

WE'VE GOT MAIL!

Parents share their views on their children's strengths, abilities and potential.



My wife and I strongly believe that play is essential to helping our children discover their interests and strengths, and for us to better understand how to help nurture them. We observe their responses to the various activities that we expose them to, from being outdoors to the arts, to get a sense of what they enjoy. Every time Zoe and Zac go into the water, their expressions are of pure joy and excitement. We can learn to appreciate our children's strengths and interests better by making an effort to get to understand them and see them as unique individuals.

RYAN ONG, father of two, aged 7 and 4



Observing children play offers a window into their interests and strengths



Let children test their limits in a safe setting to build independence



My son Casey surprises me every day with what he can achieve. Since moving to Singapore three months ago, he has adjusted remarkably well to his new home. I make a conscious effort to hang back and let him explore his surroundings on his own, like at the water play area, so as to allow him to test his limits and make mistakes in a safe environment. Hopefully, this will empower him to be an independent and mindful learner.

SARAH CAI, mother of a son, aged 2½



My son is a creative and active boy. His love for climbing, jumping and running shines everywhere he goes, both outdoors and at home. I don't want him to stop being courageous, but I do worry sometimes when he seems to be too adventurous for his age. When I find that his play can be dangerous like climbing a shelf, I'll tell him, "I know you love climbing, but what do you think will happen if this shelf topples? We'll go to the playground soon, OK?" He will understand why this is dangerous, though I may have to repeat myself a few times.

SURAYA MUSTAJAB, mother of a son, aged 3



Find healthy outlets for risk-taking behaviour like climbing



DECORATE FOR DEEPAVALI

We showed you how to make a paper plate Rangoli in the Oct-Dec 2020 issue. Here are the festive crafts some of you made!



ALDA CHAI, 4



SANVI SHARATH, 5



DIYA GOSAI, 5

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Parents, share with us some strategies you have found effective in improving your child's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and cultivating your child's love for books. Attach a photo with your anecdote and your submission may appear in the next issue of *Beanstalk!*

Send your story to beanstalk@mediacorp.com.sg with your name and contact details.



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