

learn



A story-telling session for children at the Gallery



Keeping a child engaged and keen in the arts

## Artful Conversations

Hey Educators! ECDA has collaborated with National Gallery Singapore to develop a resource kit to ignite children's sense of wonderment and appreciation of art. The kit comprises activity cards and questions which will guide you and the children as you explore the Gallery's rich collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian art. Look out for the e-resource kit on this website: [www.growatbeanstalk.sg!](http://www.growatbeanstalk.sg!)

done by engaging the child in imaginative conversations," says Ms Chan.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT ART

To kick start such conversations, Ms Chan suggests that educators and parents pose open-ended questions. "A great place to start a discussion is to talk about colours, shapes, patterns and textures," she says. Children learn to create new meanings and make connections by expressing their thoughts and ideas freely.

"As children describe what they see in an artwork, they develop their vocabulary and visual perception skills," Ms Chan explains. "By making predictions of what they think might happen next in an artwork, children learn to construct new knowledge while building on what they know. This fosters both imaginative thinking and inference skill."

Ms Lydia Hong, from Clementi Woods Kindergarten, was one of the educators who took part in the learning journey. She learnt from the experience that there is no definitive answer to art. "If I play the role of 'discussion facilitator' as opposed to being an 'information provider', children can uncover their own knowledge and extend their thinking," Ms Hong says. This idea is supported by Ms Chan, who believes that

engaging children in conversations about art promotes creativity and individuality, as well as encourages them to be confident in their responses and ideas. "The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer," Ms Chan says, quoting the notable art and education professor, Elliot Eisner. ♥

## WEEKENDS AT THE GALLERY

KCAE also offers a lively range of parent-child programmes. Designed in collaboration with artists and art practitioners, the programmes use the Gallery's collection as a springboard to introduce little ones to art.

### DROP IN ACTIVITY

- ▶ Every weekend | 1-6pm | 4 years and up
- ▶ Get creative as a family through art-making and puzzle-solving. Art kits and fun activity guides to the galleries are available.

### STORIES IN ART\*

- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of each month | 2nd weekend of each month | Various timings | 4 years and up
- ▶ Dive into a world of stories that bring artworks to life! Follow storytellers and actors on a journey through the treasure trove of art in the galleries.

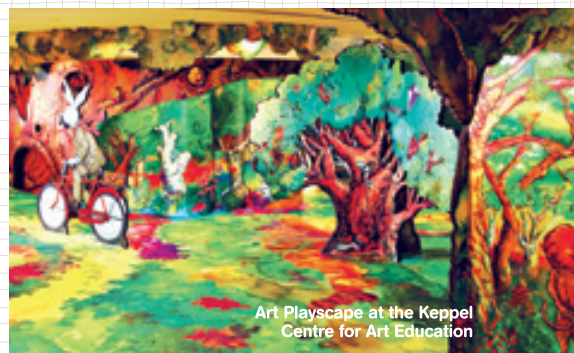
### ART EXPLORERS\*

- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of each month | 11-11.45am, 1.30-2.15pm | 5 years and up
- ▶ Learn more about the artist behind a masterpiece and the art-making process through close-looking and hands-on exploration.

\*Registration or tickets required. Visit [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg) for details.

# YOUNG and ARTY

**NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE'S KEPPEL CENTRE FOR ART EDUCATION OFFERS A WEALTH OF TEACHABLE MOMENTS.**



Art Playscape at the Keppel Centre for Art Education

artists, that stimulates children's creativity and curiosity. It also provides an exciting line-up of programmes for children and families all year round.

"No child is too young to be exposed to the arts. It's about encouraging what comes naturally to children – their curiosity," says Ms Elaine Chan, Manager (Education) at the National Gallery Singapore. Ms Chan facilitated a learning journey on 16 September, organised as part of ECC 2016. She encourages educators and parents not to be intimidated by art, or be burdened by thinking they need to have all the answers. "Art appreciation is simply the act of looking and talking about works of art. This can be

Photos courtesy of National Gallery Singapore



Doing art and craft at the Gallery



## KEEP A CHILD MEANINGFULLY ENGAGED

Ms Elaine Chan, Manager (Education) at National Gallery Singapore, shares three tips to help educators and parents support their children's learning when they visit the Gallery.



Encourage children to mirror the pose of a sculpture or imitate the expression of a figure in an artwork. This will encourage them to interpret the artworks.



Bring a clipboard, paper and a pencil to sketch in the galleries. For example, children can draw various shapes they spot in an artwork or a favourite portrait.



Play "I Spy" to enhance their observation skills by taking turns to identify shapes, colours and objects in artworks.

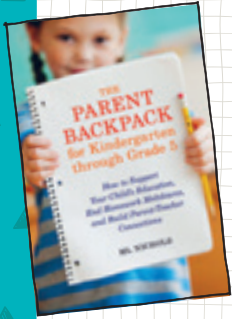
THE NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE




# SIGHTS AND

# Insights

BOOKS TO HELP DEVELOP THE LOVE OF LEARNING AND DISCOVERING IN YOUR LITTLE ONES.



 **The Parent Backpack for Kindergarten Through Grade 5: How to Support Your Child's Education, End Homework Meltdowns, and Build Parent-Teacher Connections**

By Marylisa Nichols



Research shows that children perform better in pre-school when their parents are engaged with their learning. The author aims to help parents take an active role in their children's education and connect respectfully with teachers. The chapters are organised into three parts - dealing with insights and perspectives, practical tips for pre-schools, and learning at home respectively.



Contributed by Lim Han Sen, Librarian, National Library Board



**Timmy & Tammy**

By Ruth Wan-Lau; illustrated by Eliz Ong



This series of picture books is about two Singaporean children exploring various interesting places in Singapore. Written in short sentences and simple vocabulary, the books are perfect for pre-schoolers who are just learning to read on their own. Young readers will enjoy seeing the familiar sights in the books - such as Changi Airport, the Singapore Flyer as well as popular dishes at the food court!



Contributed by Law Xiang Qing, Associate Librarian, National Library Board



## Kick-start Your Child's Love For Books And The Arts

NAME THREE PROGRAMMES THAT YOU CAN ATTEND WITH YOUR CHILD AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE.

### ▶▶ HOW TO WIN

Submit your answer to [beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg](mailto:beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg) with your name and contact details.

Closing date: 30 Nov 2016



### TOP PRIZE X 1

#### TWO SETS OF BOOKS

Salted Fish and When I Grow Up I Want To Paint Like Cheong Soo Pieng

+

Koko The Great and When I Grow Up I Want To Paint Like Liu Kang



### CONSOLATION PRIZE X 3

#### ONE SET OF BOOKS

Koko The Great and When I Grow Up I Want To Paint Like Liu Kang

FOR MORE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSPIRATIONS AND PARENTING TIPS, GO TO:



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[www.growatbeanstalk.sg](http://www.growatbeanstalk.sg)



APPARENT IN SG  
 AVAILABLE IN APP STORE  
 AND GOOGLE PLAY