

News

HAPPY AND HEALTHY: Mr Ong Kian Min crowning Mrs Anna Tan after her son Ayden, 15 months, won the Healthy Baby title, while her husband looks on.



PICTURE PERFECT: Siblings Zander Ang, 14 months, and Vernice Ang, 5, with their parents after winning the Most Photogenic Siblings category.

TNP PICTURES:
GARY GOH

From baby cot to basketball court

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Fifty babies crawl through hoops to vie for Most Sporty Baby title

REPORT: CRYSTAL CHAN
crystalc@sph.com.sg

CIVIL servant Allan Tay, 28, is such a huge fan of the England soccer team that he dressed his family in their jerseys when his toddler son took part in a baby contest yesterday.

Their sporty attire, together with their close family interaction, helped Alvon Tay, 14 months, to win the Most Sporty Baby title at Baby Singapore 2010@Tampines North.

Alvon will represent Tampines North Community Club to compete with 32 other winners from other community clubs for the national title in June.

The competition is organised by the People's Association, grassroots leaders and women's executive committees from 33 constituencies.

Through the contest, the People's Association hopes to promote family life and procreation.

The guest-of-honour yesterday was Mr Ong Kian Min, a Member of Parliament for Tampines. He was also one of the judges.

For over an hour yesterday, Alvon was among 50 babies who crawled through hoops across the basketball court in the community club.

Moral support

Alvon's mother, Mrs Yvonne Tay, 28, an administrator, crawled along with him to show moral support while Mr Tay cheered his wife and son at the end point.

The family won \$250 in cash and \$300 worth of baby products.

Mrs Tay said: "It's the first contest for Alvon and we just thought of competing for fun. Alvon is a quiet baby and he used to cry on seeing strangers. Since he began walking a few months ago, he has stopped (doing that)."

She added: "Sometimes, when we ask him to walk, he ignores us. But today, he's in a good mood and listened to our instructions."

Mr Tay, a self-professed fan of retired Newcastle player Alan Shearer, decided to show his support by wearing the jerseys. The family had their names sewn



LITTLE ATHLETE: Mrs Yvonne Tay and her husband, Allan, with their son, Alvon, who won the Most Sporty Baby title.

on the back of the jerseys.

Mr Tay said: "Since having sporty attire was one of the criteria we'd be judged on, I thought it was worth it to spend the money."

Also representing Tampines North Community Club in the national contest are the winners of the Most Photogenic Siblings category.

That title went to Vernice Ang, 5, and her brother Zander, 14 months.

When The New Paper met them yesterday, their close relationship – one of the judging criteria – was

obvious.

Vernice hugged and played with her brother throughout the 15 minutes we were there.

Their mother, Mrs Sharon Ang, 33, a housewife, said: "When Vernice comes home from kindergarten classes, she runs straight into our room to play with Zander. She takes out toys and asks him to play with her."

Mr Ong said: "As a father of five, I can bear witness to the benefits of exercising and growing as a family. We want many parents to enjoy their children and have children in spite of their busy lives."