



Kids TALK

THE ARTFUL CONVERSATIONS RESOURCE KIT GIVES TEACHERS AND PARENTS A TOOL TO HAVE A FUN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR CHILDREN AT THE MUSEUM.



Engaging your child in conversation may be one of the best ways to boost his development. A US study recently published in the journal *Pediatrics* found that children whose parents chatted with them more fared better in language skills and cognitive abilities such as memory and reasoning.

ELOQUENT EXCHANGES

Rich and meaningful parent-child interactions are important for bonding as well as a child's holistic development. To help parents accomplish both, the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), the National Library Board (NLB) and the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) have come together for the first time to produce a resource kit called **Artful Conversations: Stories from the Past**. It comprises a booklet and a set of eight story cards and activity templates. Over 3,600 kits have been distributed to all preschools in Singapore.

"We developed the kit to be a starting point for quality parent-child interactions and conversations, which has been shown to boost the development of our children's emerging cognitive abilities," said Mr Sam Tan, Minister of State for Social and Family Development, who launched the kit at an Expert Series Seminar in July. "At the same time, it serves as a common platform that parents, teachers, and heritage experts can all refer to, allowing our children's learning

Launch of the 'Artful Conversations: Stories from the Past' resource kit



to be reinforced, and extending learning experiences from the home to the preschool and the museum."

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Heritage education is important from a young age, says Ms Asmah Alias, Deputy Director (Education & Community Outreach) of the National Heritage Board. "We want the young to develop a deeper appreciation of the many facets of Singapore's heritage and from there, build a stronger sense of national identity," she elaborates. "Museums play an important role as one of the first touch points of heritage education for children in their early years."

"Partnerships between museums and preschools are important. They create opportunities for educators and parents to work together to heighten the child's awareness of diverse cultures and our history,"



Using the resource kit for the first time at the Asian Civilisations Museum

says teacher Liu Qian Qian from YWCA Bedok Child Development Centre. The Artful Conversations kit has helped her to make the most out of the museum. This visit was one of the eight learning journeys organised as part of the ECDA Early Childhood Conference 2018. Educators learnt how to use the kit as part of their curriculum planning as well as how they can work with parents to support their children's learning at the museum.

"The kit's story cards are useful. The practical instructions such as 'Look', 'Think', 'Imagine' or 'Design' help guide children's observation of various artefacts in ACM," says Teacher Liu. She also added that the recommended books and suggested activities in the kit will help children appreciate the diverse and cultural lives of people. "It is important that children think about the perspectives of other people. It will help them develop their relational skills as they come to understand that people have their own ideas, thoughts and feelings."



WHAT PARENTS SAY

Blogger and mother of two, Rosalind Lee (@bbroyce.stagram), found that the kit offered hands-on learning opportunities – "I learned something new myself" – and made it easier to engage her son in meaningful conversations about their roots. "Instead of providing my son with the answers, having him talk to me about what he thinks allows him to exercise his problem-solving and critical-thinking skills."

Michelle Hon (@thechillmom) found the kit provided many talking points for her and her three children. "I learned how to talk to them on a deeper level about the exhibits," she says. "The activities have a huge impact on parent-child bonding. The children learn with us and hone their questioning techniques. It also encourages them to come to us when they have any questions." ♥



Educators learning how to best use the kit on their Learning Journey

Museum Day Out

NHB's Asmah Alias shares five tips on creating a meaningful museum experience for your children.

1. **Know your children's interests** and choose a museum that they would enjoy and be able to relate to.
2. **Cultivate a curious mind** with the "See-Think-Wonder" technique. This process helps children make careful observations and encourage curiosity and creativity.
3. **Think quality, not quantity.** Children have short attention spans and spending 30 minutes of quality time is more meaningful than going through 10 galleries for three hours. Identify three to five objects to focus on during the visit, which can spur more conversations.
4. **Observe how your child responds** to the artefacts and programmes. Build on these and extend the learning at home.
5. **Adapt the game 'Simon Says' with hand or body gestures to teach kids good museum visiting etiquette** – learning how to behave will help both you and your child relax and enjoy the experience.



DOWNLOAD THE FREE KIT AT http://bit.ly/ACSP18_2



MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

Asian Civilisations Museum
 24 Nov | ACM – Uniquely Asia
 29 Dec | ACM – Sawadee Pee Mai (Happy New Year!)
 Explore the wonders of Asian art and folklore with your family, and enjoy hands-on activities and interactive performances in the galleries every last Saturday of the month at the Asian Civilisations Museum!

National Museum of Singapore
 24 Nov | Family Fun – Memories in Frame
 15 Dec | Family Fun – Outdoor Adventure
 Enjoy Family Fun at the National Museum every last Saturday of the month! Take part in interactive tours, storytelling sessions, family workshops, drop-in craft activities, captivating performances and more.

Peranakan Museum
 4 Nov | Straits Family Sunday – Berkilau Kilau (So Shiny)
 Discover intricate Peranakan jewellery, design your own Peranakan-inspired brooch and complete the look by dressing up in a sarong kebaya!



Oct-Dec 19



LANGUAGE SKILLS & COGNITIVE ABILITIES



Win

Create Meaningful Museum Experiences For Your Child

NAME ONE PROGRAMME AT THE MUSEUM HAPPENING THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND TELL US HOW YOU CAN OPTIMISE THE VISIT FOR YOUR CHILD.

▶▶ HOW TO WIN

Submit your answer to beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg with your name and contact details.

Closing date: **30 November 2018**

THE PRIZE
Artful Conversations: Stories from the Past resource kit X 5

Each kit comprises a booklet, a set of eight story cards and activity templates.



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Grow@Beanstalk is your one-stop early childhood (EC) resource portal for inspiring stories, useful tips and activity ideas, as well as the latest happenings from the EC sector.



Visit www.ecda.gov.sg/growatbeanstalk, or scan the QR code



You can also share your passion of "Giving a Good Start to Every Child" by "liking" our Facebook page for daily content, and engaging with other parents and EC educators.



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Quest FOR KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE.



Nurturing Personal, Social And Emotional Development In Early Childhood: A Practical Guide To Understanding Brain Development And Young Children's Behaviour
By Debbie Garvey



Personal, social and emotional development are important building blocks in a child's success in life. Debbie Garvey gives a practical guide to understanding the little one's brain development and behaviour. This book is filled with reflective practice examples that open our eyes to the world from a child's perspective.



Contributed by *Huang Su San*, Librarian, National Library Board



Jazzy In The Jungle
By Lucy Cousins



This is an interactive picture book about a baby lemur, Jazzy, and his mama playing hide-and-seek in the jungle. As mama swings from tree to tree searching for him, she bumps into various jungle animals but they all reply that Jazzy is "not here". Children will enjoy turning the richly illustrated and uniquely shaped flaps that represent the different places in the jungle to help Mama Jojo look for Jazzy. Along the way, they will also meet and learn the names of many jungle animals.



Contributed by *Norah Ismail*, Librarian, National Library Board

