

learn

LET'S GO to the Museum!

As they learn about the arts, little ones also develop cultural awareness and reap cognitive and socio-emotional benefits.

The pristine white façade of the three-storey Peranakan Museum belies an inviting wonderland for children. The museum pays tribute to one of Singapore's unique communities — the Peranakans, who are descendants of Chinese immigrants who married local women in Southeast Asia between the 15th and 17th centuries. Its galleries are filled with comprehensive Peranakan collections guaranteed to pique a child's curiosity. These range from textile arts like beadwork and a grand collection of colourful porcelain to displays of significant ceremonies such as the traditional 12-day Peranakan wedding ritual.

Early Childhood educator, artist and founder of Art Loft Ms Wong Seet Fun urges parents to use the museum

as a resource to broaden children's minds and ignite their curiosity. This will help children to not only appreciate the arts, but also come to understand a culture and heritage closely intertwined with the history of Singapore. "It is important for a child to appreciate cultural heritage, especially in multi-cultural Singapore," says Ms Wong, who conducts learning tours at local museums. "Learning about history and the past can help our young ones appreciate the present and provide a sense of rootedness and belonging. Being exposed to different cultures will also help to increase their understanding and acceptance of people of various races and religions," she explains.

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Activities at the museum also provide a great opportunity for family bonding whilst discovering culture and heritage through the arts. The Straits Family Sunday event at the Peranakan Museum, held on every second Sunday of the month, gives families a chance to dress up in batik shirts and sarong kebayas. Parents and children can also choose to do arts and crafts together and create a pencil topper or a folder inspired by the



Parent and child doing crafts together.



Family bonding time at the Straits Family Sunday event.

intricately-designed textiles on display. "As your child talks about an exhibit or an artefact, she also expands her vocabulary and learns to express her ideas and thoughts," says Ms Wong. For instance, you can direct your child's attention to the interesting images of plants, insects and birds on the display bowls and plates and talk about how flora and fauna are used in design. The child then learns that nature and the environment often inspire art. And by taking notice of the many eye-catching artefacts at the Peranakan Museum and expressing their opinions and views of these objects, children build their observational and analytical skills.

To facilitate discovery and maximise your child's learning during the museum exploration, Ms Wong suggests that parents use open-ended questions such as "What do you think...?" or "How does it...?" One way to encourage the child to stay interested and observant is to point out the varying patterns, motifs and colours on the artefacts and urge him or her to compare and contrast. "Parents should give the

child ample room to form his or her own interpretations before explaining the purpose of any object found in the gallery. They should act as facilitators and not just information providers." ♥

The Peranakan Museum is located at 39 Armenian Street, open daily from 10am to 7pm (except on Friday; closes at 9pm). Admission is free for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

ARTSY ADVENTURES

Programmes in our museums specially designed for pre-schoolers.

Adventures in Asia: Fantastic Creatures

Venue: Asian Civilisations Museum
Price: Free for Singaporeans and PRs

Children are introduced to different mythical animals during a 30-minute interactive tour. In the second half of the workshop, they can choose to take part in an art-making activity or a music-and-dance activity. For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg.

Amazing Art Hunt

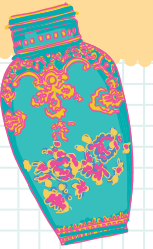
Venue: Singapore Art Museum
Price: \$12 per person

Children must use their wits to solve a series of clues that lead them to various stations where they encounter different art forms and mediums. At the end of the activity, they will create an artwork inspired by the hunt. For details, email education@singaporeartmuseum.sg.

PLAY

Venue: National Museum of Singapore
Price: Free admission

PLAY comprises three stimulating spaces filled with interactive exhibits and activities. For example, in The Kitchen, children can play masak-masak ('pretend cook' in Malay) and learn about Singapore's iconic dishes. In The Living Room, they can try their hand at puppetry. To book a slot, call 6332 3659 / 6332 5642 or email nhb_nm_schools@nhb.gov.sg.



Win!

UNIQUELY SINGAPOREAN MUSEUM MEMENTOS

Top Prize X 1



A Peranakan-inspired silk shawl and set of four kueh tutu-inspired erasers, worth a total of **\$150**

Consolation Prizes X 3



A 'Kan Cheong Spider' watch and set of four kueh tutu-inspired erasers, worth a total of **\$46**

NAME AN EVENT AT THE PERANAKAN MUSEUM THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD CAN PARTICIPATE IN TO STAND A CHANCE TO WIN.

Please visit www.ecda.gov.sg/growtbeanstalk/Pages/Survey.aspx?itemId=14

to submit your answer and enter the contest by 30 November 2015.

All contestants' entry information inclusive of any personal data will be privy to ECDA only and will be used solely for purpose of this contest such as communication on prize collection or redemption.



Oct-Dec 23

Step 1. view art.
Step 2. create art.



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PHOTOS BY THE PERANAKAN MUSEUM