

First Flight

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At MOE Kindergarten, we seek to nurture in children positive behaviours and attitudes to learning. These learning dispositions are important for life-long learning as they underpin children's acquisition of knowledge and skills. In this issue, find out how our teachers create a learning environment that encourages children to display positive learning dispositions. We also share ideas on how you can support your child's acquisition of these dispositions.

Warm wishes,
The MOE Kindergarten Team

LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTENS

Every term, children look forward to working on a Weeks of Wonder (WoW) project where they investigate a topic of their interest. They learn to collaborate with their peers and teachers to discover answers to their questions. Children also experience the joy of self-motivated learning through exploration, self-direction and problem solving. Find out how the WoW project experiences build children's confidence and nurture their dispositions towards learning.

The Jellyfish Project MOE Kindergarten @ Yishun

"How do jellyfish move?"

"What is the colour of jellyfish?"

"Why are the tentacles of jellyfish so long?"

"Where are the eyes, nose, ears and mouth of jellyfish?"

Curious about the jellyfish, children from MOE Kindergarten @ Yishun asked these questions and more. The children were introduced to the jellyfish when they learned to care for sea creatures during the HI-Light Programme. Determined to find out all they could about jellyfish, the children made it the focus of their WoW project and satisfied their curiosity by seeking answers to their questions from books and posters.

The children learned about the jellyfish's ecosystem and its habitat and created a three-dimensional sea of jellyfish to share with their peers and teachers what they have learned.



"Don't give up, let me show you how to do it." Encouraging each other to persevere to complete their jellyfish models.



Displaying a friend's jellyfish in the "sea" as a show of appreciation for the work of others.

Drawing from their past experience of using pipe cleaners in a craft project, the children wondered if they could also use pipe cleaners to make tentacles for their jellyfish. They came to realise that sticking crepe paper and pipe cleaners onto disposable cups was a challenging task that required patience. The children persevered and encouraged one another not to give up as they completed the task together.

The children also learned to appreciate the work of others. They praised each other with encouraging remarks: "I like your jellyfish. It looks like a rainbow."

Through this project, children discovered the joy of learning with their peers. The experience also nurtured their inventiveness, perseverance and sense of appreciation.

WHAT ARE LEARNING DISPOSITIONS?

Learning dispositions are positive behaviours and attitudes that are important for life-long learning. MOE Kindergarten seeks to develop six learning dispositions in children: Perseverance, Reflectiveness, Appreciation, Inventiveness, Sense of Wonder and Curiosity, and Engagement (PRAISE).

To nurture these dispositions, teachers engage children through meaningful learning experiences and model the appropriate behaviours and language. They create a safe and inviting learning environment to encourage children to exhibit the desirable dispositions and seize teachable moments to reinforce children's learning.



The HI-Light Programme provides opportunities for children to learn through exploration and discovery. It nurtures children holistically through an integrated approach to learning to help them make meaningful connections across different learning areas. Discover how children's dispositions are nurtured through one of the learning activities of the HI-Light Programme.

ALL ABOUT TRANSPORTATION IN SINGAPORE

MOE Kindergarten @ Fernvale Link

As part of the HI-Light programme, children went on a field trip to the Land Transport Authority Gallery to learn about how things work to help the community.

The exhibits of past and present modes of public transport at the gallery evoked children's sense of wonder. The children were especially fascinated by the "mosquito bus", a small seven-seater bus commonly seen on the roads of Singapore in the 1920s and 1930s. They sat on a replica to experience what it felt like travelling on a "mosquito bus". The children also discovered that their grandparents had to use bus tickets to travel on buses in the past. Their curiosity piqued, the children excitedly asked a variety of "I wonder" questions, such as "I wonder what the bus conductor used to clip the bus tickets?"



Listening intently as the guide introduced the past and present modes of public transport in Singapore.

To extend children's learning, teachers encouraged children to reflect on their observations from the field trip and share their learning with their families through a craft project. The children displayed inventiveness as they worked with their families to create their bus models using craft materials. One child shared that she designed her bus to have many wheels so that it could move faster.

Teachers encouraged children to learn from one another by asking questions about their friends' bus models. Through the experience, the children learned to listen and appreciate the work of others.



In response to his friend's question, a child demonstrated how his improvised bus model would work.

SNAPSHOTS

At MOE Kindergarten, we believe that children are curious, active and competent learners. Besides equipping our children with knowledge and skills, teachers also nurture children's learning dispositions through a variety of learning activities. Here are some snippets of activities that the children participated in!



CURIOUS AND CREATIVE TINKERS -

Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View explored a variety of materials and worked with their friends to create a simple mixing machine to make soap bars. The activity developed children's perseverance as they had to overcome challenges in the tinkering process.



REFLECTIVE LEARNERS -

Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Farrer Park learned about kindness through a play, "The Rainbow Fish". They reflected on what it means to be considerate and decided to make puppets to act out a story about being kind to the people around them.



ENGAGED AND DETERMINED LEARNERS -

Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol Green put their heads together to solve a number bingo puzzle. The puzzle challenge presented an opportunity for children to learn how to work as a team to problem-solve.

THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTEN

Our heartiest congratulations to Mdm Wei Xiurong and Mdm Siti Raudhah Binte Haji Halimi, recipients of the 2016 Outstanding Pre-school Mother Tongue Language Teacher Award!

Jointly presented by Mother Tongue Language Learning and Promotion Committees and supported by the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism, the award recognises passionate pre-school teachers who make the learning of Mother Tongue Languages fun and engaging for children. Find out how they nurture in children a love for language and positive learning dispositions through the Starlight Literacy Programme.



"As a pre-school educator, I play a significant role in nurturing children's learning dispositions. I do so by creating a conducive learning environment and acting as a role model for the children.

I encourage children to ask questions and be curious about the world around them. I also encourage them to convey and communicate their thoughts using the Chinese Language. I also model to the children how they can show appreciation by listening attentively to what their friends have to share whenever we have discussions in class.

When I lead by example and value the learning dispositions displayed by the children, I inspire them to continue exhibiting these positive behaviours and attitudes towards learning."

Mdm Wei Xiurong,
Chinese Language Teacher,
MOE Kindergarten @ Sengkang Green

"As a pre-school educator, I play a vital role in shaping the children's learning dispositions through my classroom practices.

I seek to create opportunities for the children to reflect on their experiences. I encourage them to share their ideas and also invite them to build on each other's ideas. I believe in creating a safe, caring and respectful learning environment for children to learn the Malay Language. In my class, children learn to listen and respect the ideas of others.

I model the spirit of not giving up whenever I encounter a challenge in class. This inspires the children to persevere in the face of difficulty."

Mdm Siti Raudhah Binte Haji Halimi,
Malay Language Teacher,
MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Children look to their parents for positive guidance, encouragement and affirmation. Here are some tips to help nurture your child's learning dispositions:



- **Start young**

Early childhood is an important window of opportunity for establishing positive attitudes towards learning. Whenever your child displays desirable learning dispositions, commend their effort. This helps your child learn that it is a desirable attitude that he or she should strive to keep up.

- **Build on existing experiences**

Children learn best in authentic contexts. When your child encounters challenges, refrain from immediately stepping in to solve the problem for him or her. Give your child time and space to explore and discover his or her own way to solve the problem. This helps your child learn that challenges can be overcome through perseverance.

- **Be a role model**

Take the lead in demonstrating to your child positive learning dispositions like appreciation by listening attentively to others. When your child sees that you respect others, he or she will similarly strive to do the same whenever the opportunity to interact with others arise.

- **Encourage inventiveness**

Children are naturally curious and enjoy tinkering. Encourage inventiveness in your child by giving him or her opportunities to explore with a variety of materials when he or she is playing. For example, instead of buying ready-made toys, challenge your child to make his or her own toys using recycled materials.

- **Get your child excited about learning**

Make learning a joy by engaging your child through fun hands-on activities like games and sports. This gives you an opportunity to bond with your child and create a safe environment for your child to explore and learn.

- **Promote reflectiveness**

Making mistakes is part and parcel of learning. Acknowledge your child's attempt in completing a task. If it does not work out, guide him or her to think about how it can be better in future. He or she will then learn from the experience and strive to make improvements when similar situations occur in the future.



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!

