PARENT HANDBOOK ON LEARNING WITH A PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICE

FOR SPED STUDENTS

LEARNING DIFFERENTLY WITH A PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICE

HOW WILL LEARNING BE DIFFERENT WITH THE PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICE?
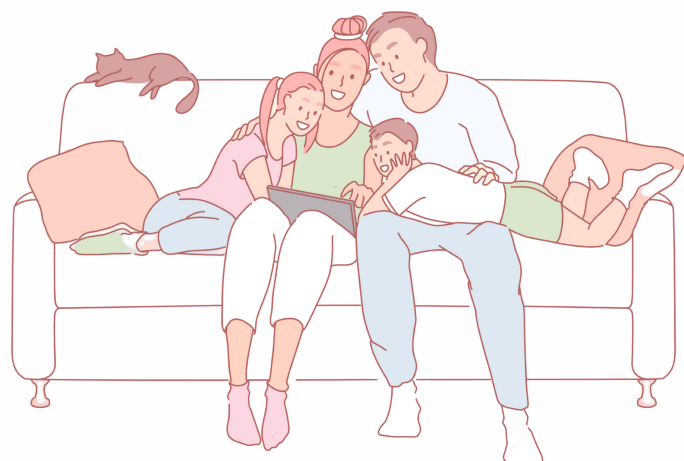
STARTING IT RIGHT

HOW CAN I HELP EASE MY CHILD INTO LEARNING WITH A PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICE?

PARTNERING SCHOOLS

HOW CAN I ACTIVELY PARTNER MY CHILD'S SCHOOL TO REINFORCE GOOD DIGITAL HABITS AT HOME?

SUPPORT YOU MAY NEED

HOW SHOULD I ACCESS RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MY CHILD IN THIS DIGITAL LEARNING JOURNEY?

Today, rapid technological advancements are changing the way we live, work and play.

Students will need to be equipped with the skills to handle changes and deal with challenges in the digital future.

Schools will develop all students to be agile and future-ready, regardless of their backgrounds and starting points in life.

Parents will need to play an active role in partnering schools to help prepare their children for an increasingly complex, interconnected and technology-driven world.

What is the MOE National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) and how will learning with a PLD benefit my child?

Through the NDLP, students will be better equipped to acquire digital skills needed to navigate an increasingly digitalised world. As part of the programme, every secondary / senior student aged 13 years old and above will own a school-prescribed Personal Learning Device (PLD).

Each child will have their own device, and learning will be supported in the following areas:

Enhance teaching and learning

Learning with a PLD supports greater personalisation and differentiation in learning.

Each student's learning experience can be more tailored and personalised to his/her learning needs, interests, progress and skills.

Support self-directed & collaborative learning

Learning with a PLD enables students to engage in self-directed learning, and to learn together with their peers, anytime and anywhere.

Students can access digital resources on their own to acquire knowledge about topics of personal interest beyond the curriculum. They can also share and build on one another's ideas, and refine their own understanding.

Support the development of digital literacies
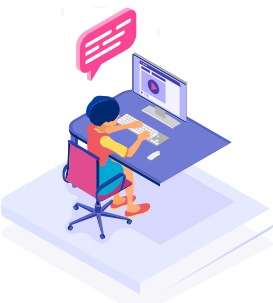
Learning with a PLD provides an immersive environment for students to acquire digital skills.

Students will learn digital skills such as gathering and evaluating information online, interacting with the online community, and creating digital products.

How will learning be different with the Personal Learning Device (PLD)?

"... we will ensure that the PLD is an enabler for learning... our curriculum in schools will continue to provide a wide range of learning experiences, including a balanced proportion of technology-enhanced learning activities."

Then-Minister for Education, Lawrence Wong, December 2020

Your child will be using the PLD for both in-class and out-of-class learning. This will prepare them for a technology-driven world.

What support structures would SPED schools put in place to help my child learn effectively with the PLD?

To help the SPED students navigate this new mode learning, these are some structures that will be put in place to enhance their learning with the PLD:

Baseline Digital Literacy Skills (BDLS) for all SPED students

More information can be found on Page 6

Installation of Device Management Application (DMA)

More information can be found on Page 7

School-based cyber wellness lessons

School-based classroom management and routines

A strong school and home partnership would help to build a safe and conducive learning environment for students in the use of their PLDs. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the literacy skills and good learning habits at home. More suggestions on these can be found on Pages 8 to 13.

BASELINE DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS (BDLS)

Every SPED student will learn Baseline Digital Literacy Skills (BDLS) which are fundamental but essential digital skills that will enable them to be more ready to learn with a PLD.

These are some digital literacy skills that every SPED student will learn in school.

	GOALS	TOPICS
A	Appreciate the benefits, risks and possibilities that technology can bring.	A1. Technologies for living, learning and working A2. Technology is a good servant but bad master A3. Technology makes things possible
B	Understand how online platforms and digital technologies work	B1. Online platforms and digital technologies B2. Online transactions B3. Singapore's digital government
C	Understand how to use information responsibly	C1. Digital sources of information C2. Responsible use of information from digital sources
D	Understand how to protect oneself on the internet	D1. Cyber identity and cyber use D2. Cyber citizenship D3. Cyber contacts and relationships
E	Understand how to use digital technologies safely and responsibly	E1. Cyber security E2. Scam Alert E3. I am responsible for my PLD

Device Management Application (DMA): Ensuring that your child learns effectively in a safe and conducive digital environment

Depending on the Operating System (OS) of your child's device, either of the following types of DMA will be installed on the device:

☑ Mobile Guardian (Chrome OS and Apple iOS)

☑ Filewave/Blocksi (Windows and Android OS)

The DMA supports learning in these 3 ways:

Mobile Device Management

Facilitates the updating and management of the PLDs, protects PLDs from malicious software, and protects students from objectionable internet content

Classroom Management Service

Enables teachers to manage the students' use of the PLD during *lesson time to improve classroom management and support effective teaching and learning.

*Teachers will only monitor students' activities during lessons.
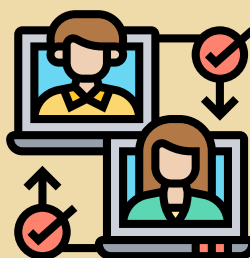
Usage Management

Enables the school and/or parents to better supervise and set helpful limits for students' use of PLDs after school

How can I help my child ease into learning with a Personal Learning Device?

START IT RIGHT!

It is never too late to establish norms and routines for device use. Establish clear expectations about the use of devices, and help your child to develop good digital habits at the onset. Try these strategies:

1 TALK ABOUT LEARNING ONLINE

Talk with your child about your thoughts and concerns about learning with the PLD, and ask your child how they might want to use it for learning.

You might also want to ask your child to share with you some tips they have learnt in school about keeping safe online and have a conversation about that!

2 SET EXPECTATIONS AND ROUTINES TOGETHER

It is important to set common expectations from the onset. Establish common routines as a family to ensure a healthy balance of online and offline activities, e.g, no use of devices during mealtimes, stop using devices at least 1h before bedtime.
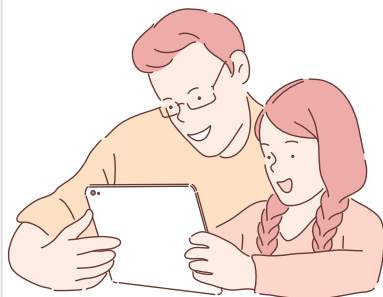
PROVIDE A LEARNING SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD 3

Provide a quiet and conducive environment for your child to use their PLD.

Discourage your child from eating or drinking in their learning space to minimise the possibility of spillage of food and water on the PLD.

How can I actively partner my child's school to reinforce good digital habits at home?

Our children do best when schools and parents work hand in hand to support them. Your child will be learning digital literacy skills that will help them to learn effectively with technology, and parents can support this by reinforcing good practices and habits at home.

School

Your child will be taught different ways to show what they have learnt using their PLD and may receive personalised feedback for their online tasks.
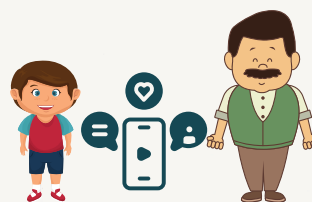
Home

✓ Support your child in using digital tools to complete their tasks, such as producing a digital artwork or recording themselves doing a Physical Education workout to check their form.

✓ Encourage them to re-attempt questions or clarify the feedback given by the teacher.

School

Your child will learn how to use assistive technology (AT) or augmentative and alternative communicative (AAC) tools when necessary to communicate and access learning.

Home

✓ Reinforce their learning by using the same tool to help them to communicate and learn.

School

In school, your child may be given opportunities to access digital platforms to connect or collaborate with their peers.

Home

✓ You may provide your child with the necessary support so that your child may leverage on technology to continue their learning at home.

School

Your child would learn how to use online platforms for their living activities such as food-ordering or navigation applications.

Home

✓ Provide your child with opportunities to apply their learning in a real world context when they are outside of school.

Digital Parenting Tips: How can I help my child to navigate the digital environment?

As your child will be learning with a PLD, they might spend more time on digital devices, have more online interactions with friends, and show a desire to explore more online. Here are some examples on how you can complement the school's efforts to support your child in his/her learning:

## Protect Your Child from Online Dangers and Teach Them to Respect Others Online

Guide your child to treat others with respect online

Dad, during the video conferencing lesson, my friend had a funny profile picture and we teased him in the chat!

We should always be **respectful when commenting online.** Remember the **T.H.I.N.K framework?** Let's ask ourselves these questions before posting: Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?

Click for more
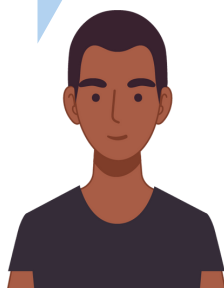
Guide your child to practise safe and responsible online behaviour

Dad, I am going to meet this person whom I got to know online. She messaged me privately as she liked the photos that I had shared, especially those that I tagged to Sunrise beach.

It may not be safe to meet someone you know only online as we are **unsure of their actual identity**. You should also be careful online and not respond to messages from people you don't know.

Be careful to not reveal too much personal information online, e.g, places you frequent regularly.

Click for more

Guide Your Child to Use the Device in a Balanced and Productive Manner

Guide your child to adopt a healthy balance of online and offline activities

I'm glad you found a way to relax but do you remember our **family contract**? No devices at least one hour before bedtime. Let's go for an after-dinner walk together instead!

Click for more

Mum, I'm done with my homework for the day! After dinner, I'll have more than 2 hours to play my handphone games until bedtime!

Guide your child to use productivity tools, to organise information and simplify tasks for efficiency.

You can use your online calendar to **keep track of your learning schedule** and plan your revision. Shall we also key in the details of family events in our **online family calendar together** for future reference?

Mum, I cannot remember the dates of my upcoming tests.

From a Teenager's Point of View: Trust & Privacy

Privacy is important to many teenagers. Respect your child's privacy and balance this with the need to keep in touch with what they are doing online. A good way to do this is to have regular conversations about what they do online, risks they may encounter, and who they can approach for advice.

TRUST MATTERS

Balance the need to respect your child's privacy while helping them to develop their ability to use their device responsibly.

- **Explain** to your child why there is a need for you to help them to monitor their device use

- **Agree** with your child on the conditions they need to meet before you can stop closely monitoring their device use. e.g. when they stick to agreed time limits without being reminded

- **When your child is ready,** you can monitor their device use less often. Have regular chats with your child to find out how they are spending time on their device. e.g. about their screen time, and how they are spending their time online

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

Converse with your child about real-life issues to help them to recognise, and identify with the opportunities and risks of digital use.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- I heard about... (a new app or game) Do you use it? What does it do?

- (*Share article or video about a recent social media craze*) Have you seen or tried this? Why is it so popular?

- (*Share your screen time on the device*) Look at this! I didn't know that I spent so much time on this app. Which app do you use most?
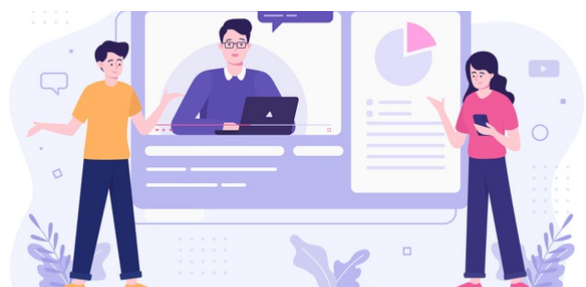
Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a recommended limit to my child's screen time?

While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to the right amount of screen time for your teenager, you can help your child to balance online and offline activities, e.g. by introducing board games or regular exercise done as a family. Schools will ensure that the use of PLDs is balanced with other kinds of learning, e.g., through textbooks or hands-on activities.
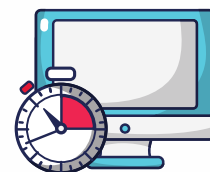
How is the school teaching my child to manage possible cyber risks?

As part of Cyber Wellness education in school, your child will learn how to take responsibility for their online well-being, and be positive role models for others in creating safe and kind online communities.

The Cyber Wellness curriculum will also equip your child with the skills to recognise risks in the digital space, identify and discern negative influences and inappropriate websites, and manage excessive use of social media.

Here are some useful resources to help your child make use of the PLD safely and effectively.

Item	Contacts / Resources
Media Literacy Council	https://www.betterinternet.sg
On Verifying Online Information:	https://sure.nlb.gov.sg/ https://go.gov.sg/factually