



FUN FAMILIES

DO



Say cheese!

• Got a cute toddler at home? Then herd the entire family down to Baby Singapore 2013 for the Our Beloved Family Portrait Competition. It's open to kids aged six months to 24 months, and the photo must include a parent and a grandparent. Junior can also join activities like creating a family scrapbook and learning about generosity, while donating his used toys and clothes to charity. This annual event is organised by the People's Association Family Life Section to promote parenthood and family bonding, and will be held at different community clubs every weekend in April and May. Turn to page 3 for details.

• TREES AROUND US – DRAMA SERIES

They're everywhere, but what exactly are trees for? Your little ones will understand their importance from taking on various roles in this new drama series. The one-hour event costs \$10 per child and will be held on March 16, 10am, at the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden. E-mail nparks_sbg_edu@nparks.gov.sg or call 6465-0196.

• RISE & SHINE CARNIVAL

Bring your family out for a morning fiesta and be part of a new record for the biggest breakfast picnic turnout. There

will be lots of activities to enthrall the kids, like bouncy castles, balloon sculpting, face painting and stage performances. Before you head to The Lawn@Marina Bay on March 3, 8.30am, register for your tickets at carnival.riseandshine-expo.com. Each adult pays \$8 and gets a set of play coupons worth \$10. Kids aged 12 and below enter free.

• GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

You've probably read this beloved fairy tale to her many times. Now, how about taking your kid to watch it? It'll be a fun way to remind her not to fiddle with the belongings

of others – or she'll suffer the consequences. SRT's The Little Company is staging the musical version at the DBS Arts Centre from March 8 to April 21. Tickets are priced from \$18 at sistic.com.sg.



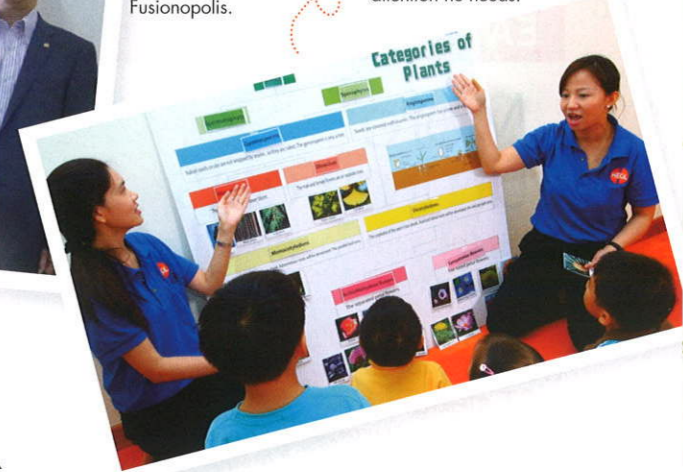
Children under four are accompanied by their parents, ensuring the learning environment is one where the child feels safe and loved.

HEGURU SPECIAL



Mr and Mrs Henmi in Singapore in December at Heguru Method @ Fusionopolis.

Every class is conducted by a teacher with a teaching assistant, giving every child the attention he needs.



AWAKENING BRAIN POWER

Did you know we can start our children young, help them develop both sides of their brains, and improve their memory, analytical skills and even empathy? Here's how.

In the 1960s, researchers discovered that the left side of the brain is responsible for language, logic, analysis and objectivity, while the right side governs intuition, emotion and creativity. Since then, the conventional wisdom has been that, in everyone, either the left or the right side is dominant, and that this can't be changed.

Different thinking

Ruiko Henmi, founder of learning technique Heguru in Japan, which is practiced at Heguru Method @ Fusionopolis, digs a little deeper. Based on her research and vast experience in educating children since the 70s, she has observed that the right and left brains develop at different stages.

The key is to maintain a balance between left- and right-brain development, giving the appropriate ability progression at the right stage. This, she says, will produce well-rounded, assertive and bright children, with improved focus and concentration, who are able not just to memorise pages of text on sight but comprehend them, too.

Her system also prioritises the heart – on the basis of educating in an environment of love. She believes kind

and secure children are capable of learning better. This, she says, is what makes Heguru different from other enrichment classes.

Right from the start

Before the child is three, the right brain develops at a predominant pace, and this is the best window for right-brain training. With Heguru Method @ Fusionopolis, the right and left brains will develop to their full extent.

Newly opened in January this year, Heguru Method offers classes for infants from six months to six years of age. These children will learn and absorb fast, helping them develop both their left and right brains. But, primarily, right-brain development will be the focus.

According to Agnes Ng, principal and programme instructor, the right brain prefers large amounts of data delivered at high speed. Each Infant and Toddler programme packs a punch, with more than 40 activities per session.

This includes the introduction of *nummerkasten* (introducing the concept of mathematics: quantity, addition and subtraction), rhythmic and developing the intuition of children with the aid of flash cards,

memory games, gym activities, plus song and dance.

Focus, concentration, memory

Some parents have observed an improvement in children's focus, concentration and memory, as well as demonstrating greater interest in things around them. The kids are also able to absorb knowledge more easily.

While some parents observe these after three months of training, it may take longer for others to see the benefits. Each child differs, and this is the reason an additional 10 minutes is set aside at the end of the 50-minute class for parent-teacher interaction to discuss the child's development.

That's why at Heguru, learning is provided in an environment that allows children to reach their fullest potential. Classes are deliberately kept small at a maximum of eight pupils, guided by a teacher and an assistant, as well as parental support for those below four years.

Heguru Method @ Fusionopolis, #02-03 Connexis (Directly above One North MRT, Circle Line), 1 Fusionopolis Way, tel: 6466-6580, enquiry@hegurumethod.com.sg, www.hegurumethod.com.sg