



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

► PARENT KIT

# MY INDEPENDENT LEARNER!



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## **Are our children independent, curious, adaptable and resilient?**

The Home-Based Learning (HBL) experience has shown us that our children are capable of adapting to new norms and becoming more independent learners as they navigate a new landscape.

They quickly learnt to use different digital platforms, drew up new schedules, asked questions and discovered hobbies and interests.



Even with our children back in school, **don't let go of the good habits and routines that you have put in place to support independent learning!**

What have we done this season that has enabled our children to become more independent?

What can we continue to do to give our children space to learn and grow with confidence? Read on for tips!





# LOOKING FORWARD

Nurturing independent learners requires us to adjust our involvement as parents – when should we hold tighter to guide them, and when should we loosen to let them explore and arrive at answers themselves?

Our involvement may vary from child to child. Sometimes, we don't know the answer right away. But that's OK! What is important is for us and schools to work alongside each other to guide our children.



At the end of the day, when our children learn by themselves, they are more actively engaged in learning. This grows in them a sense of **purpose, ownership** and **love for learning**, which will carry them throughout life.

# TIP #1

A self-directed learner takes ownership of his/her own learning.  
A resilient learner reflects on mistakes and always strives to do better.



In school, we guide our students to take charge of their learning by getting them to keep track of their assignments and schedule.

*Don't rely on teachers to give daily updates about your child, homework instructions, login details to online learning portals or test and exam preparations.*



At home, encourage your children to follow up on their assigned tasks and take care of their belongings independently.

*Let your children get ready for school on their own, and don't deliver forgotten items to school. Making mistakes is part of learning.*

## TIP #2

An intrinsically-motivated learner does not give up easily and isn't afraid of learning something difficult or solving complex problems.



In school, teachers assign homework to understand students' learning progress and the areas they do not understand.



At home, let your children attempt homework on their own and seek help from others if needed.

*Support them by creating a conducive space to complete their homework. Encourage them to approach their classmates and teachers when in need of help.*

## TIP #3

A curious learner often goes beyond the textbook to explore the world and derives a sense of fulfillment and deeper learning in the process.



In school, we nurture our students to be self-directed learners by providing opportunities for them to pursue areas of interest and to take the lead (e.g. through projects, courses, CCAs).



At home, let your children have a say in what they want to do, to give them space to discover new things and take charge of things they are interested in.

*Involve your child in decisions like the amount of screen time they can have and the kinds of meaningful activities they can do during free time. For example, let them try out new mini projects, pursue their hobbies and help out at home.*

# BONUS:

**Acknowledge and praise your child for his or her good effort!**

Click here for tips on how to give praise effectively.







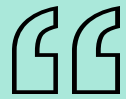
# WORKING TOGETHER

Teachers play a big part in guiding our children to learn independently too. **Take some time to show your appreciation to your child's teachers!**

Our children's teachers have had to deal with many changes this season – from finding creative ways to teach during HBL to ensuring our children's safety in school with safe management measures.

At every step, our teachers have risen to the occasion, trying new teaching techniques and tools to keep our children engaged, looking after their well-being and nurturing their independence.





Education will not be the same post-COVID-19. It will be better. Together we shall see to it.

*- Former Minister for Education, Ong Ye Kung*

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