

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

DIFFERENTIATED STRATEGIES ENABLE CHILDREN TO READ AT THEIR OWN PACE.



Classroom observations allow teachers to assess children's reading accuracy

The language and literacy curriculum at Learning Vision @ Techpoint includes the 'Keylinks' structured reading programme. It supports children in building reading skills at their own progress and pace. Senior kindergarten teacher Ms Hajarah Bte Abdul Karim walks us through the process.

IDENTIFY READING NEEDS FIRST

"We assess children on their reading accuracy thrice a year," Ms Hajarah shares. "We track the number of phonic sounds that they can recognise, and their ability to apply reading skills on new books."



Teacher Hajarah believes reading needs practice

Children are then grouped into emergent, aspiring or fluent reading groups, and given different activities. For example, teachers engage emergent readers in an 'I Spy' game to build their phonemic awareness, while fluent readers refine their articulation of words by recording their voices and listening to the playback.

Through bi-weekly reading sessions, teachers observe the children's progress and gauge their readiness to move on to the next reading objective.

FROM CLASS TO HOME

Parents are updated regularly on their child's reading progress. Workshops and book sales are also organised for parents to reinforce reading skills at home. "A joint effort between home and preschool is crucial for strengthening children's reading abilities, as reading needs practice," emphasises Ms Hajarah. "The more exposure to reading a child receives, the more interested they become, and this

strengthens their language and literacy skills."

Parents are also given Take-Home Activity Kits to supplement the reading lessons and build specific reading skills. These include recognising onsets (e.g. 'pr' in 'pram') and rimes (e.g. 'am' in 'pram'), which help children to decode new words.

"With the Take-Home Kit activities, we set aside a regular time to bond, and to read to and with our son, every day," says Mdm Koh Xin Wei, mother to Winn Goh, 5. Recently, their family played a 'Magic E' game designed to help kids understand the 'silent E' rule and practise long vowel sounds. "Through this activity, I realised Winn could blend sounds quite well. Previously, he had no interest in doing so," she adds. "Now, I encourage him to blend and read new words during reading time or when we see any signage outside." ●

HOW TO RAISE A MOTIVATED READER

- Set up a cosy reading nook at home.
- Read a book with your child every day.
- Introduce different types of books (e.g. picture books, lift-the-flap books, audio books) and different genres (e.g. fables, fiction/non-fiction, biographies) to enable children to develop their reading preferences.



Want more practical tips and fun activities to engage preschoolers of diverse reading

abilities? Download printable resources from Learning Vision @ Techpoint at go.gov.sg/learningvisionreadingresource, or scan this QR code.



MORE ON SPARK

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