



Bright Juniors children experience being in a P1 classroom with their primary school "buddies"



Bright Juniors children being welcomed at Qihua Primary School



New P1 students at Innova Primary exploring their school environment



K2 students at Innova Primary's P1 Orientation Day

# Primary Goals

## PRIMARY-PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONS.

Questions go through parents' minds when their children begin their Primary 1 Journey: How will my child cope in a new environment? Can he keep up with the teaching? Will he be able to manage his pocket money and buy food? Will he find it difficult to make friends?

Preschools have initiated various measures to address parental concerns and smoothen the transition for children moving on to primary school. Apart from laying the academic foundations, Bright Juniors @ Woodlands spends a large part of the final school term on lessons aimed at helping the graduating K2 class get ready for Primary 1. Teachers explain what children can expect, what to do in preparation, the people they will meet, who to

turn to for help, and more. Visits to neighbouring primary schools also allow the children to taste life as a primary school student. Children tour the premises, purchase food at the canteen and experience being in a classroom.

### IMMERSION AND ROLE PLAY

"School tours give context to the activities we conduct on the transition to Primary 1," says K2 teacher Ms Joy Lin. "Seeing the actual physical environment and relating it to what was discussed in class helps ease the children's anxiety." Ms Lin appreciates the collaboration with nearby primary schools such as Qihua Primary and Sembawang Primary in facilitating these visits.

The K2 teachers supplement the visits with role-play by creating a mock canteen and other primary school settings. Scenarios which may crop up in school are dramatised and children learn how to resolve problems during these sessions. Bright Juniors also invites parents of former students to share their transition experiences with parents from the current K2 class to ease their worries.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Ways to help your child cope with the transition to primary school.

- **Manage your expectations.** Do not put undue stress on your child.
- **Have many conversations** to reassure your child.
- **Establish a routine** that will make it easier for children to adapt. For example, prepare them for an early bed time.
- **Provide opportunities for your child to handle money** and make purchases under your guidance.
- **Learn to let go.** Give your child the opportunity to grow and face the world.



### A DIFFERENT LEAGUE

Entering Primary 1 can be daunting for both children and parents. "Some children may find the more formal structure and timetabling overwhelming," notes Ms Shyamala Wingersalam, Principal of Innova Primary School. She believes it is useful for preschools to prepare the children mentally and communicate the changes to both children and their parents to avoid culture shock.

"I enjoyed the tour of the primary school because I got to see the different classrooms, the hall and the library. I'm excited about going to Primary 1!"

PHOEBE TOH,  
K2, Bright Juniors  
@ Woodlands



"I like how Bright Juniors updates parents about the various activities that help children prepare for Primary 1. For instance, they present many scenarios and encourage children to discuss the best possible ways to respond to the issues."

MDM PRISCILLA FOONG,  
mother of Phoebe Toh, K2

In addition to its annual Open House, Innova organises orientation tours for K2 students from preschools in the neighbourhood. The children are taken around the school to learn about the facilities and programmes, sit in a Primary 1 lesson, and experience buying food independently at the canteen. "The main objective is for K2 students and teachers to have a better understanding of what primary school life is like," says Ms Wingersalam. Last year, Innova invited parents of K2 children to join the tour, so that they could see for themselves what goes on in school.



K2 students visiting Innova Primary's school library

and learn the expected behaviours at the various venues.

To further facilitate the transition process, Primary 1 teachers spend time talking to individual students to find out more about them. "They also work closely with parents and other subject teachers to provide the emotional and learning support the children may need," says Ms Wingersalam.

Ultimately, a successful transition to Primary 1 will have a positive impact on a child's academic performance, social and emotional development. And that is what every parent wants for their child, and the teachers, too, for the children. ●

### SETTLING IN

During the first three days, Innova runs a Start-It-Right programme to familiarise Primary 1 students with the physical environment, their teachers and classmates. Primary 1 teachers lay down classroom practices and procedures, while students are given time and space to explore the school



Find out more about the learning goals by the end of K2 in MOE's Nurturing Early Learners Curriculum Framework guide for parents at [www.nel.sg/resources/frameworks-and-guidelines](http://www.nel.sg/resources/frameworks-and-guidelines).

## LEARNING GOALS



These are the six learning areas that children should know and be able to do after completing kindergarten education:

- 1. Aesthetics & Creative Expression**  
Create art plus music and movement using experimentation and imagination.
- 2. Discovery of the World**  
Show an interest in the world they live in.
- 3. Language & Literacy**  
Listen for information and enjoyment; speak to communicate with others; read with understanding and for enjoyment.
- 4. Motor Skills Development**  
Participate and enjoy a variety of physical activities.
- 5. Numeracy**  
Use numbers in daily life.
- 6. Social & Emotional Development**  
Manage their own emotions and behaviours; take responsibility for their actions.

