

First Flight

Welcome to the start of a new year at MOE Kindergartens! In this third issue of **First Flight**, join us as we take a look at how we nurture the holistic development of our children at MOE Kindergartens. We also look back at 2015 which was a significant year for all! Last year, we celebrated the growth and achievements of the first batch of MOE Kindergarten children who have now moved on to the next step in their education journey – primary school. 2016 promises to be another exciting year and we look forward to working with you in supporting your child's learning and development so that they are *On to a Strong Start!*

Warm wishes,
The Mo E Kindergarten team

LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTENS

The Sperm Whale Project

Mo E Kindergarten @
Punggol Green

Remember the sperm whale that was found floating off Jurong Island in July last year? Intrigued after reading about this surprising find, the children expressed an interest to find out more. Brimming with questions on sperm whales, the children decided that this would be the focus of their Weeks of Wonder (WoW) project in Term 4.

Parents also had the opportunity to participate in their children's learning through a family-based activity where children sought the answers to questions such as:

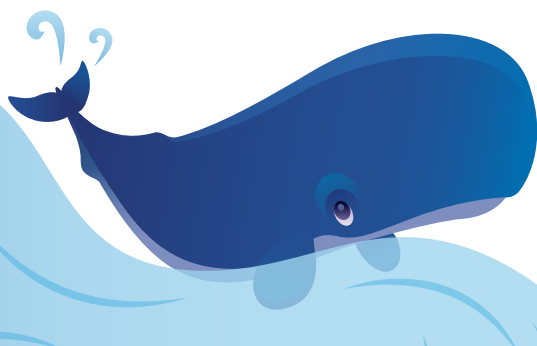
“Why did the whale die?”

“How big was the whale?”

“Does the sperm whale have sharp teeth?”

“Does it eat fish?”

In a fun activity, the children learned about the length of a sperm whale by using their bodies as units of measurement. It took 16 children to line their bodies up to make up the length of the whale.



What is the Weeks of Wonder project?

Based on a topic of their interest, the children set out to ask questions, find the answers and present what they've learnt. Through the projects, children learn to make decisions in cooperation with their peers and in consultation with their teachers. They also experience the joy of self-motivated learning through exploration, self-direction and problem solving, which builds their confidence and strengthens their dispositions towards learning. Of the four WoW projects carried out in a year, two are conducted in English and two in the children's Mother Tongue Languages, so that they are immersed in both languages.

Learning becomes fun when children are given the freedom to explore the things around them and the space to exercise their creativity. The children later came up with a creative “Sperm Whale Game”, complete with its own rules:



Children using their bodies to measure the length of a sperm whale

What is the HI-Light Programme about?

The HI-Light Programme focuses on nurturing children holistically in six learning areas: Aesthetics and Creative Expression, Discovery of the World, Language and Literacy, Motor Skills Development, Numeracy, and Social and Emotional Development. Children do not compartmentalise their learning according to subjects, so we adopt an integrated approach to help children make meaningful connections across different learning areas.



“When the shark come, you must show your teeth. When is your food, then swim to where Teacher Shirley put the food. Then, if not your food, then you continue swimming.”

Through this project, children had opportunities to play and learn how to interact with their peers.



Outline of the sperm whale

All About Guinea Pigs

Mo E Kindergarten @ West Spring

"How do guinea pigs run?"

"How do guinea pigs drink water?"

"Why do guinea pigs have sharp nails?"

"Can a guinea pig fight an elephant?"

These were some of the questions the children of K1 Coriander posed during their WoW project in Term 4-All About Guinea Pigs. In this project, the children adopted two guinea pigs, Dewdrop and Inuka, as their class pets.



Children feeling the texture of the bedding for the guinea pigs

In addition to working together to set up the cage for Dewdrop and Inuka, the children also took turns to care for the guinea pigs on different days of the week. Their duties included washing and filling the food bowl, changing the water in the water bottle, adding hay and providing banana leaves and carrots for the guinea pigs.



Children filling up the cage with hay



Changing the water in the water bottle



Children getting to know the guinea pigs

Through the project, the children developed patience when holding the guinea pigs, learning to release them if the guinea pigs struggled too much.



Taking the guinea pigs out for a walk

Working in pairs, they also took turns to look out for the guinea pigs when taking them on outdoor walks.



Leshantiny's documentation of the field trip to the neighbourhood pet shop

With many questions on guinea pigs, the children decided to visit a pet shop in the neighbourhood to

look for answers to their questions. They interviewed the owner of the pet shop and one of the children, Leshantiny, asked, "Why is the guinea pig's food bowl very big, hamster's food bowl very small?" She found out that the hamster's food bowl is small because the hamster is a smaller animal, while the guinea pig's bowl is bigger because the guinea pig is a larger animal.

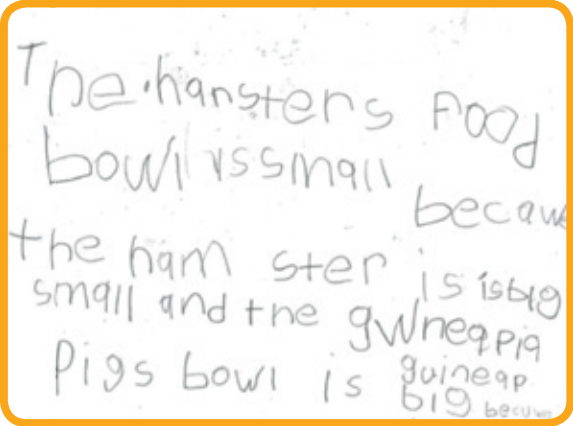
This WoW project provided many opportunities for the children's social and emotional development. They learned to be responsible for a pet and also to care and respect other living things.

SNAPSHOTS

2015 was a significant year as we saw the first cohort of children complete their Mo E Kindergarten learning experience. We have seen children grow into confident individuals with a love for learning. Children also learned about values like care and respect for others. We are truly grateful to have celebrated this milestone with the children and their families.



Celebrating The Singapore Child-Acting Minister (Schools) Mr Ng Chee Meng joining children, teachers and families in a Jibidi dance during the celebrations at MK@Punggol View



Leshantiny's documentation of the field trip to the neighbourhood pet shop



It Takes a Kampung to Raise a Child- Celebrations for the children and families of MK@Blangah Rise, MK@Dazhong and MK@Farrer Park



Together, We Celebrate!- Celebration for the children and families of MK@Tampines

THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTEN

We believe in building strong partnerships with families and the community to enrich the learning experiences of our children. Together, we have journeyed over the past two years and witnessed the growth of our children through different learning opportunities at various Mo E Kindergartens. We are especially heartened by the words of encouragement from the parents at the K2 Celebrations last November.



Elfy Daniel from MK@Tampines

"Thank you for all your guidance and love towards Mindy. She has learnt a lot during these two years in the Mo E Kindergarten. From a girl who doesn't read, to a girl who will voluntarily pick up a book to read, have seen great improvement. She has also enjoyed her education and is a happy child. Thank you all for your contributions in giving Mindy a fun and loving learning environment."

- Mdm Hazel Kwok



L Aishvarya Shivani from MK@Blangah Rise

"Lucas has always been shy when it comes to public speaking. I raised this concern to his teachers and have seen their efforts and dedication towards our shared goal. Today, I am proud to see that Lucas has become a very confident, cheerful, observant and helpful boy."

- Mdm G SweetChin



Muhammad Danish Bin Abdul Rahman from MK@Dazhong

"Thank you for so unselfishly sharing your time, talent and wisdom with my son, Elfy Daniel, from Joyful Inosaurs. I simply cannot describe my happiness and enjoyment today as I marvel at my son's accomplishments. I am confident that he is ready to go through the next stage of his education life, armed with the skills and knowledge he had attained whilst in MK. I wish MK many years of great achievements!"

- Mdm Aznizah



Ho Kai Ting Mindy from MK@Punggol View

"Shivani has had an enjoyable learning experience in K1 and K2. The strong leadership and dedication of the team of teachers have contributed greatly to the success of this program. We are proud that Shivani is in the pioneer batch of children at this Mo E Kindergarten. We would like to thank all her teachers for nurturing her."

- Mr and Mrs Gopinandan



Lucas Foong Jing Bo from MK@Farrer Park

"My son has truly blossomed over the past two years, both academically and socially, in the Mo E Kindergarten. He is always eager to go to school and has a wonderful relationship with his teachers."

- Mdm Sitimurriani

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

The social and emotional growth of your child is important as it lays the foundation for a wide range of developmental outcomes including the motivation to learn. We seek to nurture children who are confident and their confidence stems from a sense of knowing that they are able to try things and make decisions for themselves. Here are some helpful tips to help you nurture your child's confidence:



- **Allow your child to make choices**

Hold back the urge to constantly help your child. Allow your child to make his or her own choices and they will learn to trust their own judgement. For example, allow them to choose their own clothes when going out.

- **Give your child responsibilities**

Boost your child's self-confidence by getting them to help with household chores such as making their own bed or helping to set the table for meals. Your child will feel important and confident as they successfully complete each task.

- **Teach resilience**

When your child experiences setbacks or failures, explain to him or her that no one succeeds all the time. These are experiences which they can learn from and they can always try again. Talk about what steps your child can take to do better next time. This helps your child learn that setbacks are part of life and can be managed.

- **Praise your child**

Affirm your child when he or she does something good. When giving praise, be specific about what he or she has done well. Not only will your child feel encouraged, he or she will develop a sense of success and accomplishment which builds his or her confidence over time.

- **Build your child's independence**

Create opportunities where your child can have space and do things himself or herself, within safe boundaries. For example, putting plates in the sink after he or she has finished their meal or ordering food for himself or herself when dining out. These situations will help your child to feel capable and build his or her confidence and ability to handle new situations.



Do you have any comments on our newsletter or the MOE Kindergartens? Do you have a story to share or an MOE Kindergarten staff you would like to thank? Tell us at moe_kn@moe.gov.sg!

For more information on MOE Kindergartens, visit:
www.moe.gov.sg/moekindergarten

Scan this QR code to visit our website right away!

