

FIRST FLIGHT

10th Year ANNIVERSARY EDITION

In 2014, the Ministry of Education (MOE) opened the first five MOE Kindergartens (MKs) as part of the Government's efforts to lay a strong foundation for our children. This year, we are proud to celebrate our MKs' 10th Year Anniversary, a significant milestone that represents a decade of providing a strong start for every child through quality and affordable preschool education.

In this special edition of First Flight, we present key milestones in our MK journey, publish reflections from our educators and share testimonials from parents!

Warm wishes,
The MOE Kindergarten Team

MK's Key Milestones

2022

Start of Hearing Loss (Signing) programme in MK@Mayflower to provide dedicated support to preschool children with moderate to profound hearing loss who require early signing instruction

55

Present

55 MKs operating across Singapore in 2024

2015

First publication of First Flight newsletter

2019

First batch of Early Years Centres (EYCs)² Nursery 2 children enrolled in their partner MK through MK-EYC collaboration

2023

Rollout of revised MK curriculum based on MOE's updated NEL Framework 2022 which emphasises the importance of inculcating values, developing social and emotional skills and nurturing positive behaviours towards learning

2014

Opening of first five MKs to provide quality and affordable preschool education. MK curriculum takes reference from MOE's Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) Framework¹

2018

Start model where KCare service is provided by the primary school's student care centre operator

2019 - 2022

Relocation of community-based MKs to nearby primary schools to benefit from the synergies of being sited within a primary school

VISION: A STRONG START FOR EVERY CHILD

¹ MOE issued its first kindergarten curriculum framework in 2003 and refreshed it in 2012 to guide educators on good teaching and learning practices for children aged four to six years old.

² MK started collaboration with EYCs from PAP Community Foundation Sparkletots Preschool and NTUC First Campus' My First Skool to provide a continuum of quality and affordable preschool education for children aged two months to six years old.



Celebrating a Decade of Dedication: Reflections on my MK Journey



Mdm Doris Ong Kwee Khim
Centre Head
MOE Kindergarten @ Temasek

Over 27 years of experience
in preschool education

My 10-year journey in MOE Kindergarten (MK) has been a remarkable one, which has made me more confident, committed, and mature in my work. I faced several challenges in the beginning when MK first started, and more effort was needed to convince families and the Early Childhood (EC) sector of MK's mission and intent. We worked hard to explain MK's purpose and shared good practices with the EC sector. I saw these challenges as opportunities to engage more EC practitioners and learn from one another.

As an MK Centre Head, I do my best to empower and inspire educators to work towards our shared purpose of supporting children's holistic development. I believe in providing quality learning experiences through appropriate pedagogies – these are crucial in supporting children's learning.

Over the years, I am heartened to receive updates from families of MK alumni. I am always excited to hear of the children's achievements, such as receiving awards or taking up leadership roles.



One of the memorable moments for me was supporting my first batch of K2 children in transitioning to primary school. Some parents were worried when they heard that their children would not be having a 'graduation ceremony' with mortarboards. My team explained that MKs would organise a 'K2 Celebrates!' event instead. This event would be more meaningful because it would celebrate the children's learning journey over the two K1 and K2 years, instead of a 'graduation ceremony' that would just spotlight the end of K2. On celebration day, families were proud and delighted to witness their children's confident presentations. Parents expressed deep gratitude and acknowledged that the event was meaningful and truly memorable for both them and their children.



Mdm Siti Raudhah Binte Haji Halimi
Senior Teacher - Malay Language
MOE Kindergarten @ Horizon

Over 30 years of experience
in preschool education

In 2014, I embarked on a rewarding journey as a Mother Tongue teacher at MK. We offer classes in all three Mother Tongue languages (Chinese, Malay and Tamil) in MK. Our children learn in a rich language environment using Big Books, songs, rhymes and games set in the local context.

When I first joined MK, my centre was located at a community site. Today, all MKs are situated within primary schools - this allows a seamless transition for children from K2 to Primary One.

Over the years, the number of MK educators has grown in tandem with the increasing

number of MKs and there has always been a great emphasis on the professional development of educators. Personally, I have been given ample opportunities through many professional sharing platforms: MOE's Teachers' Conference and ExCEL Fest and ECDA's Early Childhood Care and Education Conference.

I am also honoured to be featured by the National Heritage Board and National Museum for my views on promoting the use of the Malay language among Malay families and developing an appreciation of the Malay culture.

As MKs look forward to the next 10 years, my goal is to continue nurturing an appreciation and love for the Malay language and culture among our children.



Celebrating Our Award Winners

OUTSTANDING PRESCHOOL MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE TEACHER AWARD 2023



Outstanding Award Winners



Ms Deng Jinghong
MOE Kindergarten
@ Fernvale

“As a preschool Chinese teacher, I believe that every child is unique! By engaging children in meaningful interactions and involving them in active learning, I hope to boost their confidence in learning Chinese.”



Mdm Nur Nazhiifah Binte Norazmi
MOE Kindergarten
@ Wellington

“I take the opportunity to expose children to the Malay culture and values during learning activities. With support from parents, I hope children will appreciate their identity as Malays and grow up to be ambassadors for the language and culture.”

ECDA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT 2023



Early Childhood Innovation Award (Merit)



MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier

Feature Article



Dr Tan Ching Ting
Master Specialist,
Pre-school Education
MOE Pre-school Education Branch

I have had the opportunity to lead a team of preschool specialists in developing the curriculum and teaching practices in MK. It has been a very fulfilling and rewarding journey.

The MK curriculum is guided by the NEL Framework and focuses on the importance of nurturing well-rounded individuals and lifelong learners. As children do not compartmentalise their learning but learn from the experiences they encounter as a whole, learning activities in MK are planned and conducted through an integrated approach to help the children make meaningful connections in learning. MKs also use teaching and learning resources with a distinctive Singapore flavour that the children can relate to easily.

Over the past decade, our team has been continuously refining the MK curriculum so that it is more child-centred and intentional in developing values, social and emotional skills and attitudes that can help the children adapt and thrive in the future. We encourage open communication and collaboration between teachers and families for a strong home-MK partnership.

Ten years on, I am heartened to know that the majority of parents have consistently reported their satisfaction with the quality of the MK curriculum, teachers and their child's overall experience in the MK. It also keeps me motivated that our MK children enjoy going to primary school and adapt well at Primary One. Looking forward, my wish is for MKs to embark on more curriculum innovations to lead the EC sector in providing high quality early childhood education for our children.



Our longest serving President!

MK@Cedar -
Learning Journey to Indian Heritage Centre



The Kampung Landlord and us!

MK@Junyuan -
Learning Journey to
Kampung Lorong Buangkok



This fish is bigger than me!

MK@First Toa Payoh -
Learning Journey to River Wonders



MK@Naval Base -
Loose parts play

We can create anything we imagine!

Enriching Experiences in MKs!

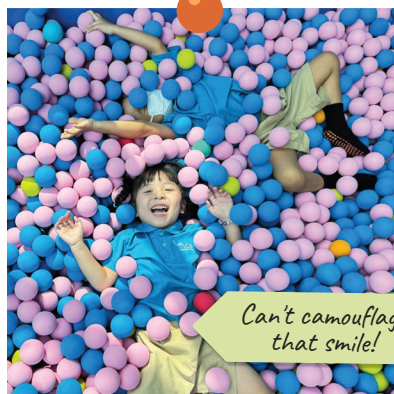
This plant has a mouth to eat!



MK@Sembawang -
Learning about the Venus Fly Trap

I can bake!

MK@Springdale -
Learning life skills through baking



Can't camouflage that smile!

MK@Northoaks -
Learning Journey to Kidz Amaze

How should I cook it?



MK@Punggol Green -
Learning Journey to Kok Fah Farm



Hello Auntie, the seafood looks fresh!

MK@Sengkang Green -
Learning Journey to the wet market

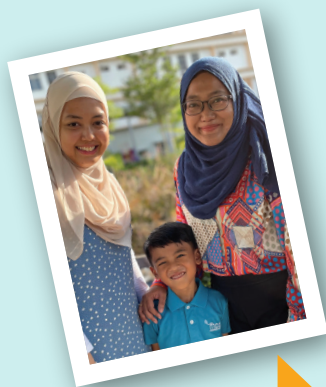
What does this icon mean?

MK@Temasek -
Learning about legends on a map



Bunnies are furry and cute!

MK@Wellington -
Learning about rabbits



Appreciation letters



**From: Ms Suraya
(Irshad's Mummy)**
MK@Angsana

**From: Ms Nicole and Mr Zac
(Anson's Mummy and Daddy)**
MK@First Toa Payoh

My son loves to share with me about his school experiences and without fail, Teacher Nitra will always be one of the topics of his conversations.

Teacher Nitra is a dedicated teacher who creates a safe space for my child to share his ideas. When Teacher Nitra is not present in school, he would make a wish, "I hope Teacher Nitra will come to school tomorrow." And when she does, one of the first things he would tell me is, "Today Teacher Nitra is in school!" This shows how much he likes his teacher!

It is very comforting to me to know that my son is in safe hands and enjoys learning.

Thank you Teacher Nitra, for not just teaching our children how to count but for teaching our children what counts most in life. I am also sincerely grateful to all other teachers: Cikgu Ruzana, Cikgu Aini, Lu Laoshi, Teacher Cecilia and Teacher Aqidah!



We would like to thank all teachers and Centre Head, Ms Yvonne, for making MK@First Toa Payoh a very conducive environment for our child to learn, play and understand the different cultures in Singapore.

The MK environment is spacious and the class size of 20 children is conducive for learning.

The curriculum is wholesome and teaches children about good habits and manners. My child learnt good life skills, such as saying "please" and "thank you", and behaving appropriately when I take him out on play dates and outings.

The teachers are extremely responsible to ensure that every child is learning, eating and behaving well. My child loves his teachers: Teacher Ash and Teacher Deng!

We are extremely grateful and hope that MK will continue to prepare our children for school and life! Cheers!



As a parent, it gives me great assurance to know that my son goes to school with a smile on his face each day.

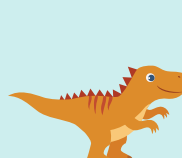
Before attending MK, Jayden hardly spoke any Tamil at home. Now, with great encouragement from his Tamil teacher, Ms Ashwini, he has picked up many Tamil words.

I am grateful for the guidance and encouragement he gets from his teachers at MK@Riverside. The teachers are warm and friendly. Most importantly, they have created a great rapport with the parents and children. Being a teacher is never easy, but they do it with so much ease! :)

Thank you to the teachers of MK@Riverside!



**From: Mdm Venitha
(Jayden's Mummy)**
MK@Riverside



At a LIFE@MK session, we learnt valuable lessons from our son's teacher.

The first was that parents and teachers have the same goal - we want our children to grow up well. What children learn from teachers could be reinforced at home to strengthen their learning.

We can help our children practise their skills and let them try answering their own questions.

We can also let our children exercise some independence and develop good habits in daily living. We don't have to rush to help them put on their socks or shoes, or fold their clothes. We can let them try solving problems on their own first, before we

step in to help. Over-helping children is not beneficial for their growth. Many times, it is not that children can't handle 'problems' but they lack the opportunity and confidence to do so.

The session was a good time for me to stop rushing and hear about MK's educational philosophy and methods. It is also a time for me to think about how to educate my children. How should I bring him up? What adjustments do I need? It was also a time for me to meet Ms Geetha and Ms Audrey, whom my son often talks about. I would like to express my gratitude to the Centre Head and all teachers! I look forward to learning more in the next LIFE@MK session!



From: Mr Miao
(Jiacheng's Daddy)
MK@North View

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the teachers and staff in MK@Huamin. I would definitely recommend my friends to enrol their children in MK@Huamin. It has been about three years now, since my elder child was in K1 Orchid with Ms Jenna, then to K2 Orchid with Mr Vishnu, followed by my second child in K1 Casuarina with Ms Sakinah until K2. The teachers were all amazing. Not forgetting the Security Uncle Rahman too! He is not just doing a job, but also loving what he is doing. Thumbs-up!



From:
Ms Jessie
(John's and Jane's Mum)
MK@Huamin



From: Ms So
(Yee Xuan's Mum)
MK@West Spring

Thank you for making MK@West Spring such a great kindergarten! You know what a child needs and make it a point to educate parents to focus on things that really matter for their children. Thanks for advocating controlled screentime, relaxed learning rather than academic-focused learning and sharing useful information with parents. All these help to reduce our anxiety and assure us that it is ok to let children do what they do best - experiential learning. Please continue all the good work and all the best to you!



Contest



Question

In which year did MOE open the first batch of MKs?

Scan this QR code to submit your answer now!

Three lucky winners will stand a chance to walk away with a \$10 NTUC voucher!

