

Egg Parenting

How did the idea for the activity come about?

In conjunction with 2022 being the year of “Celebrating Families”, our centre celebrated “Parents’ Appreciation Day” instead of the usual “Fathers’ Day” and “Mothers’ Day”. Through this activity, we hoped that the children can gain a better understanding and deeper appreciation toward the efforts made by their parents to take care of them. We also wanted the children to embrace their unique family identities and backgrounds.

Learning objectives of the activity

Children were given the opportunities to:

- Discuss how to take care of an egg
- Show care and responsibility for an egg over three days
- Reflect on how their parents and teachers care for them

Brief description of the activity

The K2 teachers planned the activity to provide the children with the opportunity to experience caring for something, much like how their parents care for them. To introduce the children to the concept of the values, care and responsibility, the K2 children were told by their class teachers that an egg, like a baby, requires care, gentleness and attention day and night so that it will not break. Their task was to take care of a raw egg over three days without breaking it and bring it with them wherever they went.

To prepare the children for the experience, the class teachers asked the children, “How can we take care of “baby eggs”?”
“Do you think it will be easy or difficult? Why?”

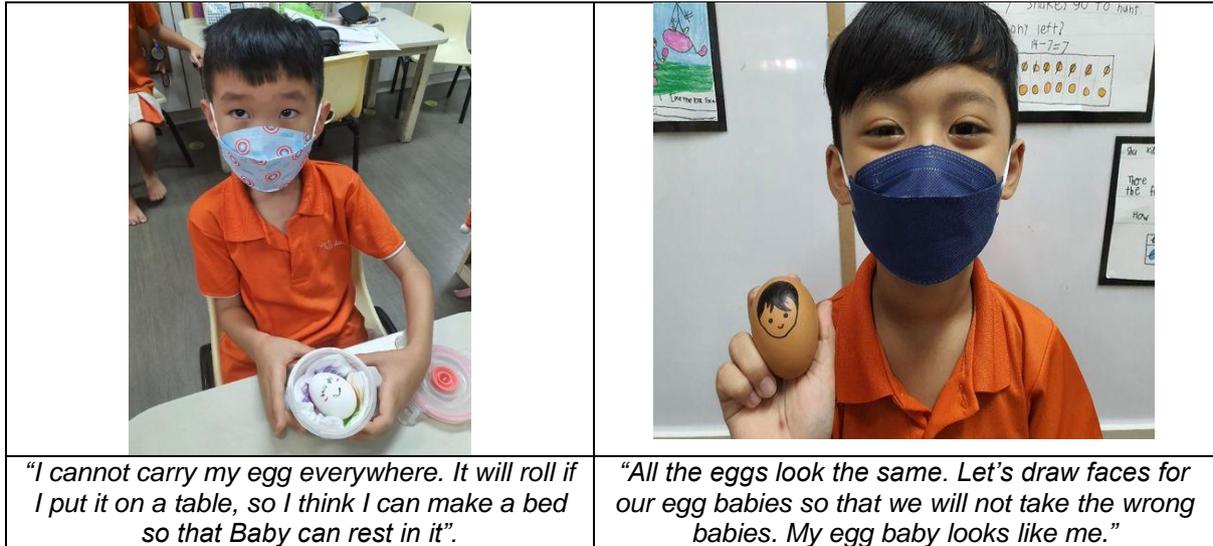
Over the next three days, the children took care of their “egg babies” in various ways.



“I must carry and protect my baby with both hands so that it will not drop. If I drop it, I will have no more babies. I will feel very sad”.



“My mummy gave me two eggs because I am scared that I will break my eggs easily. Now I have two eggs, so they are twins and they have similar faces. I must be more careful because both my hands will be busy taking care of my eggs.”



For their "parenting efforts", the children were given a certificate each to celebrate their three days of hard work. At the end of the three days, the teachers facilitated a reflection session, and the children shared their thoughts and views about the activity.

- *"I have to remember to take care of my babies. Sometimes, I get too excited and forgot about my baby. Then my friends remind me about it."*
- *"I leave my egg baby in the "cot" and went to play, eat, and do other things. My egg baby was missing on the second day. I feel very sad when I see my friends having a baby to care for."*
- *"I like my egg baby, so I really take care of it like a real baby."*
- *"I like to share about my baby egg with my Daddy and Mummy and I wish to have a baby sister soon so I can really help to take care of her."*
- *"It is so difficult to care for a baby egg. I almost broke mine when I put in on the table and it rolled away. Luckily, I save it in time."*



Kelly and her proud grandparents of "Baby Egg".



The children were given certificates to celebrate their "parenting efforts".

The children shared that they appreciated their parents more after this "egg parenting" journey. Riding on this, the class teachers encouraged the children to show their appreciation for their parents, and the children came up with suggestions like taking family photos, making cards of encouragement, watching a movie at home together, playing a board game, doing art and craft, singing a song, and having a meal together.

The teachers incorporated the children's ideas in preparing practical and meaningful gifts for their parents which included a hand-drawn family portrait, service coupons (e.g., massages and doing simple chores and having a family meal) and materials for bonding activities (e.g., art and gardening).



The children prepared a gift pack with loads of love to thank their parents.



The children drew family portraits to show their love and appreciation for their parents.



The children pledged to show kindness to their family members through the song - "I Commit to My Family", which is this year's theme song for "Celebrating SG Families".

Conclusion

The hands-on experience helped to build children's awareness and understanding of the family values of care and responsibility. Many parents shared that this activity was a simple but meaningful activity that encouraged the K2 children to make choices and decisions over the course of three days in taking care of their "egg babies". It was also a good conversation starter for them to share with their children about their joy and challenges in being parents themselves.

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