

The Right Path to MASTERING KINDERGARTEN CHINESE

Setting the right path from the beginning will make learning languages easier!

Research shows that children who learn a second language in their pre-school years develop better cognitive skills. Hence, one is never too young to start learning Chinese. In fact, children with a strong foundation in the Chinese language will have a smoother transition to Chinese lessons in primary school. Here are some tips on setting the right path for your child to master Kindergarten Chinese.

1 Create a fun learning environment

Children learn best through play, so make learning fun and interesting for them! For example, when introducing Chinese radicals (偏旁部首), show them related picture cards and link the actions to their daily activities at home or in school.



2 Use recordings and songs to teach Hanyu Pinyin

Hanyu Pinyin is an effective tool to help children learn the correct pronunciation of Chinese words. Audio recordings and songs are great tools for picking up the *Hanyu Pinyin* by listening to the correct pronunciation and then reading aloud.

3 Expose children to frequently-used words

Learning frequently-used words can help pre-schoolers improve their Chinese vocabulary tremendously. For example, during a birthday celebration, introduce words like “蛋糕”, “蜡烛” and “礼物”. You can also give instructions in Chinese to demonstrate the use of the words, such as “请把蛋糕上的蜡烛吹灭”.

4 Build communication skills at home

Set a weekly topic for your pre-schooler to talk about in Chinese, such as asking them about their favourite person. Guide them along with questions such as: What does your favourite person look

like? What activities do you like to do with this person? As they answer the questions, correct their pronunciation or any words that they used incorrectly. This will help prepare them for the “Show and Tell” activity in primary school.

Apart from the above tips, resources such as *Kindergarten Chinese* by Educational Publishing House, can help support this process. Written by an experienced teacher with a degree in early childhood education and comprising a wide range of activities, this title introduces pre-schoolers to Chinese grammar and key vocabulary and helps build a strong foundation in the Chinese Language, allowing pre-schoolers to enter primary school with confidence.

