

NURTURING EARLY CHILDHOOD BILINGUALISM TOGETHER!

“Nurturing Early Bilingualism Together!”

“Nurturing Early Bilingualism Together!” is a programme that aims to support children’s personal growth and help them to manage changes they experience in school and at home. We work in close partnership with the parents to support children’s transition experiences. Through the programme, ample opportunities are given to the teachers, parents and children to use the English Language (EL) and Mother Tongue languages (MTL) in their everyday activities to help make MTL a living language.

We aim to build children’s confidence in using EL and MTL during activities in school and at home. The variety of activities also encourages children and their families to practice the same set of values as the school.



Topics in the Programme

Term 1: Who Am I?

We focus on bridging home and school experiences, exploring children’s new environment and learning about its expectations, and encourage them to express their feelings.



Term 2: Who Are The People and What Are The Places Around Me?

In this term, children learn ways to appreciate the people and places around them and respecting the feelings of others.



Term 3: Who Do I Share The World With?

Children will be given opportunities to explore and create with others and learn appropriate ways to respond to those around them.



Term 4: How Things Work?

In the final lap of the year, we help children with transiting to the next phase of learning and managing difficult feelings.

Changes: A New Environment

The K1 children received a passport prior to the first day of school. The passport is a bilingual recording book where children document their journey and activities in both EL and MTL throughout the first week of school.

Along with the passport that the K1 children received is the boarding pass, which encouraged parents to write words of affirmation for their child in their MTL. The completed boarding passes were then read out in class to celebrate the children’s first week of school.



Scan here to have a walk through of our MK@ Punggol Green Passport.





Using the Language with Confidence

The K2 children were engaged in an activity to create a 3 dimensional maze using straws. Then they exchanged their maze with their peers and started to figure out a way around their peer's maze. Through the activity, the children build their capacity and confidence to use the Mother Tongue Language with their peers.



Reviving the Mother Tongue Language at Home

To promote social and emotional development of children, we extended the school's value of being respectful to the home environment through the early bilingualism programme.

We encouraged the K2 parents to note and acknowledge actions of their children that made them feel happy, proud or even grateful and to affirm them in their respective Mother Tongue Languages. Children were also encouraged to express their appreciation to their parents' words of encouragement in MTL.



“ 亲爱的Yan Ning, 看到你那么疼爱妹妹, 爱逗她笑, 妈妈感到很开心也很欣慰。 ”



“ நாங்கள் குடும்பமாகச் சேர்ந்து 'UNO' விளையாடும்போது, என் பிள்ளை மகிழ்ச்சியாகவும், உற்சாகமாகவும் இருக்கிறார். ”

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"Saya merasa tenang apabila melihat Mysha berehat diatas sofa. Dia suka menonton rancangan kegemarannya di televisyen."

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Another follow-up MTL activity of the K1 programme builds upon the school value of “Resilience”. Parents were encouraged to guide their children in paper folding activities by giving instructions in MTL. We encouraged them to document their process of guiding their children in a video and share it with the kindergarten which aligned with the ICT guiding principle, ‘The use of ICT should be facilitated and guided.’

Scan here to see our parents' in action!



Our Aspirations

Our centre believes in nurturing Early Childhood Bilingualism through purposeful play and quality interaction both at home and in school. Through this partnership, the intentional and meaningful activities can greater encourage children to use Mother Tongue Language as a living language. This is aligned to the Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's message on the importance of nurturing active learners and proficient users of the languages.

“Singapore's bilingual policy has served us well. Knowing Mother Tongue Language helps to centre us as an Asian society and retain our Asian roots and values, and gives our people an edge in the global economy... We must do our utmost to maintain our linguistic heritage and advantage.”

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. 2011. In MOE(2011). Nurturing active learners and proficient users: 2010 Mother Tongue Languages review committee report. p.5