A Parent’s Guide to

**STELLAR: STRATEGIES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND READING**

A new English Language Curriculum for Primary Schools in Singapore
The **STELLAR** Vision

Children who **love reading** and **have a strong foundation in the English Language**
STELLAR IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE...

- English language learning is achieved through:
  - ☺ vocabulary learned from books
  - ☻ expression of thoughts in oral and written forms
  - ☻ discussions with other children and the teacher
  - ☻ informal peer interaction
WHAT IS A STELLAR LESSON LIKE?

1. Shared Reading Experiences
   Children read story book with the teacher and engage in oral discussions with teacher and peers.

2. Shared Writing Experiences
   The teacher models writing using children’s language. Children engage in writing together and in writing independently.

3. Language Use Activities in Learning Centres
   The teacher prepares mini lessons based on specific needs of children to prepare them for reading & writing activities; e.g. grammar, vocabulary, word recognition, decoding skills, spelling.
EACH STELLAR UNIT INCLUDES...

- Focused Reading using Big Books

😊 reading for enjoyment

😊 reading for knowledge
EACH STELLAR UNIT INCLUDES...

- **Key Teaching Points**
  - Concepts about print: *(i.e. spacing between words, reading from left to right, punctuation)*
  - Vocabulary *(i.e. meaning of words, phrases)*
  - Word identification activities *(i.e. spelling patterns, letter-sound relationships)*
  - Grammar *(i.e. present tense, past tense, singular/plural forms)*
Each STELLAR Unit includes...

- Development of the six language skills
  - 😊 listening
  - 😊 speaking
  - 😊 reading
  - 😊 writing
  - 😊 viewing
  - 😊 representing
Each STELLAR Unit includes...

**Development of social skills:**

- 😊 oral interaction among peers in non-threatening situations
- 😊 working in partnership with other children
- 😊 turn taking & respect for others during class discussions
Each STELLAR Unit includes...

- Independent learning
  - Individual reading
  - Individual writing
  - Working at learning centres
It is in line with the 2009 EL Syllabus.

Its aim is to move learners towards independence using quality children’s books and activities that motivate and engage young learners.
**Why Books?**

- Books:
  - open up the world for children
  - help children think and wonder
  - increase children’s vocabulary and knowledge about the world around them
  - provide good examples for reading and writing
STEELAR needs Parents’ Support

- **Home support** – help your child learn English by providing English language reading materials at home
- **Activate child’s interest** – show your child that you believe learning English is both enjoyable and useful in your daily life
- **Role models** – read and write notes and messages in front of your child
- **Understanding** – English language learning requires frequent exposure to listening, speaking, reading and writing opportunities and activities rather than use of worksheets alone
HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Go to the library together
- Have lots of books, magazines and newspapers in your home
- Give your child books about their special interests
HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Allow your child to choose books to read and reread
- **Read** to and with your child (or, have your child read to you)
  - Remember that reading in a mother tongue language also fosters a love for books and knowledge
- **Talk** about the books and their characters that your child has read
BOOKS THAT INTEREST CHILDREN HAVE...

- clear print and colourful, attractive illustrations or photographs
- a strong storyline
- interesting characters
- are about everyday life
- are repetitive and have rhyming words to help children remember words
SOME LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR CHILD INCLUDE...

 Playing language games like word scavenger hunt (looking for a word in print materials)

 Reading aloud a book and asking your child to identify words beginning with the same sound, for example, ‘p’ – pancake, pick, put, police, pat, etc.
SOME LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR CHILD INCLUDE...

- Helping your child learn more interesting words by thinking of new words to replace known words, for example, ‘big’ – huge, enormous, large, gigantic, etc
- Getting your child to retell a story to you in his or her own words
- Suggesting that your child give a different ending to the story read
Thank you for your TIME

&

Happy Reading with your Child!