

# Pamela Peck Discovery Space

## 開放予公眾的「遊戲中學習」兒童探索空間

### Play-based learning facility opened for public enjoyment

亞洲首間專注培育幼兒教育專才的高等教育院校耀中幼教學院隆重開幕，而作為全港首家、早於二十世紀七十年代已推動「遊戲中學習」理念的幼兒教育先驅，耀中教育機構更特別於耀中幼教學院成立 Pamela Peck Discovery Space，進一步體現這個耀中一直秉持的教學理念。



As the first to introduce the revolutionary concept of learning through play since the 1970s, Yew Chung Education Foundation has further enhanced the manifestation of “learning through play” by establishing an eye-opening on-campus facility, Pamela Peck Discovery Space, at the newly opened Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education (YCCECE), Asia’s first specialist institute in Early Childhood Education.

Pamela Peck Discovery Space是為零至八歲的兒童及其老師、家長及照顧者而設計的探索空間，通過各式各樣遊戲設施，幫助小朋友發展認知能力、人際關係以及情感與體能上的各種潛能，並培養他們對學習的正面態度——亦即是耀中一直大力推動的「遊戲中學習」教育理念。Pamela Peck Discovery Space參考南韓、新加坡以及澳洲等多個幼兒教學設施的元素，由專業設計師團隊設計，並採納國際與本地特殊教育與嬰幼兒專家的專業意見，經過兩年詳細籌劃及興建，於本年五月三十一日隆重開幕，學院正計劃一連串的用家測試，將於七月開放予公眾使用。

耀中幼教發展中心總監Nicky Weir女士帶筆者參觀時表示：「Pamela Peck Discovery Space旨在讓兒童體驗遊戲中學習，是集學術研究、職前與在職老師培訓、社區參與於一身的幼兒設施。富啟發性的獨特設計貫徹耀中的教學理念，讓小朋友寓學習於遊戲，從生活的感官接觸與益智活動中獲取知識；老師與照顧者亦可從中學到遊戲中學習的教學技巧，為小朋友提供愉快的學習經驗。另外，耀中幼教學院的學生亦可透過與幼童相處，從而累積實習以外的寶貴經驗及研究機會，即時實踐課堂上的理論，為未來打好基礎。」

Pamela Peck Discovery Space is designed for children from birth to eight and their teachers, parents and caregivers, aiming to cultivate a positive attitude towards learning, and challenge children’s cognitive, social-emotional and physical development in a stimulating and enjoyable environment – in other words, via play-based learning, a philosophy that has always been pioneered and promoted by Yew Chung. Taking inspiration from South Korea, Singapore, and Australia, and seeking advice from international and local ECE experts, including those from special education, infant and toddler, as well as professional artists, and after two years of conceptual design and construction, Pamela Peck Discovery Space was finally opened on 31st May 2019. After a few rounds of trial sessions, it will be open for public enjoyment in July 2019.

“Aiming to create synergies between academic research, pre-service and in-service teacher training, as well as community engagement and play-based learning lab, Pamela Peck Discovery Space with its unique designs encourages young children to engage in high quality experiential learning, promoting the best practices in ECE that Yew Chung firmly believes in,” Ms Nicky Weir, Centre Director of Yew Chung Early Childhood Development Centre, explained when showing us around the facility. “As the teachers, parents or caregivers bond with the children at the facility, they naturally learn the pedagogical skills of play-based learning, which will inspire them in their professional or parenting journey beyond

「體能、認知、情緒、人際關係、個人發展、語言、讀寫、科學邏輯及數學，這些都是幼兒教育的核心部分，Pamela Peck Discovery Space的設計正是根據發展以上領域為出發點。以讀寫能力為例，我們的圖書館提供多元文化的書籍，以配合香港這個多元文化社會的特質。除了鼓勵孩子閱讀，我們更設有講故事時間，進一步幫助孩子愛上書本，並鞏固孩子的表達能力。附設的塗鴉角有供粉筆繪寫的黑板，也有供記號筆繪寫的白板，孩子可以使用不同的書寫工具、通過不同的繪寫動作表達內心，同一時間訓練體能及讀寫能力。有人認為出自孩子手筆的不過是沒有意義的塗鴉，但對孩子來說，這是學習表達所思所想的重要過程。遊戲充滿樂趣，亦同時是一種推動力，吸引孩子綜合發展不同能力。」

「在科學室內，孩子可以通過實踐，學習各種科學概念。以『光』為例，有別於要孩子們坐定聽成年人講解光、反射、陰影、投影及折射等對他們來說毫無意義的原理，我們鼓勵孩子親手處理光線，或是利用手電筒在天花上投射出彩虹，除了好玩，那種讓他們眼前一亮的觸動感覺，可大大提升學習成效。遊戲充滿力量，能帶動孩子自發地學習。幼兒教育有關圖案、序列及優次的概念，都可以在科學室內涵蓋。」

「至於藝術空間則以多用途概念設計，以塑造不同可能性。以循環再造為題、以泥膠為物料、在大型帆布上創作……想得出的都能做到。」

參觀期間，映入眼簾的是一個設置了香港獨有建築用竹棚的「工地」，Nicky介紹道：「我們設計這個探索空間時，花了不少心思引入香港元素。當小朋友在這個小工地玩耍，扮演一個香港的建築工人時，有機會



科學室的设计鼓勵孩子實踐。  
The science room facilitates children's hands-on learning.

the grounds of the Discovery Space. The hub also offers an excellent opportunity for YCCECE students to gain valuable first-hand experience on top of their practicum, enabling them to immediately bridge theory and practice by consolidating their learning through child observations and interactions, conduct research, and preparing them to flourish as early childhood educators.”

“Physical development, cognitive development, socio-emotional and personal development, language, literary, science and mathematics – these are the areas that we generally talk about in Early Childhood Education. Pamela Peck Discovery Space is designed to meet these learning outcomes. For literacy, we have our library and mark making area, where we can connect children to books and also the multicultural aspects of Hong Kong. We have different books representing different cultures. The stories themselves can be educational while literacy is further supported by storytelling sessions in which we can showcase how quality storytelling not only helps in the development of literacy but also builds the love for books and the connection with children’s mark making – some adults may regard it as scribbling, but children are actually learning to communicate by expressing what they have in mind. Here at the Discovery Space, children can do mark making on a chalkboard with chalk or on a whiteboard with markers. They are given the chance of trying out different sensory materials and making different movements when creating their own marks – it is physical, and it is literacy, all integrated in one process. That is why we promote play because play is an integrated way of learning for children. It is motivating and fun.”

“The science room provides young children an environment of hands-on learning to help them get a glimpse of modern science concepts. Contrary to having them sit down for a lecture on light, reflection, shadow, projection and refraction which mean nothing to them, children are actually given a chance to manipulate lines, or hold a torch to the ceiling to create a rainbow. The conversation that results from this kind of play is highly educational not only because it is fun but it also creates a ‘wow’ feeling for children. Play is powerful, and also a constructivist approach to learning at a young age. In ECE, we talk a lot about patterning, sequencing, ordering... all of that are covered in the science area, plus learning about how light-shadow manipulation causes an effect.”

“We have designed the art area with much flexibility to accommodate all possibilities: projects on recycling, modelling with clay, collaborative art creations using big canvases... whatever you can think of.”

There is a construction area featuring bamboo scaffolding, an iconic method used in construction sites in Hong Kong. Nicky explained, “We have tried to pull in a Hong Kong context. When children play the role of a builder in Hong Kong, they are also given a range of challenges in terms of science and mathematical concepts such as sizing, weighing, positioning, forms, shapes and 3D shapes. 2D shapes such as squares and triangles are relatively easy, but when we go deeper into concepts of 3D shapes, like cubes and prisms, children may find it challenging and interesting in trying to figure out how they can be fitted together, how to create a balance, what symmetry is, etc. In parallel, the role playing creates opportunities in developing language and interpersonal skills, and the setting to learn more about the world they are living in.”

Other role-playing areas include an MTR setting, a doctor’s clinic and a supermarket. “The learning that happens here is about constructing knowledge of social life. Children live in a real world, and they have to learn the social norms and what to do when they are placed in different situation. We chose to build a doctor’s room because the



Pamela Peck Discovery Space內設有香港獨有建築用竹棚的「工地」，讓小朋友一嚐成為建築工人的滋味，並從中領悟科學及數學原理。  
There is a construction area featuring bamboo scaffolding in Pamela Peck Discovery Space, providing an opportunity for children to play the role of a builder, in which they could learn about science and mathematical concepts.

接觸很多與科學及數學有關的課題及挑戰，例如尺寸、重量、位置、形狀、平面及立體圖形等。平面圖形如方形及三角形對孩子來說較容易明白，但三維的立方體及角柱體又是甚麼？可以如何把它們裝嵌在一起？如何取得平衡？甚麼是對稱？除了以上的種種知識，在角色扮演的過程中，孩子更有機會鍛煉語文能力及人際關係能力，對於認識他們身處的世界大有幫助。」

除了工地之外，探索空間更設有地下鐵車廂、醫務所及超級市場等，都是孩子在現實生活中經常接觸的場景。「這些設施主要為了幫助小朋友建構有關社交的知識及能力，讓小朋友瞭解各式各樣的社交標準，以及在不同場合有機會面對的情境，從而訓練應對技巧，有助他們適應世界，如魚得水。我們選擇打造一間醫務所，是因為醫生很多時是孩子童年最大的惡夢，角色扮演可幫助幼齡孩子瞭解看醫生的流程——時而扮演醫生，時而扮演病人——為他們提供建立信心的空間，讓他們體會看醫生到底是甚麼一回事，漸漸減低恐懼。與此同時，角色扮演亦有助發展語文、讀寫及人際關係等能力。當扮演一個角色時，當事人同時也在建構故事情節，以及與不同人物進行商討及談判，有時候甚至會出現爭吵場面，這些都是很自然及平常的，反正現實也就是如此，我們必須學會跟不同人士相處及合作去解決問題，這也是角色扮演教育意義豐富的地方。為了配合不同年齡兒童的需要，角色扮演也可以分成不同層次，例如初小兒童會涉獵包括照愛克斯光及開藥方等較複雜的程序。超級市場內，較年長小童除了簡單的購物體驗之外，更可能對處理查詢、顧客服務，以至測量重量、定價及貨幣兌換等與數學有關的範疇產生興趣。」

位於Pamela Peck Discovery Space中央當眼位置是一艘漁船，標誌着探索空間的所在地——香港仔——原是一條漁村的本來面貌。Nicky表示他們會在漁船設施舉行介紹漁民生活、歷史及風俗

的活動，通過講故事、角色扮演及藝術創作等，讓小朋友學習有關文化、傳承甚至城市發展的課題，啟發他們思考如何在不斷求進的同時，保存先人的珍貴遺產。

孩子都喜歡舞台表演，探索空間亦設有劇場部分，舞台附設完整後台、容易替換的背幕系統、控制燈光、音樂及開關布幔的工作人員，孩子除了可以成為觀眾之外，更有機會擔任台前幕後不同崗位，增進讀寫以及其他方面的能力。

另外一項吸引我的，是位於戶外的鑽石形攀登架，跟平常出現於兒童遊樂場的大相逕庭。Nicky解釋道：「香港很多攀爬設施主要是訓練上下攀爬技巧，然而橫向攀爬有助發展腦袋、下肢肌肉及空間概念，我們把攀登架設計成鑽石形狀，就是為了加強兒童這方面的訓練，包括發揮身體的上半部分的力量，以及控制下肢肌肉來取得平衡。這個設施適合不同年齡兒童同時使用，附設的滑梯亦為非凡設計，為孩子提供更大挑戰性。」

Pamela Peck Discovery Space鼓勵成年人瞭解及帶動孩子於遊戲中學習，Nicky給予成年人的提示是：「跟孩子齊齊玩，齊齊探索，保持好奇，以及運用適當的語言。舉例說，當孩子在工地興建一座小塔時，成年人可能會說：『很對稱的塔！』然而孩子未必明白『對稱』的意思，那麼成年人就可以接着解釋：『你看，左邊跟右邊完全一樣！』成年人在此事的角色很重要，不需要來上訓練課程，卻必須想想如何走進孩子的世界，跟隨他們的思路，適當地提供更多知識及詞彙。又例如，成年人可以在醫務所扮演病人或是醫生助手，自然地加入新的詞彙以及概念，提升交流的層次，而孩子亦會樂意地照單全收。這裏的一切其實都是為了鼓勵成年人更瞭解孩子而設計，畢竟，孩子學得到多少並不是重點，重點是親子之間的關係——關係才是成功的核心元素。」



Pamela Peck Discovery Space鼓勵孩子藉着角色扮演瞭解看醫生的流程，訓練他們的社交應對技巧，助他們適應世界，建立自信。  
The clinic in Pamela Peck Discovery Space encourages children to learn about practical dialogues and interactions between doctors and patients through role-play, aiming to help them develop social skills and thus confidence to live in the real world.

Pamela Peck Discovery Space將於七月起開放予公眾使用。每天分上下兩個、各三小時的時段，正式開放後，公眾可於網站預約。

~ 許芷茵

Pamela Peck Discovery Space will be open to public starting from July 2019. There will be two three-hour sessions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Interested readers may register online prior to visit after it is open to public.

~ Helena Hui

doctor is often the scariest part of a child's life. Not many children like the doctor. Role-play helps children construct knowledge and figure out what is going on. It is a way to give children the space to build confidence and a bit of certainty by saying 'now, I kind of know what this is about'. They get to play the role of a doctor and/or a patient. In this way, they build confidence when it comes to being in the real world. At the same time, it is also a good chance to develop language skills, literary skills and social skills. When taking on a character, one is also developing a story, while at the same time making a lot of negotiations with everyone involved. Children may even go on a fight but it is all right because this is life and we have got to learn to work together to get through it. Role-play is just so rich of learnings!"

Pamela Peck Discovery Space is designed to accommodate children of a wide age range, therefore the level of role-play can go up from toddlers testing out different things to master role-play that includes X-rays, drugs and prescriptions, that are more attractive to lower primary students. As for the supermarket, apart from shopping and social interaction such as handling enquiries and serving customers, it also involves weighing on scales, pricing, exchanging currency, etc. that are related to mathematics.

At the centre of Pamela Peck Discovery Space is a fishing boat that resembles the heritage of where the College is situated – Aberdeen, that was once a fishing village. "We want to hold activities that feature the history and culture of fishermen's life via storytelling, role-play, art... fun interactions that help children learn about culture, heritage and even urban development – what has happened and why it has happened, prompting them to reflect on how we have to progress but hold on to our heritage as well. We have the coolest corner that is designed for this purpose. Children will have a chance to construct knowledge by using their hands to coordinate the ideas in their heads."

Children love playing stage. The theater, equipped with a whole backstage concept, a changeable backdrop system, a stage crew handling lighting, music, opening and closing curtains, is destined to charm a lot of young visitors. "Instead of enjoying the product, some schools may request to include the children in the whole design and production process, and we will run that as a drama programme. Again, there is so much to learn, literacy in different levels being one of the obvious."

I am most curious about the diamond-shaped climbing facility in the outdoor area, as it differs from most of the jungle gyms found in children's playgrounds. Nicky explained, "In Hong Kong, there is a lot of up-and-down climbing, but side climbing is actually very important for the development of the brain, the core muscles and spatial awareness. We have chosen the diamond as it provides a lot of manipulation of the body, for example, the strength in the upper body, and the control of the lower body for coordination. It is also designed to cater different age levels. Older children will find it challenging to climb up high while the younger ones can navigate the lower half. The slide itself is an unconventional design too."

As Pamela Peck Discovery Space is meant for engaging the adults in understanding and facilitating play-based learning, Nicky made some suggestions on how adults could participate and make the most out of the experience. "Play with the children, explore with the children, be curious, and use the language! For example, if we are in the construction area with a child building a tower, we might say something like, 'Wow, that is very symmetrical.' The child may not know what 'symmetrical' means. In this case, the adult may explain, 'Look! The left side and the right side are the same. Do you see that?' The adult has a huge part in this but I am not suggesting parents to come and be trained. It is really about how to engage in a child's world. Follow their thinking but as the more knowledgeable person, the adult can provide his/her child with extended knowledge or vocabulary. For example, if you want to help support your children's learning in the doctor's room or the supermarket, you really need to get into the characters. You can either be the patient or the nurse to get into that sort of the exchange of what is going on. You get to introduce words and concepts naturally because now you get to bring the level of thinking behind a little bit more challenging and children will accept them because they are parts of the play. Storytelling, mark making, art expression... everything has been designed to encourage parents to meet their children's needs because ultimately, it is not only about the child's learning; the biggest message we want to give is: relationship! The relationship is what you need for success, not knowledge."



Pamela Peck Discovery Space中央設有一艘漁船設施，標誌探索空間的所在地——香港仔，原是一條漁村的本來面貌。  
At the centre of the Pamela Peck Discovery Space is a fishing boat that resembles the heritage of where the College is situated, Aberdeen, that was once a fishing village.



戶外的鑽石形攀登架着重訓練兒童的橫向攀爬技巧，有助發展腦袋、肌肉及空間概念。  
The diamond-shaped climbing facility in the outdoor area is designed to train children's side climbing, which enhances the development of brain, muscles and spatial awareness.