

# We've Got Mail!

Parents share creative ways of using media and technology to shape their children's learning and development, as well as values.



➔ Fixing a puzzle together is a good family activity because doing so reinforces teamwork and communication. It also helps children build concentration and develop problem-solving skills as well as virtues such as patience. Instead of buying physical puzzles which can cost a lot and take up space at home, I download online puzzles on my computer and smartphone. Doing so enables my children to easily access a wide range of puzzles whenever and wherever they like.

Because of these online puzzles, I find that my children have become more patient and tolerant. This shows that media and technology, when used wisely, can support children's learning and development.

*Tan Ah Tee*

Father of three aged 3, 5 and 6

➔ YouTube, when accessed judiciously, is a great platform for children to learn phonics, songs and dance. My two sons enjoy singing and dancing to videos of children's songs. Recently, I have been uploading our own family videos. My younger son loves watching the one of his brother reciting the alphabet, and I think it has helped to spark his interest in learning A to Z. The brother, on the other hand, has learnt to express himself more after watching his own videos.

It is important to put in place certain restrictions where technology is concerned. My husband and I do not use our phones or any other electronic device during family activities such as meal, reading and play times. We want to show each other respect and ensure that our children do likewise.

*Lynn Lau*

Mother of two aged 1 and 2



➔ Our daughter enjoys watching movie soundtrack videos and will sing and dance along to the songs. So my husband and I decided to make her the star in a video featuring her favourite movie soundtrack. We discussed with her the props she would need for the video, and also the dance steps and movements. After each recording, we pointed out the similarities and differences of her video to the original.

She asked to repeat the process a few times, making tiny improvements each time until we got a video that was pretty close to the original. It was fun and she really enjoyed herself. The finished product serves as a good memento of her childhood.

*Wong Xiao Lee*

Mother of one aged 4



Share an inspiring story

Your child loses his favourite toy. A trip to the amusement park gets cancelled because his sibling is ill. What do you do in situations like these? Parents, if you have tried-and-tested techniques for helping your child deal with frustrations, challenges and disappointments, we want to hear about them. Your story may be featured in the next issue of *Beanstalk*.

Send your story to [beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg](mailto:beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg)

We have three \$30 NTUC vouchers to give away and you may just win one!