

The step to Primary 1 (P1) is a big one, and you may wonder if your child is ready for it. In this issue of **First Flight**, find out how we collaborate with primary schools to facilitate a smooth transition for children from Kindergarten 2 (K2) to P1. Read on to discover how our curriculum has been designed to support children's transition to P1, and what you can do to support your child as they move on to the next step in their education journey.

Warm wishes,
The MOE Kindergarten team

First Flight

LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTENS

"What do primary school children do?"

"How do they buy food from the canteen?"

"Will it be difficult to interact with older children?"

"Are primary school teachers like kindergarten teachers?"

These are just some of the common questions children ask about primary school life. From the eyes of the children, the transition from K2 to P1 is a milestone for them and one filled with many exciting possibilities.

In K2 Term 4, as part of a five-week learning component in the **HI-Light Programme**, MOE Kindergartens partner their host primary school or nearby primary schools to arrange a visit to the primary school. These visits help children learn about and prepare for the changes they will experience in P1.

Last year, K2 children from MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View observed a P1 English lesson

during their visit to Punggol View Primary School. The children were delighted to know that they would still be able to enjoy Big Book reading in P1

reading in primary schools, just like in MOE Kindergarten's **Starlight Literacy Programme**.



The children were happy to observe that they can still enjoy Big Book reading in P1



Enjoying a game of bean bag tossing with their new friends

WHAT IS THE MOE KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM ABOUT?

The MOE Kindergarten curriculum aims to nurture children holistically so that they are confident, have strong social skills and a good foundation in literacy and numeracy. Children embark on an exciting learning journey through two flagship programmes - the HI-Light Programme and the Starlight Literacy Programme.



What is the HI-Light Programme?

The HI-Light Programme nurtures children holistically through an integrated approach, helping children make meaningful connections across different learning areas. Through the programme, children learn about themselves, their friends and the people and places around them in Singapore and the world beyond.



What is the Starlight Literacy Programme?

The Starlight Literacy Programme aims to nurture early childhood bilingualism. The programme uses a variety of resources such as Big Books, songs and games set in the local context to make language learning fun and enjoyable for children. It is offered in English and all three Mother Tongue Languages.



Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines had the opportunity to interact with primary school students from Haig Girls' School to find out about life in primary school. They mingled with the older children as they participated in Art and Craft and Physical Education lessons together. Through the experience, the children learned that primary school lessons were fun and enjoyable.

These visits to primary schools also provided opportunities for the children to get to know about life as a primary school student.



Standing at attention for the national anthem during morning assembly

Over at MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View, children attended Punggol View Primary School's morning assembly. They sang the national anthem and recited the pledge together with the older students.

With the help of their older friends from Dazhong Primary School, children from MOE Kindergarten @ Dazhong learned to buy food from the canteen. They were taught to queue, greet stallholders and make their requests politely, take turns to pay and calculate their change, as well as return their cutlery after their meal. A parent shared with us that her older child took a year to develop the confidence to buy food from the canteen when she first started P1. She was grateful and believed that the experience of this primary school visit would greatly benefit her second child and help her to cope with the transition from K2 to P1.



Developing confidence to buy food from the canteen with the help of their buddies

SNAPSHOTS

Encouraging interactions between kindergarten children and primary school students is one of the objectives of our partnerships with primary schools. Here are some snippets of recent joint activities that the children took part in!



Ushering in the Year of the Monkey —
A joint Chinese New Year celebration by MOE Kindergarten @ Blangah Rise and Blangah Rise Primary School



Celebrating Green Week — Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Farrer Park creating terrariums and cleaning the school canteen together with students from Farrer Park Primary School



Forging friendships on International Friendship Day — Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Riverside enjoying community-themed games and activities with students from Riverside Primary School



THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTEN

A successful transition to P1 will set children on the right path and have a positive impact on a child's social development and academic performance. We speak to one of our curriculum specialists, Ms Sharon Lim, on how MOE Kindergarten prepares children for a smooth transition to P1.



Ms Sharon Lim
Pre-school Education Curriculum Specialist, Ministry of Education

"As a mother of two young boys, one of whom started P1 last year, I understand the anxiety parents and their child may face as primary school life approaches.

At MOE Kindergarten, we seek to facilitate children's transition to primary school in three main ways:

A Quality Kindergarten Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to nurture children holistically and to promote the continuity of learning from kindergarten to primary school. For instance, the K2 Term 4 HI-Light Programme provides five weeks of experiential learning for children to find out about changes they will experience in primary school and learn how to adapt to change.

Engagement with Primary Schools

Primary schools play a pivotal role in supporting children's transition to primary school. To enable lower primary educators to build on the learning of children entering P1, MOE provides platforms for kindergarten and lower primary educators to establish a shared understanding about children's learning and development in the kindergarten and lower primary years.

Collaboration with Families

To deepen parents' understanding about children's learning and development and how to support children's transition to primary school, we reach out to parents via various platforms such as parent-teacher conferences and LIFE@MK workshops. Through regular communication and engagement, we build a partnership with parents to better support children's transition."

Our heartiest congratulations to Ms Siti Nurrafidah, recipient of the Early Childhood Development Agency 2015 Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Award!

This award recognises the achievements of exemplary teachers who are committed to delivering quality early childhood care and education. As Level Head at MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines, Ms Siti continues to make a positive difference in the lives of the children through meaningful learning experiences.

We are proud of you, Ms Siti!



Ms Siti Nurrafidah
Level Head, MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Many exciting experiences await your child as he or she moves from kindergarten to primary school. Here are some tips to help you support your child in the transition to P1.



Get your child excited about school

Make school something to look forward to:

- Attend the school orientation with your child to help him or her become familiar with the new learning environment, and be mentally prepared to follow the schedule and routines of school.
- Involve your child in preparing for school, such as choosing and packing his or her school bag and stationery. This will give your child a greater sense of ownership in his or her new experience.
- Share your own happy memories of school to create excitement and provide assurance for your child about going to school.

Build interpersonal skills

In a new school setting, your child will need to make new friends and learn to work and play well with other children and teachers, especially during team projects and school activities. Help your child develop interpersonal skills to thrive in this new social environment:

- Model friendly and useful phrases which they may use when getting acquainted with the new people they meet. Examples include "Hi! My name is ____, what is your name?" to help them introduce themselves when meeting new classmates, or "Aunty, may I have a bowl of noodles, please?" for communicating with canteen stall owners during recess.
- Provide opportunities for your child to share and take turns during playtime with other children.

Cultivate independence

Your child will need to complete simple tasks on his or her own in primary school. Help build your child's confidence and positive self-concept:

- Provide opportunities for your child to complete simple tasks at home, such as learning to dress up or packing his or her school bag.
- Teach your child how to count pocket money and make payment for food and drinks.
- Acknowledge your child's attempt in trying to complete tasks independently to encourage and build his or her self-confidence.

Encourage responsibility

Children need to adjust to longer school hours, follow a structured timetable, and are responsible for the timely completion of their homework in primary school. Help your child develop a sense of responsibility:

- Encourage good habits such as having a regular bedtime, caring for his or her own belongings and making healthy food choices.
- Guide your child to focus on completing one task before moving on to a different activity, such as encouraging your child to complete his or her homework before playing.
- Explain to your child the rationale behind these actions, and demonstrate good practices for your child to learn from.



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!

