

Updated May 2017

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NURTURING EARLY LEARNERS (NEL) CURRICULUM

**1. Is it compulsory for kindergartens and childcare centres to adopt the NEL curriculum?**

As the NEL curriculum is broad enough to accommodate different curriculum approaches and philosophies, MOE strongly encourages kindergartens and childcare centres to use the NEL Curriculum resources to review and plan their curriculum according to the interests, needs and abilities of their children so as to provide a holistic and quality pre-school education for their children.

**2. How will pre-school centres be supported in the use of the NEL Curriculum?**

The NEL Curriculum has been distributed to kindergartens and childcare centres. The NEL framework and Educators' Guides are available at [www.nel.sg/resources](http://www.nel.sg/resources).

Training has been provided for all pre-school educators to help them put the teaching and learning principles spelled out in the NEL Framework into practice. Training agencies have also been briefed so that the learning goals as well as the teaching and learning principles in the NEL Framework can be incorporated into pre-school teacher training programme.

**3. How can parents find out what their children should know and be able to do at the end of their kindergarten education?**

Parents can refer to the learning goals in the NEL Framework that establish what children should know and be able to do at the end of their kindergarten education. MOE has also published the '[Nurturing Early Learners – A Curriculum Framework for Kindergartens in Singapore: A Guide for Parents](#)' to help parents understand the principles that guide teachers as they plan learning experiences for their children.

**4. Are children expected to attain all the learning goals articulated in the NEL Framework at the end of K2?**

The learning goals are developmentally appropriate and reflect widely-held expectations about what children should know and be able to do upon completion of their kindergarten education. Some children will exceed the expectations at the end of Kindergarten 2 (K2) while others, depending on their pace of development, may need more time and will continue to receive support in primary school.

**5. How will MOE help to ensure that children adjust smoothly from K2 to Primary 1 (P1)?**

MOE is working closely with pre-school and primary school educators to help them understand the NEL Curriculum and the learning goals. These efforts aim to establish a common understanding about the expectations at the end of K2 so that kindergartens and

## Updated May 2017

childcare centres focus on nurturing children holistically while primary schools pitch their teaching at appropriate levels at the start of P1.

### **6. Apart from the NEL Curriculum, what else can parents expect from MOE to support children's holistic development?**

MOE continues to work with Early Childhood Development Agency to create greater awareness and understanding amongst pre-school educators about the curriculum resources available to support teaching and learning.

### **7. What are the NEL Teaching and Learning resources?**

The NEL teaching and learning resources support teachers in nurturing children's knowledge, skills and dispositions. They include English and Mother Tongue Language Big Books that feature stories with a distinctive Singapore flavour. The stories closely relate to children's experiences and everyday lives, providing authentic contexts for learning.

### **8. How will MOE share the NEL Teaching and Learning Resources with the sector?**

MOE has made available the NEL Teaching and Learning Resources to the pre-school sector. These include a set of 24 Big Books in English and a set of 32 Big Books for each of the three official Mother Tongue Languages. Examples of integrated activities that support the holistic development of children are available through the NEL Portal ([www.nel.sg](http://www.nel.sg)), which is an online repository that was launched in 2017.

### **9. What are the NEL Big Books? How will NEL Big Books be useful to pre-school centres?**

The NEL Big Books were developed with the intent of nurturing children's interest in English and the Mother Tongue Languages and helping them acquire foundational language skills. They are available in English and the three official Mother Tongue Languages (i.e. Chinese, Malay and Tamil) – 24 English titles and 32 titles for each Mother tongue Language, to be used largely across children's Kindergarten 1 (K1) and K2 years.

Pre-school centres can use the Big Books to support the nurturing of early childhood bilingualism. The NEL Big Books revolve around local themes and topics that children in Singapore can identify with, relate to and talk about their personal experiences. The stories with a distinctive Singapore flavour provide an authentic context to make language learning relevant to children.

### **10. Will the Big Books be made available to parents as well?**

As the Big Books have been designed for teachers' use in the classroom, they will only be made available to pre-school centres.