

Title : Keeping mother tongue learning fun important for children: Sim Ann

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SINGAPORE: Keeping the learning of mother tongue languages fun for young children is important for bilingual learning, said Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Law, Ms Sim Ann, at the launch of the Mother Tongue Languages Symposium.

She said: "We know that curiosity and fun motivates one to learn, and also sustains learning. This rule of thumb applies to all learning subjects, including our Mother Tongue Languages.

"This is particularly relevant in light of our diverse language environment, where more and more of our children come from English-speaking households."

She added that the bi-cultural exposure will give children a competitive edge globally while strengthening their roots.

Thus, the symposium allows for the sharing and exchange of ideas in the teaching and learning of mother tongue languages.

Ms Sim Ann added: "We have also noticed, however, that not everyone is always aware of all the developments in schools and the community. Often, we found ourselves wishing that the conversation we were participating in, or the teaching methods we were being shown, could be shared with a wider audience."

Ms Sim Ann said the Education Ministry will continue to explore and develop new tools using technology or other methods, to support learning amongst students.

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