First Flight

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MOE KINDERGARTEN

At MOE Kindergarten, we seek to nurture early childhood bilingualism. Our Starlight Literacy Programme provides opportunities for children to enjoy English and their Mother Tongue Language, communicate with confidence and be aware of local traditions and customs. Take a peek into some of the ways children are immersed in language learning at the MOE Kindergartens and find out what you can do to interest your child in learning languages!

Warm wishes,
The MOE Kindergarten Team

LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTENS

Did you know that MOE Kindergarten children embark on two Weeks of Wonder (WoW) projects in their Mother Tongue Language every year? Together with their peers and Mother Tongue Language teachers, children explore topics of their interest and discover answers to their questions. The WoW project experiences give children a deeper understanding of the people, places and things around them and encourage them to be curious about the world.

All about Doctors
医生的奥秘探索
MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier

After reading the Chinese Language Big Book, “我想”, in which a little girl imagines herself in a variety of occupations, the children started to wonder more about the medical profession. They were curious to find out what doctors and nurses do.

To help them seek out answers to their questions, their teacher invited an ophthalmologist from the National University Hospital and a medic trainer from the Singapore Armed Forces to meet the children.

“How can I become a doctor?”

“What equipment do doctors use?”

“How do nurses help doctors?”

Dr Lam, the ophthalmologist, patiently answered every question and showed the children how she performs an eye examination for children. Through their interactions with Ms Tan, the medic trainer, the children learned how medics administer first-aid.



Looking on as Dr Lam performs an eye examination.

The children thought nurses only dispensed medicine prescribed by doctors and were amazed to know that in the army, medics play a very important role in providing the first line of medical assistance. They were also surprised that a thermometer can be placed at different parts of the body to measure a person’s temperature!



Watching intently as Ms Tan demonstrates how to bandage an injured knee.

As they reflected on what they learned about the medical profession, the children dreamed about who they would like to be in future. As you would guess, many of them aspired to be doctors and nurses!



Ying Xuan aspires to be a doctor when she grows up!

Our *Silat* Experience
Pengalaman Silat Kami
MOE Kindergarten @ Northoaks

Enthralled by the Malay Language Big Book, *“Silat”*, children embarked on a journey of discovery about the traditional Malay martial art.

Mr Rafili, a *Silat* trainer, was invited to the classroom to share about the language and moves adopted in the martial art. The children thought that *Silat* was performed only during Malay wedding ceremonies, as depicted in the Big Book they read.

Imagine their surprise when Mr Rafili told them that *Silat* was practised by warriors for self-defence! He explained that in the modern day context, however, *Silat* is commonly practised as a sport or performed during weddings as a form of blessing to the newlyweds.



Practising basic moves in Sports *Silat*.



Customising headgears for their *Silat* performance.

The children had a fun time learning basic *Silat* moves from Mr Rafili and enthusiastically proposed to put up a *Silat* performance for their friends in the other classes.

With guidance from their teacher, the children created their very own *Silat* headgears from coloured construction paper in preparation for their performance.

The children ended their WoW project on a high with an exciting *Silat* performance which was well-received by their peers. Through this project, the children developed a better understanding and appreciation for the Malay culture and traditions.



Executing *Silat* movements to the beat of the *kompang*.

Kolam
கோலம்
MOE Kindergarten @ Springdale

"What can we use to make a *kolam*?"

"Can *kolam* be colourful?"

"What are some patterns for *kolam*?"

These were some questions from the children after reading the Tamil Language Big Book, "New House". Excited to make their very own *kolam*, the children voted for a *kolam* pattern to work on together. They explored a variety of materials like coloured sand, chalk and rice flour to make *kolam* of different shapes and sizes.



Making *kolam* with coloured rice!

Putting a *kolam* together was not an easy task but the children persevered together. They each played a part in filling the *kolam* with a myriad of colours. They also meticulously helped one another in ensuring that all parts of the *kolam* were filled with colourful rice flour.



Working patiently together to create a *kolam* from coloured powder.

Through the WoW project, the children became more familiar with Tamil vocabulary relating to colours. They also gained a better appreciation for their culture with newfound knowledge that *kolam* could come in a variety of colours, materials and patterns. Instead of using sticker *kolam* to decorate the floor of their house during festive seasons, some children said they could now work together with their families to make *kolam* out of rice flour or coloured rice!



Adding the finishing touch to a *kolam* made out of coloured sand.

SNAPSHOTS

From dramatisation to engaging games, learning takes place through many forms for children at the MOE Kindergartens. Here are some ways language learning is made fun for the children during their Starlight Literacy Programme!



Children of MOE Kindergarten @ Fernvale Link enjoyed learning new action words such as "dive" and "roll" as they imitated the gestures and movements of the tiger cubs in the Malay Language Big Book titled "Ayuh Mandi".



Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Westwood engaged in a board game to reinforce their learning of new Tamil words introduced in a Big Book they read.



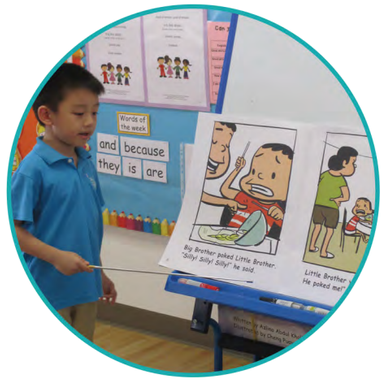
Guided by their teacher, children of MOE Kindergarten @ Fernvale Link followed step-by-step verbal instructions and learned the names of various fruits as they prepared a healthy fruit salad in an activity during their Chinese Language Starlight Literacy Programme.



Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Westwood participated in a listening station activity where they listened to a story in an English Language Big Book and matched sound to print.

THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTEN

Reading stories set in the Singapore context, singing new songs and playing language games are some of the activities that the children engage in during the Starlight Literacy Programme. Read on to find out what our MOE Kindergarten children enjoy about the programme!

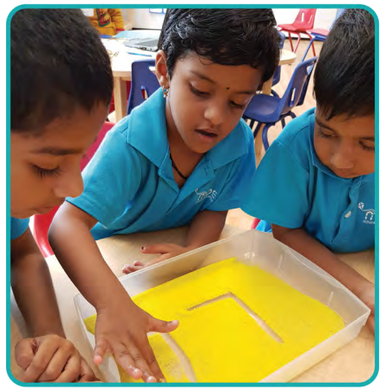


"I like English Language Starlight Literacy lessons as I love to listen to stories and learn new songs. It is also fun to lead my friends along in Big Book reading."

- Zach
MOE Kindergarten @ Westwood

"I enjoy my Tamil Language Starlight Literacy class because I get to write Tamil letters on coloured sand and create letters using play dough. I have fun playing Tamil Language games with my friends during my learning centre time."

- Shivani
MOE Kindergarten @ West Spring





"I like the Malay Language Starlight Literacy Programme because I can read books, play and dramatise."

- Hyder
MOE Kindergarten @ Fernvale Link

"I enjoy Chinese Language Starlight Literacy lessons because I love listening to the stories and singing Chinese songs with my friends. One of my favourite songs is 《上学乐》."

- Li Ying
MOE Kindergarten @ Yishun



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

When children are supported and encouraged to learn English and Mother Tongue Language in their early years, they will become confident communicators. They will enjoy using the languages to interact with the people around them. Children will also gain a better appreciation of their identity and ethnic culture when learning their Mother Tongue Language. Here are some ways you can promote your child's learning of English and Mother Tongue Language:



- **Provide a supportive home environment**

  The home environment provides an opportunity to be exposed to a large vocabulary as children hear many different words and how they are used. Your child will learn more quickly when surrounded by family members who communicate frequently in the language.

  Provide your child with ample opportunities to speak and use the language by encouraging him or her to tell you stories or talk about what he or she is doing. Refrain from always correcting your child when he or she is using the language inaccurately. Give him or her time and space to explore and pick up the language gradually.

- **Create opportunities for social interaction with other children**

  Children pick up language through conversations and interactions. Bring your child out regularly to mingle with other children. When he or she is with other children in places like the playground, he or she will get to hear sound patterns and learn to recognise how different words and phrases are used to convey interests and wants by other children. This will allow him or her to quickly pick up the language.

- **Bond with your child through language games and story-reading**

  Playing simple language games and reading stories to your child are great ways for you to bond with your child. These are also opportunities for you to model to them how the language is used and encourage your child to use the language more.

  A bedtime story just before your child sleeps also helps to prepare him or her for sleeping. A simple *I Spy* game on the print environment around you at the MRT station, the supermarket or the hawker centre can also get your child excited to notice and recognise the print that he or she sees on a daily basis. Examples of such print could be a simple word or letter, or characters on notice boards, signboards and brochures etc.

- **Cultivate a love for reading**

  Stories, rhymes and songs are some of the language resources that contribute greatly to children's language development. When choosing language resources for your child, consider his or her needs, interests and readiness level. Cultivating a love for reading in English and your Mother Tongue Language is a precious gift for your child to encourage him or her to be a lifelong user of the language.

MOE KINDERGARTEN

Do you have any comments about 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!