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## To home in on pre-school learning ...

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

THE importance of having a quality pre-school education cannot be understated, as explained in the article "Fewer enter Pri 1 without pre-school education" (July 22).

Beyond reducing the number of children who lack pre-school education, it is imperative for community stakeholders to raise the standards, diversity and relevance of this education.

Pre-schools and corresponding government agencies need to heighten parental involvement in the education process, improve programmes dedicated to language education and create constructive, public platforms to provide resources for at-home teaching-learning processes to take root.

Successful education models around the world have supported the proposition that teachers alone cannot assure the smooth emotional and intellectual growth of children.

Many academics have attributed Finland's ability to produce outstanding, academically-strong students to the

In Finland, reading at home is highly encouraged, with bedtime sessions established as part of the culture, and parents speedily develop mutually-beneficial relationships with their children's educators.

administration's astute implementation of effective pre-school pedagogies and policies with parents and families in mind.

Reading at home is highly encouraged, with bedtime sessions established as part of the culture, and parents speedily develop mutually-beneficial relationships with their children's educators.

This can be emulated in the Singapore context, with parent-teacher meetings focussing more on the holistic evaluation of pupils instead of continuing with the status quo, where grades and examination performance take precedence.

More can also be done to better language education.

Singapore's insistence upon bilingualism is premised on noble intentions. Unfortunately, some pupils from English-speaking households find it challenging to be proficient in their prescribed mother tongues.

Consequently, more effort has to be committed by pre-schools – taking advantage of pupils' linguistic learning capabilities at a young age – to help them become comfortable with a second language.

Good home education can complement pre-school learning.

Given the accessibility of the Internet and the proliferation of neighbourhood or community organisations, channels can be created for the sharing of materials for home-based teaching and learning.

This can include book reading lists for different ages and interests, publicity for free seminars and programmes to accommodate working parents and sharing of personal parenting tips, et cetera.

Interest groups may be formed, indirectly creating social circles for parents and families.

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## SATURDAY, 30 JULY, TTSH ATRIUM

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Guest-of-Honour:

**Dr Vivian Balakrishnan**

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

Learn how to prepare a healthy meal

Catch Singapore's Food Ambassador Violet Oon in a cooking demonstration.

Relive TTSH's history

Catch sand artist Stacey Lee graceful performance as she traces TTSH's humble history to its present state.

Start a healthy lifestyle

Join in the sports and wellness fair to get tips on how to lead an active and healthy life!

Witness the unveiling of a mammoth art wall at the atrium.

A member of National Healthcare Group  
Adding years of healthy life

**10.30am** Sports and Wellness Fair  
Healthy Cooking Demo by Violet Oon

**11.30am** Arrival of Guest-of-Honour & TTSH Charity Ride cycling contingent  
Sand Artist performance

**11.45am** Unveiling of the Mosaic Wall

**12.15pm** Reception

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