

# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION IN BILINGUALISM

LEARN TO BETTER NURTURE YOUR CHILD'S APPRECIATION FOR THE MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE AT THE UPCOMING MTL SYMPOSIUM 2017.



Children at MOE Kindergarten@Yishun learning how to keep themselves and their environment clean, through a lesson conducted in Malay

Language learning does more than boost one's literacy skills; it is also a window to learning and appreciating cultures.

"A child exposed to Mother Tongue Language (MTL) at an early age will understand his own cultural practices and traditional values. It is very important to introduce MTL at a young age, so that children can connect with and respect their culture," explains Ms Senthil Geetha, Tamil Language Teacher, MOE Kindergarten@Westwood, and a participant at this year's MTL Symposium (MTLS).

Themed 'Flourish in the Wonderland of Our Languages', MTLS 2017 will focus on the importance of encouraging children to explore and discover the fun of MTL learning, as well as family-centred efforts to create MTL learning environments beyond the classrooms.

The day-long event will also recognise and showcase the continual efforts of pre-schools and the community in promoting MTLs among the young, and provide platforms for educators and parents to interact with language experts.

Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Trade and Industry, encourages educators and parents of pre-school children to attend MTLS. "Early exposure to a bilingual environment allows for the development of an array of

competencies, leading to growth in the children in various domains such as attentiveness, and the ability to switch between tasks and decipher non-verbal cues."

## Something For Everyone

Ms Geetha is one of the MOE Kindergarten teachers who will be setting up booths at MTLS 2017. The booths will showcase MTL projects carried out under the MOE Kindergarten's Starlight Literacy Programme, which nurtures early childhood (EC) bilingualism. Visitors can draw on the learning resources and games used in class to develop children's listening, speaking and early literacy skills.

EC professionals can exchange ideas and teaching strategies with the MOE Kindergarten teachers at the respective booths. Parents, on the other hand, can engage in the interactive activities with their children.

"Through MTLS, we hope to convey the message that learning MTL is a collaborative effort between home and pre-school," says Ms Siti Jamilah, Malay Language Teacher, MOE Kindergarten@Yishun, who will also participate in MTLS. "With a supportive home and pre-school learning environment, and through everyday interactions with people around them, children will develop an interest and appreciation for their MTL." ♥

## WAYS TO SPARK YOUR CHILD'S LOVE FOR MTL



Create an immersive environment for language learning. At home, I plan for 'Speak Chinese Period' with my kids every Tuesday.

Ms Low Yen Ling

Read MTL storybooks together or play simple language games like 'I Spy' where children can expand and enrich their vocabulary, while going about your daily activities.

Ms Senthil Geetha

Acknowledge and affirm your child's efforts to speak in his MTL. This is a sure confidence-booster.

Ms Siti Jamilah



Children at MOE Kindergarten@Westwood conversing with one another in Tamil during playtime

## SAVE THE DATE!

### MTL SYMPOSIUM 2017

19 Aug 2017 (Sat), 11am to 8pm  
Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Outstanding Pre-School MTL Teacher Award Ceremony
- ▶ Exhibition and sales booths
- ▶ Sharing sessions and workshops by academic experts and local personalities
- ▶ Performances

# INSPIRING LEADERSHIP: NURTURING THE FUTURE

6 & 7  
OCT 2017  
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

ALL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS CAN EMBRACE LEADERSHIP. FIND OUT HOW AT THE ECDA EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE 2017.

The ECDA Early Childhood Conference returns this October for its fifth edition. Early Childhood (EC) professionals can look forward to an exciting line-up of keynote presentations and workshops, including learning journeys to the Asian Civilisations Museum, Gardens by the Bay, Malay Heritage Centre, National Gallery Singapore, River Safari and Jurong Bird Park, while parents and their children can enjoy a fun-filled educational experience at the exhibition. This year's theme, "Inspiring Leadership: Nurturing the Future" is a call for all EC professionals to think deeply about how they can exercise leadership and make a difference in the lives of young children.

SUNTEC SINGAPORE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

## Early Childhood Conference 2017



### KEY HIGHLIGHTS



#### ECDA AWARDS 2017

Join us as we honour EC professionals who are outstanding in their teaching, learning and innovative practices and affirm award winners under the Promising Award Categories.

#### ROLL OF HONOUR FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTOR CENTRES

Let us affirm centres who have embraced and sustained a culture of innovative excellence.



#### SPARK CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Come celebrate with a special group of child care centres and kindergartens that have achieved their SPARK Certification!

#### EXHIBITION & FRINGE ACTIVITIES

Exhibition and fringe activities are free and open to all visitors!

- ▶ Pick up fun and practical tips to support your child's learning and development at the various exhibition booths.
- ▶ Get new and innovative ideas from the wide repertoire of projects (collaborative efforts between pre-schools and community partners).
- ▶ Learn how you can develop values in your children through the "Start Small Dream Big" programme.

## WIN ATTRACTIVE PRIZES!

Name three community partners who are participating in the Learning Journeys as part of ECDA's Early Childhood Conference 2017.

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

Closing date: 31 August 2017

3 sets of prizes to be won:

- ▶ All-Access Pass for a family of 4 to the National Gallery Singapore
- ▶ A Cloud Forest notebook by Gardens by the Bay
- ▶ One session of Parent-Child workshop by Art Loft

