

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SHARING OF THE NURTURING EARLY LEARNERS (NEL) TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

1. How will MOE share the NEL Teaching and Learning Resources with the sector?

MOE has made available the NEL Teaching and Learning Resources to the pre-school sector from last year. These include a set of 24 Big Books in English and a set of 32 Big Books for each of the three official Mother Tongue Languages (i.e. Chinese, Malay and Tamil). Pre-school centres¹ will receive hardcopies of the K1 Big Books from March 2017 and the K2 Big Books for EL and MTLs from Q4 2017. Examples of integrated activities that support the holistic development of children are available through the NEL Portal (www.nel.sg), which is an online repository that was released in Q1 2017.

2. How will NEL Teaching and Learning Resources be useful to pre-school centres?

The Big Books were developed with the intent of nurturing children's interest in English and the Mother Tongue Languages and helping them acquire foundational language skills. Pre-school centres can use the Big Books to support the nurturing of early childhood bilingualism. The stories in the Big Books are set in a local context so that children are able to relate the stories with their daily experiences. This also makes language learning relevant when they hear the language being used in everyday life.

One set of 24 EL Big Books is meant for use over K1 and K2 for one class of children; and similarly, for the 32 BBs for each MTL. For centres that have shown interest to receive the Big Books, MOE is prepared to resource one set per class so that teachers can use these Big Books on a regular basis in the classroom to complement the centres' curriculum.

MOE will also share examples of activities to promote holistic development through an integrated approach and learning through purposeful play. These activity ideas will be accompanied by reflective questions and statements to help pre-school educators reflect on their own teaching beliefs and practices.

3. Why are there 8 more titles for the MTLs?

There is high demand for MTL resources which are not readily available commercially.

¹ These include only pre-school centres run by AOPs, POPs and NFP operators which have indicated their interest in using the NEL T&L resources at the engagement sessions in May.

4. Will all pre-school centres get the Big Books even if they do not use them in their curriculum?

In order to ensure that the resources will be put to good use, pre-school centres were invited to attend engagement sessions in May – July 2016. Those that indicated their interest to use the NEL Teaching and Learning Resources placed orders for the Big Books.

5. Why are the Big Books not given free to all centres like resources such as the NEL Framework and Educators' Guide?

The NEL framework and Educators' Guide are baseline reference materials for pre-school educators to support them in designing and implementing a quality kindergarten curriculum. As such, every centre is highly encouraged to make reference to these materials and has been/will be provided with copies of such materials at no cost to the centre.

The Big Books, on the other hand, are teaching resources which teachers can use on a regular basis in the classroom to complement the centres' curriculum. For example, teachers can use them as read-aloud stories or to teach language and early literacy skills; and to nurture early childhood bilingualism. To extend the reach to as many children (and teachers) as possible, MOE will provide fully-subsidised sets of the Big Books to Anchor Operators, Partner Operators and Not-for-Profit centres that show interest to use them and they will also be made available to commercial centres at cost price (cost of printing and delivery only).

6. How many set(s) of Big Books were provided to each pre-school centre?

Anchor Operators, Partner Operators and Not-for-Profit centres that had indicated their interest to use the Big Books would receive sufficient sets of fully subsidised Big Books based on the projected number of K1 classes in 2017. Centres will receive sets based on the maximum number of classes running concurrently. Commercial centres placed orders according to their needs and purchased the Big Books at cost price (cost of printing and delivery only).

7. Why is there a difference in the allocation of reference materials for MTL (i.e. translated NEL Framework & NEL Educators' Guides for MTLs) and Big Books?

The translated NEL Framework and Educators' Guide for MTLs are baseline reference materials for pre-school educators to support them in designing and implementing a quality kindergarten curriculum. As such, these resources will be reference materials for MTL is allocated for every 25 children taking that particular MTL. In addition, if there are fewer than 25 children taking a particular MTL, as long as there is a minimum of 10 children taking the MTL, 1 set of reference materials for that particular MTL will be provided. This is to ensure that all pre-

school educators teaching MTL will have a set of reference materials for the MTL they are teaching.

The Big Books are teaching resources which teachers can use on a regular basis in the classroom to complement the centres' curriculum. They can be used in the classroom as read-aloud stories or to teach language and early literacy skills; and to nurture early childhood bilingualism. As such, interested centres will be allocated sets based on the maximum number of EL and MTL classes running concurrently.

8. Will centres be able to request for additional sets/copies of the Big Books after the engagement sessions in May 2016?

Existing AOPs, POPs and NFP centres that have not ordered the Big Books:

Interested AOPs, POPs and NFP centres would be able to receive 1 set of the Big Books in the languages they offer at their centres.

New AOPs, POPs and NFP centres that opened after June 2016:

New AOPs, POPs and NFP centres would be able to receive sufficient sets of the Big Books in the languages they offer at their centres.

All other operators:

Other operators would be able to purchase the Big Books at cost price (the cost of printing and delivery only) from June 2018 onwards, if there are balance stocks available.

9. What support will be provided for centres who receive the Big Books?

Succinct teaching guides and training videos on the use of Big Books will be shared via the NEL Portal (www.nel.sg) which is an online repository that was released in Q1 2017.

10. Will the Big Books be made available to parents as well?

As the Big Books have been designed for teachers' use in the classroom, they will only be made available to pre-school centres.