

# Home-Based Activities for MOE Kindergarten



Dear Parents,

MOE Kindergarten has prepared a series of Home-based Activities (HBA) to support our children's learning and development at home.

## What is the purpose of the Home-Based Activities?

At MOE Kindergarten (MK), we believe that children are curious, active and competent learners. In line with our belief, the HBA have been designed to engage children in learning through active play and exploration. These activities aim to promote interactions and foster family bonding as you engage your child in activities such as reading, role-play, art and craft, games, songs, and simple investigations.

## How can you engage your child in the Home-Based Activities?

Throughout the day, set aside time for your child to engage in the HBA. As your child participates in the activities, actively engage them in conversations about what they are doing. You may even want to extend the activities based on your child's interests and responses.

## What can you do to support your child through COVID-19?

As COVID-19 looms over us, there are measures that we can take to promote a healthy and supportive environment for our children at home.

- *Give opportunities for play* – We should ensure that our children have ample opportunities for play. Play serves an even more important role in these uncertain times. Besides building children's social and cognitive skills, playing also helps children to respond to stressful situations by regulating their emotions and behaviour, such as reducing tension, frustration and anxiety.
- *Provide structure through routines* – We should set routines for our children as consistency is crucial in helping them feel safe and secure. A sample schedule for a typical day could look like this:

Time	Activity
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wake up and wash up (<i>take temperature</i>)</li><li>• Breakfast (<i>wash hands before and after eating, wipe down table after eating</i>)</li><li>• Free play (e.g. indoor or outdoor play)</li><li>• Morning snack (<i>wash hands before and after eating, wipe down table after eating</i>)</li><li>• Activity time (e.g. HBA)</li></ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lunch (<i>take temperature</i>)</li><li>• Rest</li><li>• Afternoon snack (<i>wash hands before and after eating, wipe down table after eating</i>)</li><li>• Activity/play time (e.g. outdoor play, story time)</li></ul>
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dinner time</li><li>• Activity/play time (e.g. read a book, HBA)</li><li>• Bed time routine (e.g. story time) and early to bed!</li></ul>

Parents, you play an important role in helping children learn and grow in such potentially stressful situations – the stronger the parent-child relationship, the more resilient the child. We hope that you find these HBA useful in supporting your child's learning through these challenging times. Let's continue to work together to give a strong start to every child.

**Stay Safe, Stay Home, Stay Curious!**

## Home-Based Activities

This set of home-based activities provides opportunities for you to engage your child in play and exploration at home. Carrying out the activities and playing the games with your child help to promote family bonding and support your child's learning and development at home.



### What can you do with your child?

#### Wash and Dry

*This investigative activity helps your child to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity, observational, analytical thinking and reasoning skills.*

- Get your child to help you to hang out the clothes to dry after washing.
- Encourage your child to talk about how to dry clothes faster and suggest the best spot in the house for drying wet clothing.
- Do a simple experiment with your child:
  - Wet a few face/hand towels and get your child to decide on different places in the house to hang them for drying.
  - Get your child to check on each towel throughout the day to find out which towel dries faster.
  - Encourage your child to think and talk about the possible reasons why the towel dried fastest.

#### Treasure Hunt

*This game helps your child to develop spatial awareness and perseverance as he/she tries to search for the hidden object.*

- Talk to your child about the things (e.g. a bed and a cupboard) found in one of the rooms in the house.
- Draw a simple layout of the room with your child.
- Choose an item at home (e.g. his/her favourite toy) and hide it in one part of the room.
- Mark the location of the hidden object with an 'X'.
- Guide your child in searching for the hidden object by providing hints such as saying "near" or "far" to indicate if he/she is near/far from the hidden item.
- Repeat the activity by taking turns with your child to hide and search for an item in the house.

#### Paper Ball Toss

*This activity helps your child to develop eye-hand coordination and perseverance in fulfilling a given task.*

- Crush two pieces of newspaper (about 70 cm by 50 cm) into a small newspaper ball of height about 15 cm and secure it with masking tape.
- Get your child to explore tossing the paper ball upwards in the air and catching it with both hands.
- Challenge your child to toss and catch the paper ball five times in a row. Tell your child to start counting from "1" again if he/she drops the paper ball.
- Encourage your child to persevere by using phrases such as "Keep trying!", "You can do it!", "You're almost there!" and "Don't give up!".

### **Create Our Table Mats**

*This activity helps your child to develop creativity and communication skills as he/she learns to express ideas and information through art and simple writing, as well as talk about his/her drawing.*

- Show the pictures of the Soaper 5 characters (see Annex) and talk about the key messages from each character.
- Get your child to talk about how he/she can maintain good personal hygiene and exercise social responsibility to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- Invite your child to create a new character and think of a key message to fight Covid-19.
- Help your child to copy or write the key message on his/her drawing.
- Protect the drawing using a plastic sheet or a clear file folder and use it as a table mat.
- Invite your child to talk about the character he/she has created during lunch/dinner time.
- Let your child create table mats for every member of the family.

### **Stack It Up**

*This activity helps your child to develop eye-hand coordination, spatial awareness, creativity and inventiveness as he/she represents ideas through making a 3-dimensional artwork based on observation and imagination.*

- Provide your child with a variety of recycled materials including unwanted boxes/containers (e.g. tissue boxes, cereal boxes and plastic containers) of different sizes.
- Together with your child, look for pictures of prominent buildings/landmarks in Singapore (e.g. Marina Bay Sands, Esplanade, Merlion) in newspapers/magazines/online and talk about its key features (e.g. three towers with a ship-like roof top, durian-looking building).
- Work with your child to create the building/landmark using the unwanted boxes/containers and recycled materials.
- Encourage your child to create a new structure using the recycled materials based on his/her imagination.
- Invite your child to talk about the new building he/she has created.

### **Materials Around Us**

*This activity helps your child to develop observational skills as they use their senses to explore different materials in the environment., as well as learn to make records of their findings.*

- Introduce a material to your child (e.g. metal). Get him/her to feel the material and talk about how it feels (e.g. metal is hard and cold/smooth).
- Invite your child to find and name other items at home that are made of the material.
- Repeat the activity by introducing other materials (e.g. plastic, glass, and wood).
- Guide your child to explore and discover which material is most commonly found at home, and record the items made of the material through drawing or writing.

### **Marble Art**

*This activity helps your child to develop observational skills as he/she observes elements of art in the environment. Creating the artwork also allows your child to demonstrate control and coordination.*

- Introduce different types of lines such as horizontal, vertical, diagonal, wavy, curved, zig-zag, parallel, dotted, and spiral lines to your child.
- Invite your child to look around for the different types of lines that can be found at home.
- Provide your child with an empty box (e.g. shoe box) or tray, marbles, washable paint and paper.
- Attach a sheet of paper inside the box. Get your child to coat the marbles with some paint using a paintbrush or his/her fingers.
- Place the colour coated marbles in the box/tray and encourage your child to explore forming different types of lines/shapes by moving and tilting the box/tray from side to side.
- Allow the paint to dry.
- Invite your child to identify and talk about the different types of lines and shapes found in the marble painting.

### **“Simon Says” Game**

*This activity helps your child to develop listening skills, learn new words and follow verbal instructions. The game also helps your child to develop self-regulation skills as he/she learns to control his/her thoughts and reactions to things happening around him/her.*

- Share with your child some action words (e.g. jump, raise, tap) and demonstrate actions using these words (e.g. jump backward, raise your shoulders, tap your feet).
- Get your child to suggest other examples of action words and show the actions. Introduce the game ‘Simon Says’ to your child.
- Provide short instructions involving actions (e.g. jump in the air, tap your shoulders). Tell your child that he/she should only do the action when the instruction begins with “Simon Says”.
- Once your child is able to act correctly on your instructions five times in a row, allow him/her to give the instructions and lead the game.

### **Matching Vocabulary Game**

*This activity helps your child to learn new words and how to manage his/her emotions and behaviours to build positive social relationships with others.*

- Get your child to find pictures of items that can be found at home (e.g. a chair, fan, refrigerator) from magazines/newspapers and make picture cards out of them.
- Get your child to make word cards by writing the names of the items on the picture cards.
- Spread out the picture cards and place the set of word cards facing downwards at one side.
- Take turns with your child to draw a word card from the set and call out the name of the item before trying to pick up the picture card that matches the word card.
- The person who picks up the correct picture card gets to keep the card. The winner is the one with more cards.
- Ask your child how he/she feels about winning/losing the game and talk about how to express feelings and react appropriately around others after winning/losing a game.

## Matching Number Game

*This activity helps your child to develop early numeracy skills, particularly in the ability to identify numbers, count accurately and understand the relationship between numbers and quantities. The matching game also helps to improve your child's working memory, which is an important mental skill for learning and doing everyday tasks.*

- Work with your child in creating two sets of number cards as follows:

Set 1:



Set 2:



- For Set 1, your child may write the numbers using markers or crayons. For Set 2, he/she may create the cards by drawing objects or using stickers/ink stamps available at home.
- Once the two sets of cards are made, choose five pairs of matching number cards from the two sets and spread them out randomly facing downwards.
- Take turns with your child in revealing any two cards and keep the cards when the cards match.
- Count the number of cards when all the cards have been revealed. The winner is the one with more cards.

**Enjoy the activities and games with your child!**

## Home-Based Activities (Language and Literacy)



In the early years, it is important to nurture in children a love for reading and books. During this period, take the time to enjoy some of these videos of well-loved children's books read or performed by individuals, or animated to let these stories come alive.

You can set a routine with your child to view a video, or two, a day for example just before lunch. This is what a routine could look like:

1. Let your child choose the video that he/she will like to view from the short synopsis that you can read to him/her. You can alternate the days on who gets to choose the stories. Yes, you too can choose a book!
2. Watch the video together with your child and laugh, sing or do the actions that may accompany the reading of the story. When your child sees you enjoying the story, they will also enjoy it too.
3. At the end of the video, ask your child to share how he/she felt about the story. Some possible questions to ask can be "Did you like the story? What did you like/not like about the story?". Do share your thoughts and feelings too about the story with your child.

After the video, perhaps after lunch, try out the suggested activities with them related to the book. These suggested activities can help your child to pick up, for example, the names of letters, learn simple words and use simple sentences to communicate. The goal is to create an environment in your home where books are loved and everyone is encouraged to communicate and express their thoughts and ideas.

A list of recommended books and related videos and suggested activities have been curated for your use. May it be a launching pad for you and your child into a wonderful journey with books!

**Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading,  
to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.**

**Maya Angelou**

## Suggested Picture Books and Activities

Note: These URL links are accurate at the time of publishing. However, the links may be updated by the websites from time to time. Hence, do access the links first to ensure that the content displayed is as indicated in the table below. Should the links become faulty, you may search for the book titles and videos on search engines. You may also engage your child in listening to audio books by visiting the website: [stories.audible.com/discovery](https://stories.audible.com/discovery).

Have fun and stay safe!

S/N	Details of Picture Books	Synopsis of Picture Books	Suggested Activities
1	<p><b><i>We're going on a Bear Hunt</i></b>                      Written by: Michael Rosen                      Illustrated by: Helen Oxenbury                      Read and performed by: Michael Rosen</p> <p>Video published by: Walker Books                      Video Link:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gyI6ykDwds&amp;t=42s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gyI6ykDwds&amp;t=42s</a></p>	<p>Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles. Will they find their bear?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the story is being read, perform the actions together with your child. Have fun acting out words like “over”, “under” and “through” with your child.</li> <li>Make a map with your child of the places that the brave bear hunters went through before finding the bear. You can help to label the name of the places.</li> </ol>
2	<p><b><i>Harry the Dirty Dog</i></b>                      Written by: Gene Zion                      Illustrated by:                      Read by: Betty White</p> <p>Video published by: Story Online (SAG-AFTRA Foundation)                      Video Link:  <a href="http://storylineonline.net/books/harry-the-dirty-dog/">http://storylineonline.net/books/harry-the-dirty-dog/</a></p>	<p>Harry is a white dog with black spots, and he hates baths. So, one day, he ran away, only to become a black dog with white spots.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the story, Harry runs away to avoid getting a bath. Create a poster with your child for a lost pet. Discuss the features of the poster, e.g., picture, description, where it was last seen, who to contact if found and a possible reward.</li> <li>Are there things in your house that need a good scrubbing and cleaning? Help your child to make a list of things that need cleaning like Harry the Dirty Dog and give them a good scrub!</li> </ol>

S/N	Details of Picture Books	Synopsis of Picture Books	Suggested Activities
3	<p><b><i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i></b>            Written by: Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault            Illustrated by: Lois Ehlert            Read by: Ray Charles</p> <p>Video published by: Simon and Schuster            Video Link:  <a href="https://youtu.be/DG9cSehiXel">https://youtu.be/DG9cSehiXel</a></p>	<p>Like excited children, hear how the letters of the alphabet have fun climbing a coconut tree.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help your child name the letters in his/her name. As you watch the video together, try to spot the letters in your child's name with your child. Make it into a game to see who can spot the most number of letters in your child's name. You can also play this game with the letters in your name.</li> <li>2. Get your child to find the letters in his/her name around the house. Take a picture with your smartphone camera where these letters can be found and you can review the photographs together with your child and name the letters.</li> </ol>
4.	<p><b><i>Guji Guji</i></b>            Written and illustrated by: Chih-Yuan Chen            Read by: Robert Guillaume</p> <p>Video published by: Story Online (SAG-AFTRA Foundation)            Video Link:  <a href="https://www.storylineonline.net/books/guji-guji/">https://www.storylineonline.net/books/guji-guji/</a></p>	<p>Guji Guji is quite content with his life as a duckling, despite the fact that he doesn't look anything like his brothers. Then one fateful day, he meets up with three nasty, grinning creatures...</p>	<p>Through these activities, take the time to appreciate each other and a family member.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draw a picture of your child and describe your child. Get your child to draw the members of your family and describe them to you. The description can be about how they look like and what they like/do not like to do.</li> <li>2. Get your child to make a simple card for a family member. Ask your child to describe what he/she likes about the family member. Write what your child says on the card or help your child do the writing. Let your child present the card to the family member personally or through a video captured on your phone.</li> </ol>
5.	<p><b><i>The Rainbow Fish</i></b>            Written by: Marcus Pfister            Read by: Ernest Borgnine</p> <p>Video published by: Story Online (SAG-AFTRA Foundation)            Video Link:  <a href="https://www.storylineonline.net/books/the-rainbow-fish/">https://www.storylineonline.net/books/the-rainbow-fish/</a></p>	<p>The rainbow fish is the most beautiful fish in the ocean. One day, a fish came to ask him for a shiny scale. Will he give the scale to the fish?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Talk to your child about the colours of the rainbow. Have your child draw a fish with all the colours of the rainbow. Get your child to name the colours of the rainbow that are in his/her drawing.</li> <li>2. Discuss some ways that will help us to make friends with your child. Ask him/her who his friends are and how he/she can be a good friend to them. Have your child draw what he/she can do to be a good friend and talk about the drawing. Write what your child said at the bottom of the page.</li> </ol>