

PRESS RELEASE

21 April 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

MAKE LANGUAGE LEARNING FUN!

*- LEE KUAN YEW FUND FOR BILINGUALISM ORGANISES PARENT WORKSHOPS
TO NURTURE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S LOVE FOR LANGUAGES*

Looking for interesting ways to help your child learn languages? Join us at our upcoming community workshops on language learning for parents with pre-school children aged 5 to 7 years!

2 Parents of pre-school children can look forward to a series of upcoming community workshops that offer tips to make bilingual learning fun. Conducted by language professionals and practitioners in English and the three official Mother Tongue Languages, the workshops will show parents how they can use simple tools like finger-muppets, rhythms, songs and games, to help their children develop their listening and oral skills. Please see [Annex A](#) for details on the workshops.

3 Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education and Chairman of the Board of the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism said: “Bilingualism is the cornerstone of our education system and what better way for our children to start early and learn in ways that are fun and meaningful. Many parents often think of how they can help their children learn languages. With this series of interactive and engaging workshops, I hope parents can learn from the language experts and pick up useful tips and share with one another their experiences in teaching their children English and their Mother Tongue Language”.

4 Parents play an important role in supporting their children in the learning and use of English and their Mother Tongue in their daily interactions and at home. The Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism will be organising more community workshops in different parts of Singapore throughout the year. The details of the workshops will be made available on the Fund's website at <http://www.bilingualism.sg/lkyfb/upcoming-events>.

Registration

5 Parents who are interested can register for the upcoming series of workshops at the Tampines Central Community Club or via the OnePA website at <https://one.pa.gov.sg>.

About The Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism

6 The Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism supports efforts by MOE in the teaching and learning of English and the official Mother Tongue Languages. For a start, the Fund is focusing on initiatives targeted at pre-school children in the community, homes and pre-school centres.

7 The “Love Our Languages! Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism Community Series on Language Learning and Teaching” was started in September 2014. Through the series, the Fund aims to help parents nurture a love for languages in our children from young. About 200 participants had attended the workshops where they picked up tips on how to use games, songs and daily interactions to help their children learn languages.

8 The Fund also welcomes the public to submit proposals to promote bilingualism among pre-school children. The proposals should promote language learning in the context of Singapore, and could take the form of teaching and learning resources, programmes and events. The proposals will be evaluated based on its relevance, impact, scalability, sustainability and standing/potential of applicant. Interested applicants may obtain more information from the Fund Application Guidelines and Application Form available on www.bilingualism.sg.

LEE KUAN YEW FUND FOR BILINGUALISM

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First Series of Workshops in 2015

The details for the upcoming workshops on the learning of the Chinese, Malay and Tamil Languages are as follows:

DETAILS	TITLE	SPEAKER	SYNOPSIS
<p>Date: 25 April 2015 (Saturday) Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm Venue: Tampines Central Community Club Blk 866A Tampines Street 83 #02-01 Singapore 521866</p>	<p><u>Malay Language</u></p> <p>Encouraging the Reluctant Speaker: How to Develop the Love for the Malay Language in Children</p> <p>Menggalakkan Penutur yang Keberatan Berbahasa Melayu: Cara Memupuk Minat Kanak-kanak pada bahasa Melayu</p>	<p><u>Ms Rila Melati Bahri</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author of children's books, including <i>Siri Aksi Adil</i>, a series of Malay books that includes Malay-English glossaries, and <i>Siri Bacaan Awal Kanak-kanak</i>, a series of stories for young readers 	<p>"Encouraging the Reluctant Speaker: How to Develop a Love for the Malay Language in Children" is an interactive workshop that uses story books and songs to help parents to encourage their children to speak Malay.</p>
<p>Date: 9 May 2015 (Saturday) Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm Venue: Tampines Central Community Club Blk 866A Tampines Street 83 #02-01 Singapore 521866</p>	<p><u>Chinese Language</u></p> <p>Learning Mandarin the Interactive Way</p> <p>华语可以这样“动”</p>	<p><u>Dr Connie Lum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Specialist at NTUC My First School • Principal Lecturer at SEED Institute 	<p>"Learning Mandarin the Interactive Way" is a hands-on workshop that aims to help parents better engage their children in speaking Mandarin through the use of interactive games and simple teaching aids.</p>
	<p><u>Tamil Language</u></p> <p>Tamil@Home</p> <p>இல்லத்தில் தமிழ்</p>	<p><u>Mr S P Jeyarajadas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Master Teacher for Tamil Language at the Ministry of Education 	<p>"Tamil@Home" aims to create awareness among parents on the importance of speaking and reading the Tamil Language at home with their children. The session will also provide tips on how the language can be effectively promoted at home through modelling.</p> <p>The workshop will include hands-on activities that provide parents with tips on how to use reading, drawing, singing and story-telling to interest their children in the language.</p>