



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

► PARENT KIT

MY INDEPENDENT LEARNER!

*Missed our last issue?
Click [here](#) for our previous Parent Kits.*



Are our children independent, curious, adaptable and resilient?

The Home-Based Learning (HBL) experience has shown us that our children are capable of adapting to new norms and becoming more independent learners as they navigate a new landscape.

They quickly learnt to use different digital platforms, drew up new schedules, asked questions and discovered hobbies and interests.

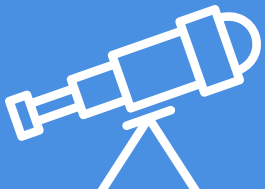


Even with our children back in school,
**don't let go of the good habits and
routines that you have put in place to
support independent learning!**

What have we done this season that has
enabled our children to become more
independent?

What can we continue to do to give our
children space to learn and grow with
confidence? Read on for tips!





LOOKING FORWARD

Nurturing independent learners requires us to adjust our involvement as parents – when should we hold tighter to guide them, and when should we loosen to let them explore and arrive at answers themselves?

Our involvement may vary from child to child. Sometimes, we don't know the answer right away. But that's OK! What is important is for us and schools to work alongside each other to guide our children.



At the end of the day, when our children learn by themselves, they are more actively engaged in learning. This grows in them a sense of **purpose, ownership** and **love for learning**, which will carry them throughout life.

TIP #1

A self-directed learner takes ownership of his/her own learning.
A resilient learner reflects on mistakes and always strives to do better.



In school, we guide our students to take charge of their learning by getting them to keep track of their assignments and schedule.

Don't rely on teachers to give daily updates about your child, homework instructions, login details to online learning portals or test and exam preparations.



At home, encourage your children to follow up on their assigned tasks and take care of their belongings independently.

Let your children get ready for school on their own, and don't deliver forgotten items to school. Making mistakes is part of learning.

TIP #2

An intrinsically-motivated learner does not give up easily and isn't afraid of learning something difficult or solving complex problems.



In school, teachers assign homework to understand students' learning progress and the areas they do not understand.

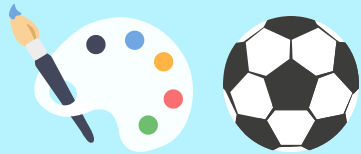


At home, let your children attempt homework on their own and seek help from others if needed.

Support them by creating a conducive space to complete their homework. Encourage them to approach their classmates and teachers when in need of help.

TIP #3

A curious learner often goes beyond the textbook to explore the world and derives a sense of fulfillment and deeper learning in the process.



In school, we nurture our students to be self-directed learners by providing opportunities for them to pursue areas of interest and to take the lead (e.g. through projects, courses, CCAs).



At home, let your children have a say in what they want to do, to give them space to discover new things and take charge of things they are interested in.

Involve your child in decisions like the amount of screen time they can have and the kinds of meaningful activities they can do during free time. For example, let them try out new mini projects, pursue their hobbies and help out at home.

BONUS:

Acknowledge and praise your child for his or her good effort!

Click [here](#) for tips on how to give praise effectively.





LOOKING BACK

It has been no easy feat balancing Work From Home (WFH) and guiding your children through HBL. Join us in the **#MyIndependentLearner** movement where we celebrate your efforts and the growth in your children!

Document this valuable experience in 3 simple steps:

Step 1: Reflect on your experience

How did you help your child become more independent during HBL?



Step 2: Pledge your support

What will you start/stop/continue to do to support your child to become an independent learner?

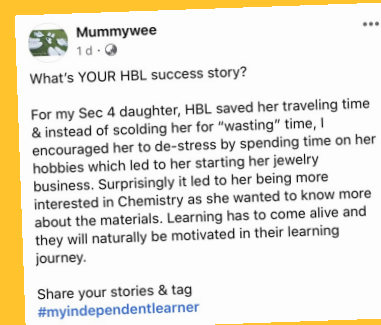
Tip: Choose one of the pledge cards [here](#) and print/screenshot to use it!



Step 3: Share with others!

Share your story and pictures on your social media, e.g. Facebook or Instagram posts/stories.

- Include **#MyIndependentLearner** in your post
- **Nominate 3 or more friends** to share their stories
- Tag us **@moesingapore** (on Instagram) or at **Ministry of Education, Singapore** (on Facebook)



We can do more together than if we do it alone.

Start sharing now – your post may inspire a fellow parent!



WORKING TOGETHER

Teachers play a big part in guiding our children to learn independently too. **Take some time to show your appreciation to your child's teachers!**

Our children's teachers have had to deal with many changes this season – from finding creative ways to teach during HBL to ensuring our children's safety in school with safe management measures.

At every step, our teachers have risen to the occasion, trying new teaching techniques and tools to keep our children engaged, looking after their well-being and nurturing their independence.



To show appreciation to our teachers for their hard work,
we would like to invite you to join us in this year's

Thank you, Cher!

Teachers' Day celebrations!

1. Pen down some words of appreciation together with your child and send them to your child's teachers in the lead up to Teachers' Day (4 Sep 2020).

Your words will mean so much to them!

If you need some ideas, we have prepared a card template [here](#) for you and your child. Feel free to add on, design and gift it to your child's teachers by email or printout.

A card template for Teachers' Day. It has a header with 'Dear _____' and two sub-headers: 'instead of...' and 'we'd like to give you...'. Below these are four horizontal sections with colored backgrounds: pink (with a red scissors icon), yellow (with a yellow notepad and pencil icon), blue (with a blue gift box icon), and green (with two brown teddy bear icons). The text 'Happy Teachers' Day!' is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, there are three horizontal lines for a signature and the words 'With gratitude,' followed by another horizontal line.

2. Feel that more people should know about how wonderful your child's teachers are?

From 24 August, you can also share your messages of thanks on ThankYouCher.edu.sg. Click on this link, add your story and photo (if you wish), and see what other parents and students are saying about their teachers.

You can see messages from across the island on this interactive map.

Want to share your message on your FB or IG? That's just a click away on the platform.



“ Education will not be the same post-COVID-19. It will be better. Together we shall see to it.

- *Former Minister for Education, Ong Ye Kung*

Want more Parent Kits?

[Click here](#) to tell us what you'd like to see.

