

## Some great parenting tips - if you can follow magic happens !!

### a. Talk to your child

Ask your child to talk about his day at school. Encourage him to explain something they did, or a game he played during recess.



### b. Say silly tongue twisters

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.



### c. Read it and experience it

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo.

### d. Use your child's name

Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "Rian, the word RUN begins with the same sound as your name. **Rian** and **Run**. And they both begin with the same letter, **R**."

### e. Play with puppets

Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, "My name is **Mark**. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does **park** rhyme with Mark? Does **ball** rhyme with **Mark**?"



### f. Trace and say letters

Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.



### g. Write it down

Have paper and pencils available for your child to use for writing. Working together, write a sentence or two about something special. Encourage her to use the letters and sounds she's learning about in school.

### h. Play sound games

Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? m - o - p." Hold each sound longer than normal.



### i. Read it again and again

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

### j. Talk about letters and sounds

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmm."

## **Reading Tips for Parents of Preschoolers**

### **A. Read together every day**

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.



### **B. Give everything a name**

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

### **C. Say how much you enjoy reading**

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.



### **D. Read with fun in your voice**

Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Mix it up to make it as interesting as possible and see your child's expression.

### **E. Know when to stop**

Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

### **F. Be interactive**

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.



### **G. Read it again and again**

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time!

### **H. Talk about writing, too**

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

### **I. Point out print everywhere**

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.

### **J. Get your child evaluated**

Please be sure to see your child's pediatrician or teacher as soon as possible if you have concerns about your child's language development, hearing, or sight.

### **K. Reading on the Big Screen at home**

Handheld devices, televisions, and computers can be part of the reading experience for your child with these activities.

## **Develop Children's Potential through Comprehensive and Pleasurable Learning Experiences**

### **Some tips on "How to love your children" for parents' reference:**

- a. *Love your children but avoid doting on them*
- b. *Have realistic expectation of children's capabilities*
- c. *Show concern for both their physical and psychological well-being*
- d. *Share their joy and sadness*
- e. *Maintain daily communication with your children*
- f. *Be patient when children make mistakes*
- g. *Set good role models for your children*
- h. *Be generous with your encouragement and praise*
- i. *Discipline appropriately to rectify mischief*
- j. *Maintain good home-school co-operation*



### **How to love your children**

All parents love their children. Nevertheless, what children need is love not spoiling. Parental love is an essential nutrient for children and the most important foundation for maintaining parent-child relationship. Every child is unique in terms of physique, talents, character and interests. Parents should understand and accept their children's uniqueness, and have reasonable expectations of their children. Life in itself is a learning process. Children need to learn by trial and error in their course of development. Parents should pinpoint their children's mischief, not them personally, and provide them with guidance patiently. Give specific encouragement when their children perform well, such as praising their efforts and concentration. When their children encounter setbacks, parents should give them support and encouragement. In addition, parents should spend some time to play with their children each day, talk with them, listen to what they say and empathise their feelings and emotions. In disciplining children, parents should be consistent in their approaches and attitudes. Their behaviour should conform to their words. They should set good examples for their children. Parents should also collaborate with the teachers to help children form good habits and grow up healthily and happily.

### **Parents should encourage their children to:**

- have an enquiring mind
- explore
- exploit their creativity and imagination
- build up good reading habits
- be confident in expressing their feelings and views
- develop their learning interest that lays the foundation for life-long learning



Quality early childhood education aims to nurture children to attain balanced growth in the domains of ethics, intellect, physique, social skills and aesthetics, and to foster their whole person development. To attain the goal of quality early childhood education, games and meaningful activities are essential. A relaxed and enjoyable learning environment will develop children's potential, cultivate their interest in learning and enable them to grow up healthily and happily.

**A Quality Kindergarten Curriculum should :**

- not adopt a curriculum that does not match with children's abilities
- not ask children in nursery class to write too much. its minimal.
- not assign too much homework
- not assign repetitive copying tasks
- avoid arithmetic exercises merely for drilling purposes
- avoid mechanical computer exercises
- avoid repetitive copying or rote memorising of English vocabulary
- not use dictation, tests or examinations as assessment tools

**The above practices will stifle children's interest in learning and hinder their creativity.**

**Home-School Co-operation for Nurturing the New Generation**

Parents and schools are partners. To ensure a healthy development of children, schools need parents' support and assistance. Therefore, a close home-school relationship must be established in order to allow parents to understand their children's performance in school, which in turn improves the coordination between both parties.

**Parents' active participation can step up the synergy of home-school co-operation :--**

- Visit the school to gain a better understanding of the school environment and curriculum arrangements
- Observe how your children learn in school.
- Understand the characteristics of child learning and development. Do not request the school to give writing assignment to your children too early, or assess your children's learning using inappropriate tools such as dictation, tests and examinations
- Take part in parents' activities organised by the school such as parent-teacher association, education seminars, parent-child activities, and volunteer as parent helpers
- Keep close contact with the teachers to understand your children's daily experiences at school
- Read the information provided in the parents' handbook and notices issued by the school. Make use of the parents' newsletter, children's handbooks etc. to communicate with the school when necessary
- If your children are allergic to certain kinds of food, temperature, articles of daily use or even toys, you should inform the school to make appropriate arrangements
- Make use of the communication channels provided by the school. **Give positive feedback and comments to facilitate school development**



## Understand the difficulties faced by children in coping with kindergarten life

Children may find themselves unaccustomed to certain situations at the beginning of their school life, such as :--

- being away from home
- being separated from parents
- being placed in an unfamiliar environment
- having to get along with a group of unfamiliar people (teachers and other children)
- being placed in a much more spacious area
- having to follow routines



**Children may behave in an unusual manner at the beginning of the school term, such as :**

- being exceptionally attached to and showing particular reliance on parents
- feeling extremely tired
- losing temper easily
- sucking fingers frequently
- wetting bed without particular reasons

All of these may be temporary as your children have not yet adapted to the new environment. You need not worry too much and your children will gradually adjust to the new environment under the care and guidance of you and the school.

**If, despite all your preparation work, your children still keep crying and are afraid of going to school:**

- do not worry too much since children's adaptability to new environment varies
- do not threaten or bribe your children to behave
- console them gently and entrust them to their teachers' care
- allow them more time to adapt to school life
- give appropriate support and encouragement, and share their school life
- keep close contact with the teachers, if necessary, to understand your children's behaviour in school and collaborate with them for the well-being of the children.

## How Can Parents Help Their Children Adapt to School Life

Schooling in kindergartens marks the beginning of a new stage for children. It is very important that schools and parents work together to help children adapt smoothly to school life. Prior to and during the initial stage of your children's schooling, you can help them prepare for school life in the following ways:

**At home, give your children more opportunities to develop their self-help skills, such as**

- *getting dressed: buttoning, zipping, shoe-tying*
- *tidying things up*
- *wiping sweat and cleaning runny nose*
- *proper table manners*
- *toilet training*

**In daily life, give your children opportunities to learn to :-**

- *listen attentively*
- *answer questions*
- *express their needs*
- *get along with others*



Parents, accompanied by their children, attend the schools' "Orientation Day" or "Orientation Week", as well as adaptive activities to gain familiarity with the new teachers and environment prior to the start of school.

**Familiarise your children with the new environment by walking around the school premises with them**

- Guide your children to try out school facilities
- Explain the drop-off and pick-up arrangement to your children and remind them of the safety precautions. Promise that they will be picked up after school to help them build up a sense of security
- Encourage your children to socialise with their schoolmates. Try to know other parents at the same time
- Keep close contact with your children's teachers
- Help your children feel secured by talking with them every day, sharing their feelings and thoughts about their school lives and clearing their doubts if any. This will help them get over the adaptive period smoothly