

Lower Primary STELLAR Workshop for Parents

6 February 2017



OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To familiarise parents with the Lower Primary STELLAR Programme.
- ✓ To provide tips on encouraging and engaging your child in reading.



WHAT IS STELLAR?

STELLAR: Strategies for English Language Learning and Reading

A new English Language Curriculum
for Primary Schools in Singapore



THE STELLAR VISION

Children who

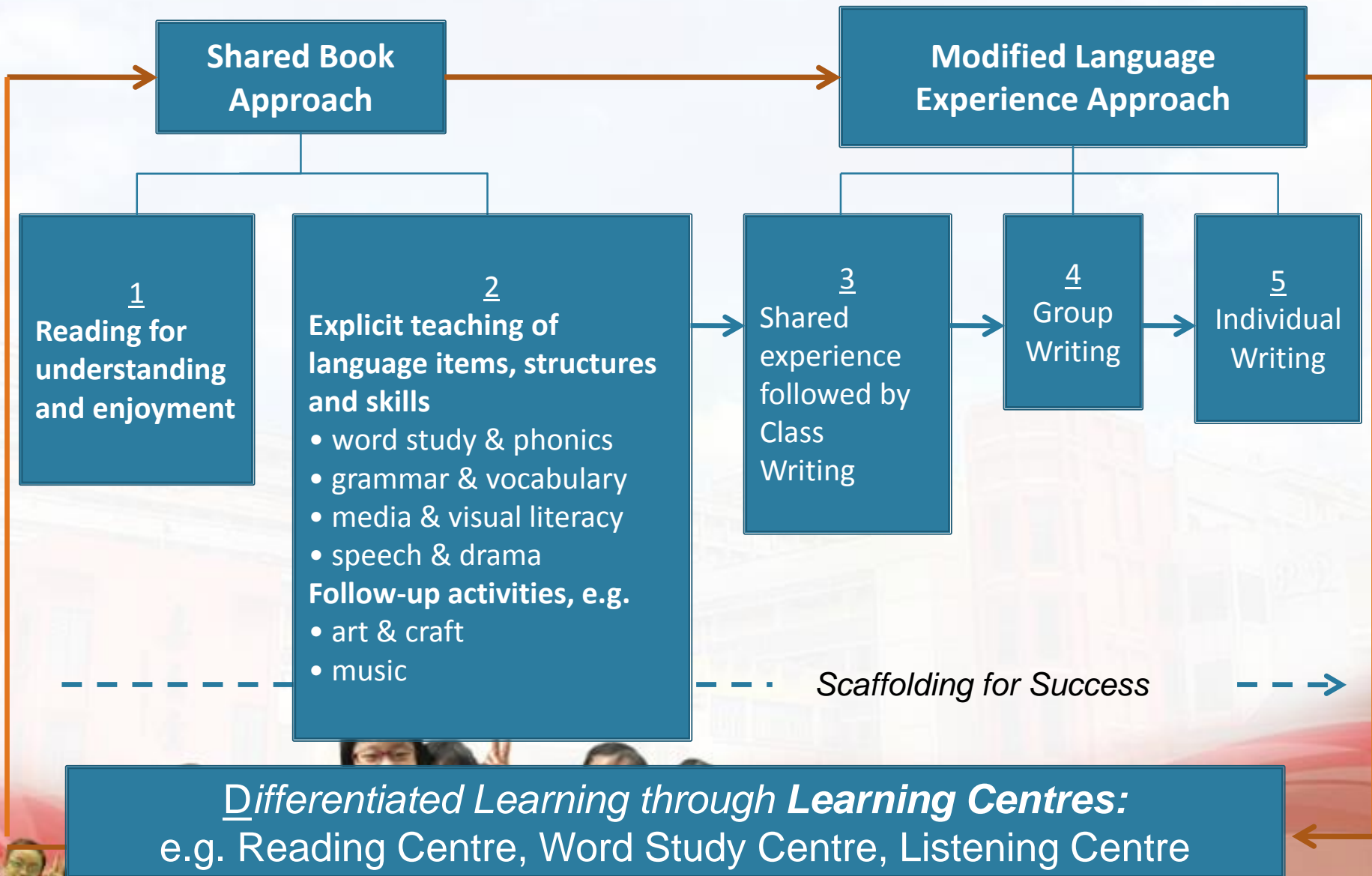
✓ love reading

✓ have a strong foundation

in the English Language



STELLAR Pedagogic Framework (P1&P2)



STELLAR CURRICULUM

- ✓ It is in line with the current EL Syllabus.
- ✓ It aims to move learners towards independence using quality children's books and activities that motivate and engage young learners.



STELLAR CURRICULUM

It is very comprehensive

- ✓ integrates all language skills
- ✓ skills are enhanced through daily practice
- ✓ Key language items are explicitly taught



THE STELLAR APPROACH

- ✓ Opportunities for more speaking and listening activities
- ✓ Children learn reading and writing using rich and interesting books, with discussions led by the teacher



THE STELLAR APPROACH

❖ Classroom environment is:

- ✓ focused on children's interaction rather than on teacher talk
- ✓ enriched with children's written language
- ✓ filled with various reading materials for children's use



THE STELLAR APPROACH

- ❖ English language learning is achieved through:
 - ✓ vocabulary and grammar learned in books
 - ✓ expression of thoughts in oral and written forms



THE STELLAR APPROACH

- ❖ English language learning is achieved through:
 - ✓ discussions with other children and the teacher
 - ✓ informal peer interaction

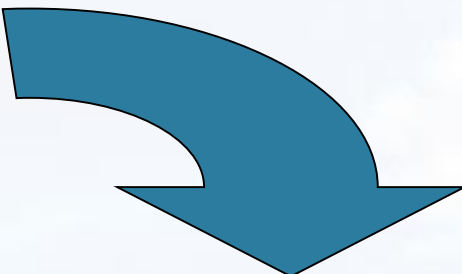


A STELLAR LESSON



1. Shared Reading Experiences

Children read storybook 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*)



EACH STELLAR UNIT INCLUDES

- ✓ 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 6 areas of language learning

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar
- Vocabulary



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



The **STELLAR** Pedagogic Model is made up of three major teaching strategies:

- ✓ Shared Book Approach (SBA)
- ✓ Modified Language Experience Approach (MLEA)
- ✓ Learning Centres



SHARED BOOK APPROACH (SBA1)

- introduces and shares a Big Book
- Students describe illustrations on cover page
- title, author and illustrator
- asks questions on illustrations



SHARED BOOK APPROACH (SBA2)

- Explicit teaching of language items, skills structures

Follow-up activities :

- Identifying concepts of print.
- Identifying target vocabulary
- Learning letters and sounds



MLEA – MODIFIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE APPROACH

- ✓ links to the theme of the Big Book that has been read during Shared Book Approach
- ✓ provides the context and content using the target language structures and vocabulary



MLEA – MODIFIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE APPROACH

- ✓ provides opportunities for children to practise the language skills
- ✓ pupils come up with a piece of class writing, group writing and individual writing



EXAMPLE OF CLASS WRITING

Dear Chicken,

I heard that you dislike eating chicken rice. I do not understand why you hate such a delicious dish. Chicken Rice is one of Singapore's most famous local dishes!

Since you do not like eating chicken rice, let me introduce you to a local salad dish. It is called rojak. It has sour pineapples, crunchy turnips, refreshing cucumbers and crispy dough fritters.

However some people may not like the smell of rojak. If you like to eat spicy food, you can add some chilli sauce to it.

I think you would enjoy eating this dish.

Your friend,
Sam



LEARNING CENTRES

- ✓ Serve as a platform for reinforcement and extension of what students have learnt in SBA and MLEA.
- ✓ LC activities develop life-skills of cooperation, responsibility and respect for others as well as independence.
- ✓ Activities are planned and differentiated for the students in the three main learning centres.



LEARNING CENTRES

Three main Learning Centres:

- The Reading Centre
- The Listening Centre
- The Word Study Centre



THE READING CENTRE

- ✓ a variety of books is readily available which include library books and small versions of the Big Books familiar to the pupils



THE READING CENTRE

✓ Follow – up activities:

- Paired reading: Paired students take turns reading and ask each other questions.
- independent reading: Choose and read books on their own and write a few sentences about it.



THE LISTENING CENTRE

- ✓ a group of students listens simultaneously to the same recorded text
- ✓ recordings include current and previously introduced Big Book texts and collections of familiar poems and songs.



THE LISTENING CENTRE

- ✓ read along using the small versions of the Big Books and printed booklets of songs or poems



THE WORD STUDY CENTRE

- ✓ Can be group or individual activities
- ✓ activities are carried out in groups of similar progress levels, pairs or individual children



THE WORD STUDY CENTRE

- ✓ Follow up activities:
 - build up a basic vocabulary through games and sentence building
 - Record known words from Class Writing to their notebook



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 learning English is both enjoyable and useful in your daily life.



PARENTS' SUPPORT

- ✓ Understanding – English language learning requires frequent exposure to listening, speaking, reading and writing opportunities and activities rather than use of worksheets alone

