

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 21st JULY 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children decide what they want to learn

Sitting at the void deck watching water amazingly disappear as it goes through the evaporation process is definitely not a typical classroom, especially for a class of Nursery children!

Learning starts early at **Kidz Meadow Kindergarten and Kidz Meadow Childcare Centres** as children are given the opportunity to explore beyond mere books. The school uses the project work approach, with the children carrying out a project every semester. The teachers may get the ball rolling by setting the first topic, but students can suggest their own subsequently.

Mdm Norliza Amin, Senior Manager, Early Childhood explained, "A few years ago, the curriculum was still teacher-directed and dominated by worksheets and workbooks. Parents were used to their children being piled with homework and worksheets.

In 2007, we introduced Project Work into the curriculum. It was totally a new approach and it took time for parents to embrace it. The teachers and parents are pleased to see the benefits of Project Work. Children are creative, capable and confident. Lessons are child-centred, with teachers playing a facilitating role."

Recently in June, the K2 Children at Kidz Meadow Childcare Centre at Woodlands did a project on Environment. One interesting feature was 3 recycling bins made of none other than recycled cardboards for paper, plastic and cans. The children took turns to run the recycling plant, collecting recycled materials from different classes and making recycled papers and other objects from recycled materials. They made a graph of the number of items collected under the different materials. The children brainstorm on how they can do their part to save the earth.

A satisfied parent, Mdm Naziha Pasuni, commented during a recent mini exhibition of children's project work, "I am very proud of what Sofiyah has achieved ever since she started school. Project work for month of June is a very brilliant idea, as children are able to explore the topic in many aspects. They are able to learn in depth about the topics. Teachers are also brilliant in teaching as children are given many appropriate means and techniques in exploring topics." Her daughter, 2 year-old 'Ain Sofiyah, is enrolled in the Toddler class.

Mdm Norliza Amin concluded “The children have gained a wealth of skills essential for academic success: better verbalization, richer vocabulary, better problem solving strategies, more curiosity, greater empathy, better emotional and social adjustment, more innovation, more imaginativeness and so on. All signs that this approach of letting children decide what they want to learn is a winner.”

Drop by **Kidz Meadow Kindergarten and Childcare Centres’s Open House this 25th July 2009, 10am – 4pm** to experience the learning journey of our students.

Kidz Meadow Kindergarten @ Pasir Ris (102 Pasir Ris Road, Tel: 6583 3522)

Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Buangkok (Blk 979C Buangkok Crescent, Tel: 6489 8670)

Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Woodlands (Blk 874 Woodlands St. 82, Tel: 6368 9634)

Kidz Meadow Childcare @ Yishun (Blk 173 Yishun Ave 7, Tel: 6759 5117)

About MERCUTM Learning Point

MERCUTM Learning Point is an education and training provider that offers a comprehensive range of programmes and services to the general public, corporate, grassroots organisations and other Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs). Set up in 1999, MERCUTM has an extensive network of early childhood educational centres, student care centres and learning centres.

MERCUTM comprises of a kindergarten (Kidz Meadow Kindergarten), 3 childcare centres (Kidz Meadow Childcare Centres), 4 student care centres, and 3 learning centres that offer academic and enrichment for students and a private school offering full-time private GCE ‘N’ and ‘O’ Level programmes.

We kindly request the media’s support and assistance to inform members of the public of these programmes so that they may take advantage of its benefits. Should you require more information, please contact Ms Adibah at 6346 8301 or e-mail: adibah@merculearning.com.

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Date of issue: 21st July 2009