Cultivating Reading Habits
Agenda

• Introduction
• Reading Culture in Singapore
• Impact of Technology and how to leverage on it
• Tips and Recommendations
The Singapore Context

“I think it is increasingly difficult to adhere to a discipline of reading in our society today. The influx of social media means that people are reading – yes- but they are reading shorter articles, excerpts, summaries, reviews and whatnot. I suspect that we have placed a premium on busyness and activeness, at the expense of precious reflection, which reading allows.”

- President of NUS Literary Society, Yip Guan Hui

Cultivating Reading Habits
### The Singapore Context

**Study by Singapore Polytechnic in 2013**

**What do youth do on Social Media?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Reading content</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Viewing photos/videos</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Commenting/replying others</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Chatting/talking online</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 Sharing/posting content</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 Expressing your thoughts and views</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7 Uploading photos/videos</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8 Virtual people watching</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9 Making new contacts</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10 Playing online games</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11 Advocating a cause</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cultivating Reading Habits**
The Singapore Context

**Social Media**
- 49.3% Friends
- 27.0% Schoolmates/Colleagues
- 14.6% Family

**Face-to-Face**
- 79.0% Family
- 65.9% Schoolmates/Colleagues
- 54.4% Friends

Cultivating Reading Habits
How to leverage on Technology
Use the Internet as your resource!

http://thesecretyumiverse.wonderhowto.com/
For Primary School Students

Reference Resources

EBSCOHost kids search
Kids search provides primary and lower secondary school students with a fun, lively interface they can use to search EBSCO's American Heritage Children's Dictionary, EBSCO Animals, Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia, Image Collection, and Primary Search databases. Younger researchers may also utilise the Searchsaurus interface.

Britannica learning zone
Britannica Learning Zone offers an engaging online tool for early-childhood learning, covering letters, words, numbers, time, sound, geography and more. Its activity-centered learning environment supports classroom curriculum and helps students, from pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade, build technology skills.

http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/Primary_School_Students.aspx
Too Busy! No time!

Does this situation describe your family?
Programmes, workshops, storytelling
Mr Kiasu
Comic Book Launch
By Johnny Lau
15 Dec, National Library

Creative Writing Workshops
By authors of Sherlock Sam & Triple Nine Sleuths
Nov - Dec
Too Busy! No time!

“There’s no such thing as being too busy. If you really want something, you’ll make time for it.”
Know what your children likes and “play” with them!

Cultivating Reading Habits
Read

Simple first step! If we’re going to encourage kids to read we need to do it too. Read for pleasure, information, instructions, connecting with others, and so on. Just Read!

Share Your Reading Experiences

Share with your children. Tell them what you’ve been reading, what you’ve gained or learned, where you read, (“in the bath!”), what books you bought etc. Help them see what a reader does

Take a field trip

This is another way to make reading social and exciting. Visit your local library or a bookstore. It’s not about checking out or buying books – it’s about being surrounded by thousands of books, touching their pages, seeing the world of possibility in print.

Listen to audio books

Ask your children to listen to them; play short passages. To me, audio books "count" as reading because you are acquiring vocabulary, applying comprehension strategies, and enjoying stories or accruing information.

Cultivating Reading Habits
Key is to spend time with your children

Cultivating Reading Habits
Questions to ask about what your child is reading

1. What is this story about?
2. Who is telling the story?
3. Is this story real (non-fiction) or not (fiction)?
4. Who are the main characters?
5. What is the setting?
6. What do you like/enjoy about the story?
7. Can you retell the story?
Thank You!