

First Flight

Many exciting possibilities await your child as he or she moves from kindergarten to primary school! In this issue, find out how MOE Kindergarten partners primary schools to facilitate children's transition. Read on to discover how the 2017 Kindergarten 2 (K2) children are doing in their new primary schools. In a special interview, Project Director, Young Learners of MOE Schools Division shares on how primary schools can support incoming Primary 1 (P1) students in the next stage of their learning journey. We also include tips on how you can play a part in helping your child embrace this milestone.

Warm wishes,
The MOE Kindergarten Team

LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTEN

"Who are the primary school teachers?"

"What is a day like in primary school?"

"Is there snack time?"

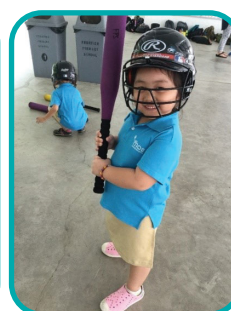
"Can we play in the canteen?"

These are some commonly-asked questions by the curious children about life in a primary school. Building on the children's curiosity, MOE Kindergarten has a five-week learning component as part of its HI-Light Programme in K2 to orientate children on the changes they may face in a primary school. The MOE Kindergartens also collaborate closely with the primary schools to provide children with opportunities to experience and discover what primary school life is like.

Read on to find out how MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier and MOE Kindergarten @ Sengkang Green created learning opportunities for the children and got them excited about what they could expect in a primary school!

MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier

Imagine the excitement of K2 children from MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier when they interviewed a teacher from Frontier Primary School to find out answers to their questions, all in the comfort of their kindergarten classroom! Many questions were posed and in return, the children responded to the primary school teacher's questions enthusiastically. While doing so, they developed their confidence and improved their speaking and listening skills.



Children from MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier enjoyed making paper craft during PAL and tried out CCAs such as softball and badminton.

MOE Kindergarten @ Sengkang Green

At MOE Kindergarten @ Sengkang Green, the children had opportunities to interact with primary school teachers and visit the school canteen to experience recess for themselves. It was a day of exploration for the K2 children as they ventured beyond the kindergarten setting into the familiar yet larger primary school compound.



The children took turns to ask questions to find out what life in a primary school is like from a teacher of Frontier Primary School.



The children learnt to buy food with the guidance of their primary school buddies in Sengkang Green Primary School's canteen.



The K2 children played Bingo with their P1 buddies.

They were given opportunities to visit the school bookshop, read books at the library and participate in many other activities. They also enjoyed a fun game of Bingo together with their primary school buddies while experiencing what the larger learning space of a typical primary school classroom was like.

The children were delighted to learn that there were libraries in all primary schools and they would be able to borrow books that they loved to read. While visiting the school library, they learnt how to find their favourite books in different sections, and experience the process of borrowing and returning library books. At the end of their primary school visit, the children reflected on their day and drew pictures with simple sentences written to show what they had observed and/or experienced.



The MK children explored ways to find the books they liked from the various fiction and non-fiction book sections.



The children created journals on their learning experience in Sengkang Green Primary School.

SNAPSHOTS

At the start of this year, MOE Kindergarten teachers wrote postcards to the 2017 K2 children to convey their well wishes and find out how they were doing in primary school. Here are some snippets of the responses from the children!

The children were pleasantly surprised to receive postcards from their MOE Kindergarten teachers. The postcard on the left was designed by Palawan AM class (2017 K2) from MOE Kindergarten @ West Spring.

The children were pleasantly surprised to receive postcards from their MOE Kindergarten teachers. The postcard on the left was designed by Palawan AM class (2017 K2) from MOE Kindergarten @ West Spring.

"Same same but different"- Muhammad Darwish Bin Muhammad Luqman of MOE Kindergarten @ Riverside in his MK uniform (left) and during a visit back to the MK to see his favourite kindergarten teacher, Ms Florence (right).

Dear K2 Teachers
I am very very happy to receive your postcard last week. Thank you for your greeting! I miss you too. My P1 school is in cps nearby my home. In new school I study Chinese, English, maths and sports lessons. I have many homework everyday. I enjoyed these lessons. I have a warmest wishes to all of K2 Teachers in the Chinese New Year.
I love you!
by: Wu Rui Qi 11.02.2018

My new school message
From: Leandran Richard R
Sent: Saturday, 10 February 2018 5:37 PM
To: MOE KN (MOE)
Subject: My new school!
Hello Ms Geetha & Ms Rachel!
I am very fine. Thank you. How are you?
I really miss MOE Kindergarten and all of you. I wish I am still there! I miss my Lantana classroom, playground, library and MT classroom.
I am at South View Primary School now. I enjoy my school. I have PAL lessons at school where we dance. I like MUSIC ♪ ♪ ♪ the best because when I hear the songs, it is very relaxing.
I also look forward to playing with my new friends during recess. Unfortunately for me I fell down last week and had to go to the general office to put plaster @@@.
I am grateful to Ms Geetha, Ms Rachel and 謝曉珊 for moulding my leadership qualities as I have been nominated to be the class monitor for this term @
I hope to see you all one day.
© Once again, thank you for everything.
Cheers,
Leandran

Leandran stands proudly in his primary school uniform.

Dear Teacher sarinah,
I miss you too!
I always peep through the window when I'm on the way to my classroom but no one was there.
I cried for a few days but I'm a brave boy now days but I enjoy my new journey and my new school. I will remember your words "Be brave and reach for the stars" Look out for me on CNY celebration! Love, Enzo

Hi Ms Feline and Ms Ying,
I am the monitor because I'm behaving well and my teeth is dropping.
I like my primary school and I will meet you one day.

A note from Michael Ong Yan Jun from MOE Kindergarten @ Riverside extending her warmest wishes to her K2 kindergarten teachers through a letter.

THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTEN

Successful transition experiences have a positive impact on children's emotional well-being, social adaptability and future academic performance. To find out how schools can support children in embracing changes with resilience and confidence, we spoke to Mrs Ng Ai Lin, Project Director, Young Learners from MOE Schools Division. Mrs Ng was formerly Zonal Director (Schools), South for 12 years and currently oversees the development and setting up of MOE Kindergartens in primary schools.



Mrs Ng Ai Lin
Project Director, Young Learners
Schools Division
Ministry of Education

What are some common experiences shared by children when they move from pre-school to primary school? How do the children respond to these changes?

Besides adapting to learning in a new physical environment, children will have to get used to new routines and expectations. They are required to be more independent and responsible. For example, they will have to be more proactive in taking care of their personal belongings and complete assigned tasks within a given timing.

When children are exposed to unfamiliar situations that require them to interact with a larger group of people, learn from new teachers or even make new friends, it is common for them to have mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety.

Could you share some practices that primary schools have adopted to help children transit smoothly from pre-school to primary school?

Most primary schools will conduct P1 Orientation to familiarise children with the primary school environment, teachers and their new classmates. The orientation is also a platform to share the routines and expectations in primary school with parents. New P1 students are usually paired with older buddies to help them in buying food from the school canteen and familiarising themselves with the school compound. Teachers will also pace and scaffold children's learning at the beginning of the first school term. For example, they will be mindful not to give the students excessive homework.

What can primary schools do to further support children in managing the changes that come with the transition process?

It will be useful for primary schools to consider children's perspectives when they experience such changes. This would then allow the primary schools to identify other suitable transition practices that parents and teachers could adopt to orientate the children to learn in a different setting. Primary schools could establish a strong foundation in teacher-parent communication so that both parties could work together for the best interest of the children. School leaders could also engage primary and MOE Kindergarten teachers in deeper professional dialogues so that everyone has a shared understanding on how they could enhance teaching practices that meet the children's needs.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Primary school paves the way for many new learning opportunities and areas for growth. Getting your child excited about school and developing his or her independence, sense of responsibility and interpersonal skills will smoothen the transition to P1.

Here are 9 things you can do to support your child for the journey ahead!



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| <p>#1 Attend the primary school orientation with your child</p> <p>Familiarise your child with the new learning environment, timetable and routines so that he or she knows what to do in a primary school and whom to approach for help.</p> | <p>#2 Involve your child in preparing for school</p> <p>Let your child choose and pack his or her school bag and stationery. This provides your child with a greater sense of ownership in his or her new school and learning experience.</p> | <p>#3 Encourage sharing and taking turns during playtime with other children</p> <p>In primary school, your child will have many opportunities to interact with his or her peers during class activities and recess. Encourage your child to share his or her things and take turns during playtime with others to prepare your child to face similar situations in the primary school.</p> |
| <p>#4 Model friendly and useful phrases for making new friends</p> <p>Introduce simple phrases such as "Hello! My name is ___, what is your name?" or "May we play together?" to enable your child to feel more confident when meeting new people in the school environment.</p> | <p>#5 Guide your child to focus on completing one task before moving on to a different activity</p> <p>Encourage your child to complete his or her work independently before playing. This develops your child's ability to focus and see through the completion of tasks and activities he or she starts on.</p> | <p>#6 Provide opportunities for your child to complete simple tasks</p> <p>Let your child learn to dress up by himself or herself and pack his or her bag for weekend outings. Such simple tasks develop your child's self-help skills and builds his or her confidence and independence.</p> |
| <p>#7 Provide opportunities for your child to buy food and drinks</p> <p>Teach your child how to count pocket money, make payment and receive the correct change for food and drinks. Encourage your child to form a good habit of returning his or her plate and cutlery after eating.</p> | <p>#8 Develop your child's concept of time</p> <p>Communicate to your child that he or she has a fixed amount of time to complete specific activities, such as "Let's take 20 minutes to finish your snack." By doing so, your child will learn how to manage his or her time.</p> | <p>#9 Adjust your child's bedtime and waking time</p> <p>Primary schools usually start earlier than kindergartens. Starting from a week before school begins, put your child to bed earlier and wake him or her up earlier too. This will ease your child into the new timing and also ensure that he or she has sufficient rest and is ready for learning.</p> |



Did you know?

All MOE Kindergartens hold LIFE@MK (Leading and Inspiring Families of Early Learners @ MOE Kindergarten) workshops on supporting children in their transition to P1.

The workshops are open to parents of K2 children enrolled in MOE Kindergarten. Speak to your child's teacher to find out more details.



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? Write to us at moe_kn@moe.gov.sg

Visit www.moe.gov.sg/moekindergarten or scan the QR code to join our mailing list to receive the latest news and updates!

