Character (IPC). Established in 1996 by Trinity Christian Centre, CCSS aims to serve the community, influence and equip individuals and families for empowered living, becoming a blessing to the communities around them. CCSS is also appointed as the operator for SG Cares Volunteer Centre @ Geylang and Serangoon, and is



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responsible for building volunteer capacity, developing volunteer management capabilities, and fostering community partnerships to strengthen effectiveness in meeting communities' needs.

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