

Welcome back to Term 3 at MOE Kindergartens!  
 教育部幼儿园第三学期开学了!  
 Selamat kembali ke Penggal 3 di Tadika MOE!  
 MOE பால ர்பள்ளியில் ன்றாம தவணை தொடங்கிவிட்ட !  
 வருக வருக!

In this second issue of **First Flight**, we explore how MOE Kindergartens nurture early bilingualism and a love for languages through our Weeks of Wonder (WoW) projects. Find out how we make learning languages fun for the children, and how you can support the development of your child's language and literacy skills!

Warm wishes,  
 The MOE Kindergarten team

# First Flight

## LEARNING AT MOE KINDERGARTENS

At MOE Kindergartens, children communicate and learn in both English and their Mother Tongue Language. In addition to daily interactions with teachers and the dedicated curriculum time for each language, children also participate in termly **WoW projects**. Out of the four WoW projects in a year, two are in English and two are in Mother Tongue. The WoW projects in Mother Tongue allow children to use the language in authentic contexts.

Let's check out some of these Mother Tongue Language projects!

### Investigating Chopsticks 筷子的奥秘探索

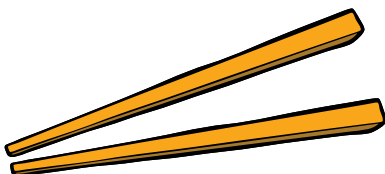
MOE Kindergarten @ Farrer Park

After reading a Chinese Language Big Book, '妹妹长大了' in which one of the characters used a pair of chopsticks, the children expressed an interest in these utensils. The children asked many questions, including:

“When did people start using chopsticks?”

“What are chopsticks used for?”

“Why are there chopsticks of different lengths?”



Under the teachers' guidance, the children visited a nearby hawker centre and coffee shop to interview stallholders and diners on the use of chopsticks.



A goreng pisang stall owner explains the use of long chopsticks when frying fritters to avoid getting scalded by the hot oil.

After the outing, the children wrote a Chinese poem about chopsticks and discussed the differences between long, short and disposable chopsticks. They also observed that chopsticks are typically used by the Chinese to eat Chinese food.



A child sharing what he has learnt from the trip to the hawker centre



When asked about the lack of chopsticks at a Muslim stall, the owner explains the Malay custom of using one's right hand, or forks and spoons to eat instead of chopsticks.



The children posing with their illustration of a story about chopsticks



**Silat**  
**Pengalaman Silat Kami**  
**MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines**

After reading a Malay Language Big Book about *Silat*, the children expressed interest to find out more about this particular form of martial arts. The kindergarten invited Mr Muhammad Fadhil Bin Ahmad, former member of a *Silat* group based in Kaki Bukit Community Centre, Al-Haq. Mr Muhammad shared knowledge on *Silat* and introduced its different forms to the children. He also demonstrated some moves, and explained the movements which were inspired by animals. He further explained the weapons and the colours of the costume. The children were very excited to learn *Silat* moves from Mr Muhammad and later shared what they had learnt with their families. One of them even signed up for *Silat* classes at the Community Centre after the project!



The children trying out *Silat* moves with Mr Muhammad



Mr Muhammad sharing about common *Silat* weapons



Looking brave and fierce in a *Silat* costume

**Traditional Indian Costumes**

இந்திய பாரம்பரிய உடைகள்  
**MOE Kindergarten @ Dazhong**

The children decided to find out more about traditional Indian costumes after noticing characters dressed in eye-catching costumes in some of their Big Books. In addition to watching videos and viewing photographs of traditional Indian costumes, the children also went on a field trip to a traditional costume shop in Little India.



The children feeling the material used for Indian traditional costumes at a shop

At the shop, the children asked the shop owner about the materials used to make traditional costumes, the differences between costumes for men, women and children, and the occasions during which such costumes would be worn. After the trip, the children shared their findings and made two-dimensional traditional costumes from paper. To conclude the project, the teacher invited the children's families to be part of a fashion show showcasing their traditional costumes.



A father and child gamely taking part in the fashion show



A colourful artwork by the children of a lady wearing the *sari*



The children's artwork of a traditional costume for men

**SNAPSHOTS**

Besides helping children gain confidence in and develop a love for using two languages, MOE Kindergartens also aim to provide experiences that help children develop a better understanding and appreciation of the local ethnic culture. This is done through the celebration of festivals and learning experiences using games, songs and reading materials with a distinct Singapore flavour.



Children at MOE Kindergarten @ Tampines having fun at the "prata stall" in their local heritage learning centre



Staff and children of MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol View celebrating Racial Harmony Day



A favourite amongst children - our signature Big Books with a distinct Singapore flavour in English and Mother Tongue Languages

**THE FACES OF MOE KINDERGARTENS**

They create puppets, prepare word games, and organise exciting field trips to make languages come alive for the children. Let's meet some of our MOE Kindergarten teachers and find out how they make learning languages fun and engaging!



"Language is important as it enables children to express themselves. The learning of language includes listening, knowing the letters of the alphabet, the sounds they make, and putting words together to express their thoughts and ideas. By incorporating songs with actions, rhymes and fun activities such as role-playing, children learn the language in a fun and meaningful way. As Ignacio Estrada reminds us, 'If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.'"

- Ms Shereen Low, English medium teacher, MOE Kindergarten @ West Spring

"The children always ask me, 'What will we play today?' Play comes naturally to children. Besides making lessons fun and helping children learn by associating words with actions and body movements, play also allows children to use the language in authentic situations, like ordering food at the makeshift hawker stall in the dramatic corners. This motivates them to continue learning and using the language."

- Ms Meng Jue, Chinese Language teacher, MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol Green



"Adding elements of surprise and playing a variety of games during the lessons make a big difference in enlivening Malay Language lessons and engaging children's interest. The children enjoy the word-hunt, role-play and guessing games that I incorporate in the lessons. Sometimes, I allow children to switch roles with me and to lead the class as the "teacher". This role-switching activity empowers them and builds their confidence. Through these ways, learning becomes more exciting!"

- Ms Siti Jamilah Jais, Malay Language teacher, MOE Kindergarten @ Yishun







“Children are enthusiastic learners when it comes to things they are interested in. To capture children’s interest in learning the Tamil Language, I use stories, songs, games and hands-on activities complemented with interactive teaching resources. Moving away from a didactic teaching approach and towards a more engaging approach will build the children’s interest in the Tamil Language and encourage life-long learning.”

- Ms Reka Sherlin John, Tamil Language teacher, MOE Kindergarten @ Blangah Rise



## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Learning in the classroom is more effective when complemented by a conducive and supportive environment at home. Besides participating in your child’s MOE Kindergarten family-based learning activities, here are some other ways you can help your child learn and enjoy using English and Mother Tongue:



- **Start young**

Early childhood is an important window of opportunity for establishing positive attitudes and a basic foundation in language learning. Make time to expose your child to both languages (but not in the same sentence!) through your conversations, books, games and activities.

- **Make the learning process a time of fun and bonding**

It is important for your child to enjoy learning, so that he/she will develop an interest in learning the language. Make story-reading a special bonding session between you and your child, and be encouraging when your child attempts to use the language - even when he/she makes mistakes. You can incorporate fun elements such as playing word games, role-playing or drawing characters from a story you read together.

- **Choose materials that are appropriate for your child**

Nothing kills your child’s interest faster than a book or game that is too difficult for them. When choosing language resources, consider what your child is interested in and how comfortably he/she will learn through the resource.

- **Be a good role model**

Your child looks up to you as a role model. Walk the talk by using the languages you want your child to pick up. Even if you think you are not fluent in the language, encourage your child to learn the language by asking them to listen to songs, radio programmes or audio books in that language. You can also ask your child to teach you what he/she has learnt so that you can both learn the language. If you show a dislike for a language, your child is likely to follow suit!

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](mailto:moe_kn@moe.gov.sg)!

For more information on MOE Kindergartens, visit:  
[www.moe.gov.sg/moekindergarten](http://www.moe.gov.sg/moekindergarten)

Scan this QR code to visit our website right away!

