

POTENTIAL

JULY - DECEMBER 2021

my life, my dream

Empowering students by building confidence through self-learning

SANJANA VIJAYBABU

AARAV ROYSARKAR

KUMON *feature*

Empower our children with Kumon's self-learning method

parenting **TIPS**

Activities to build confidence

KUMON

editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your continuous support and participation in all our engagement activities on social media. To the families who have joined Kumon just this year, a warm welcome. We hope that all of you are enjoying the home-based individualised learning with Kumon and reaping the benefits that follow.

In the issue, you will learn about the Kumon journey of two seven-year-old students, Sanjana Vijaybabu and Aarav Roy Sarkar, and their parents. Hear from these families how their children experience a sense of achievement and gain confidence in the learning process.

The only constant in the midst of uncertainties is the innate ability of every child. Let us continue to nurture and inspire every child to reach their fullest potential with Kumon.

As we navigate the uncharted path ahead, we hope you continue to stay connected with your child's Instructor and engage in the activities on Facebook [facebook.com/KumonSingaporeOfficial] and Instagram [@Kumon.sg]. Until then, please take care and write to us at prmd@kumon.com.sg with your questions and inspiring stories.

Stay well,

Elphin

PR & Marketing, Kumon Singapore



ON THE COVER Jul-Dec 2021
Aarav



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Have something to say?

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Sanjana has an ambition of becoming a doctor when she grows up. She wants to gain more knowledge through reading to find cures and help others. Her philanthropic spirit goes with her can-do attitude, which is why she is not afraid of giving any challenges a 'try.'

The little girl disclosed, "New concepts are intimidating at first, but I always push through and solve the problems over time. With my parents' and Instructor's support, my self-confidence has improved, and I now know that I can accomplish anything if I remain determined and focused."

Sanjana started her Kumon journey at the age of five. She has since transformed into a confident and dedicated learner. Those skills transcend beyond the classroom and translate into just about everything she does. She credited Kumon for her increased self-confidence, which helped her gain a competitive edge.

Ms Livaethika, Sanjana's mother, said, "I got to know about Kumon through friends and decided to enrol Sanjana to help her build a strong academic foundation and excel in her learning."

"These days at home, Sanjana not only completes her homework quicker than she used to but also does not require any reminder to get her work done. Her school teacher also complimented that she could easily understand and do the class assignments independently," remarked Ms Livaethika.

"Kumon has helped me to manage my time better because my mental calculation skills are getting better. Also, the English programme has improved my sentence forming skills which further assisted me in completing my school work," Sanjana shared.

"I want to complete all levels in both Kumon Maths and English Programmes," she added.

Outside of the classroom, Sanjana has helped her elder sister with unwavering confidence whenever she was struggling with her Maths homework. In her spare time, Sanjana enjoys reading books, drawing and solving puzzles.

When asked about a piece of advice that Ms Livaethika would give to parents whose children had just started their Kumon learning journey, she said, "Please do not give up and stop your child from doing Kumon. As a famous expression goes, 'when the going gets tough, the tough gets going.' When you persevere and continue to support your child through challenges, it is only then you can enable your child to pursue something genuinely remarkable."



Sanjana Vijaybabu

7 years old

Student School Grade Level:
Primary 2

Subjects Enrolled in:
ME Level D (Division),
EE Level CII (Synthesising Ideas)

Starting Level:
ME Level 4A (Writing Numbers),
EE Level 4A (Rhyming Skills)



Turning seven this year, Aarav is studying at a level above his peers. He is currently learning Multiplication and Division in the Kumon Maths Programme and 'Synthesizing Ideas' in the Kumon English Programme.

Aarav began his Kumon journey three years ago when he was just four. His parents got to know about Kumon through their common friends, whose daughter was enrolled in Kumon.

"We were not only amazed at her academic foundation and learning progress but were also very fond of the philosophy of the Kumon Method", they shared.

They agreed that having Aarav do daily worksheets will give him a perfect structure to master each concept in-depth. They added that a good study habit will improve his focus and gain confidence in the long run.

"Aarav has always been an inquisitive child, and we believe that Kumon being a very well organized programme, will challenge him and encourage him to learn more."

Aarav's parents recalled that the initial months at Kumon were challenging as Aarav was reluctant to do the same worksheets repeatedly. It was an uphill battle trying to convince him with the concept of 'practice makes perfect'. Along the way, Aarav was making lesser mistakes and took a shorter time to complete his work. He began to

learn the value of daily practice and gained confidence, even when his worksheets got challenging.

"When I first joined Kumon, I was excited and terrified at the same time. But, as I grew familiar with the environment and my Instructor, I loved going to Kumon," recounted Aarav.

"I enjoy learning new concepts and being able to complete the worksheets quicker with lesser mistakes each time. I also love reading all the stories in the English worksheets too," remarked Aarav.

Aarav added that as he progressed with Kumon, he grew more confident in his own abilities. Kumon gave him challenges that made him learn more than what he had in school. Aarav recounted a Maths quiz that he participated in during a gathering with friends and won the first prize. He credited the win to learning with Kumon.

Aarav deemed self-belief and time management as the most beneficial skills he has learned in Kumon thus far.

As the saying goes, 'To become good at something, you have to keep practising' and Aarav shares the same sentiment. "If I want to be perfect in whatever I do, I know I have to work at it. Practice makes perfect. I've learned that daily practice and perseverance through challenging times pays off," revealed Aarav.

With that mindset, Aarav feels like he can accomplish anything he puts his mind to. When he encountered any challenges, he is determined to never give up.

When Aarav needs guidance in solving Maths problems, he knows that besides his Kumon Instructor, he has someone excellent to call on.

Aarav shared, "My grandfather is in India, so I have to ask for his guidance on solving problems through WhatsApp video call. I truly enjoy these bonding sessions with him."

During Aarav's free time, he can be found practising his swings on the cricket field or doing laps in the swimming pool. Besides sports, Aarav also enjoys drawing and playing Legos.

Aarav shared that Kumon has helped him stay focused and trained him to persevere through every milestone and not give up. His next goal is to attain the gold award for learning five years ahead of his school grade in Kumon. He aspires to be a Scientist like his mother, who works hard and always make good things happen.

When asked to give a piece of advice for parents whose children had just started their Kumon learning journey, Aarav's parents shared, "Have faith and patience. The Kumon Method of learning and the guidance and support from your child's Kumon Instructor will unlock your child's success. Practice makes perfect. Putting in the time always pays off in the end."



Aarav Roysarkar

6 years 8 months

Student School Grade Level:
Primary 1

Subjects Enrolled in:
ME Level C (Multiplication),
EE Level CII (Synthesising Ideas)

Starting Level:
ME Level 5A (Reading Numbers),
EE Level 7A (Familiar Words)



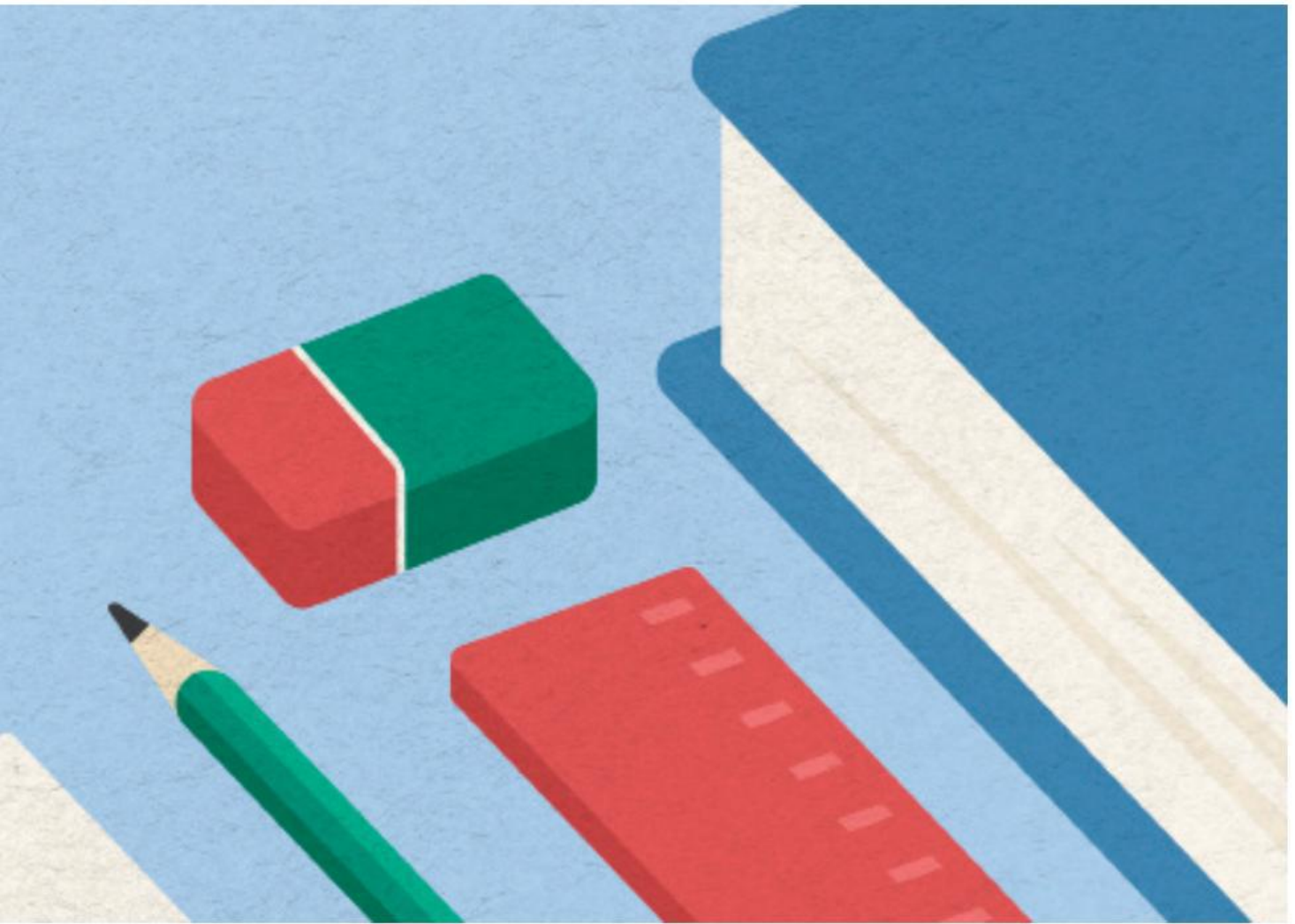
Empower our children with Kumon's self-learning method

From the day they are born, our children are constantly learning new things, crossing one milestone after another. From infants learning to lift their heads and toddlers learning to walk and learning the alphabets and numbers, everything happens so quickly with our children learning little by little, gaining confidence in themselves.

In the same way, our Kumon students learn in small steps and become more confident of themselves. Before children enrol in Kumon, our Kumon Instructors administer a Diagnostic Assessment to gauge each child's ability. When the children enrol in Kumon, they start off at a suitable starting point. By doing so, the children gain confidence in their own ability to complete something without having to be taught and enjoy the process of learning.

What differentiates Kumon from many other programmes, is that Kumon Instructors do not teach uniformly in front of the class. Every student learns a level that is "just-right" for them, and at their own pace. As they are allowed to navigate through the level at their own pace, they gain better understanding on the concepts and become more confident through self-discovery.

How do the children learn if the Instructor does not teach? You might ask. Kumon students learn from worksheets, which are constructed to facilitate self-learning, in small incremental difficulty. Hints and examples are also included at the start of a new learning focus to help them understand the concepts better, and to refer to when they run into challenges. Through this learning process, not only do children grasp the concepts better, they develop lifelong benefits far beyond the confines of the Kumon Centres – self-learning ability.



When students learn at the “just-right” level according to their ability, they will be motivated and enjoy learning. And they can advance their studies or things that they are interested in on their own without being taught excessively. Being able to self-learn is an important factor in getting students to enjoy studying and learning.

As students progress to a new milestone, no matter how big or small, they feel more confident about their self-learning ability. Examples of a new milestone can be progressing to a new learning focus or the next level, getting full marks for a set of worksheets well done, progressing to doing more worksheets, taking up a new subject or successfully finding and correcting own mistakes.

Takeshi Kumon, the eldest son of Toru Kumon, founder of the Kumon Method, and the first Kumon student, had the self-learning ability and confidence to study German and the abridged version of the Six Japanese Legal Codes.

“The Kumon Method is not a method to gain knowledge. I think it is a method to learn how to gain knowledge. I think the most important thing for me was the mental independence that was fostered by advancing beyond grade level,” Takeshi said when he addressed the new students at the first entrance ceremony to Kumon Kokusai Gakuen Junior High School.

The self-learning ability will empower our children to take on future challenges, take charge of their own learning, and aid them as they attempt to solve their problems, be it in life or academically.



Kumon empowers students to build self-learning ability and realise their potential. Read these quotes from Kumon Instructors throughout the Asia-Oceania region to learn how.

Instructors' Quotes



A silver lining of the pandemic is that coordination and communication between parents, students and instructors is better than ever before. Since parents are also part of online sessions now, they observe their children. As an instructor, more often than not, I get to witness the excitement shown by my students when they understood the concepts on their own. The Kumon Method continues to build the students' confidence through self-learning. Over time, it also improves their critical thinking skills as they are constantly engaged and challenged with new ideas. As home-based learning becomes more common, I believe our Kumon students will likely have less of a learning curve than others as they are already practising and reinforcing their self-learning ability daily through their worksheets. Efforts with the instructor in real-time, this strengthens the connection between student, parent and instructor for the benefit of children's learning.

Ms Brigitte Yeow
Kumon Singapore



While each individual has unique potential, no one is born with skills. We develop skills through structured daily action. Kumon aims for all students to develop the skill of self-learning. This is why Kumon Mathematics and English are programmes of daily study, whereby students have to independently and thoughtfully work out solutions to the problems in their worksheets on a regular basis. With time and perseverance, these students become highly skilled self-learners who are capable of solving advanced and complex problems independently ... empowering them to realise their full potential.

Dominic Chua & Sarah Tan
Kumon Australia and New Zealand



Nurturing self-learning ability among our students is at the core of Kumon Method. It is the most essential part of Kumon learning whereby our instructions and worksheets are structured as such to provide students the opportunity to develop self-learning ability throughout their learning. Self-learners have demonstrated strong level of confidence to learn and try something new, to learn from mistakes, and to conquer fear of failing. This belief has helped shaped their attitude, mindset, and motivation to succeed at every stage of their life's journey - in academic or non-academic undertakings. Indeed, confidence greatly empowers self-learners to excel and stretch their potentials and become contributing members of society. Mr Toru Kumon, our founder, once said, "There is a limit to how much one can teach but there is no limit to how much one can advance through self-learning". Observing young, self-learners being nurtured at Kumon centers the world over is both inspiring and satisfying.

Ms Elani Kassim
Kumon Malaysia



The Kumon learning method aims to help students develop self-learning habits and Kumon worksheets are designed around this. We, as instructors will train our students to study the examples from the worksheets. Once they get the answer correct, we will praise them or put a star on the question they were attempting to encourage them. Afterwards, we can see they become confident and are willing to challenge themselves in the next learning topic. In the next class, we would see the student get excited about their new learning focus. When asked about how are they doing at school, they would confidently tell us that they found it easy.

Ms Liang
Kumon Brunei

Home learning with Kumon

Kumon is designed as a home-based learning programme where students build good study habits by completing the assigned worksheets daily.

Kumon worksheets are structured to enable children to progress in small steps on their own, even if the topics are new to them.

Through the engagement activities, we collectively received many inspiring videos of Kumon students learning with Kumon at home, every day independently. Not just that, we also saw the uplifting and heartwarming exchanges between Kumon Instructors and Kumon families. Kumon is a partnership between student, parent and Instructor. And this continuous process ensures every child's learning never stops.

We are thankful to Kumon families for sharing their precious moments with us on social media.



New Advanced Student Honour Roll (ASHR) Medals

Beginning September 2021, Kumon advanced students can look forward to new Advanced Student Honour Roll (ASHR) medals to mark their achievements in the qualifying months of September, December and March!

KUMON SG STICKERS PACK (2)



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Apple users

<https://whatsticker.online/p/441809RYQde3y/SG>



Activities to build confidence

When our children learn something new, it requires a lot of effort on their part and they don't always succeed easily or on their first attempt. As parents, we should always remember to give appropriate praise as they make their little milestones, and encourage them when they fail. Showing signs of disappointment is unhealthy for their self-confidence, and are counter-productive to their learning journey.



Playing sports

Not only is playing sports healthy for the body, it is a good way to strengthen our children's minds and build confidence. Through sporting activities, children learn that they cannot always be winners; it is also normal to lose.

When they win, they feel more confident, and when they lose, they learn not to feel discouraged. As they achieve their little sporting goals, they become more confident of themselves, and value the effort they had to put in to achieve their goals.



Helping with cooking or simple chores

Letting our children help with cooking and simple chores is a fun way to engage our children in activities, and to help them learn. From simpler acts of whisking eggs or folding clothes to more advanced chores, our children can appreciate the fact that they have new accomplishments and hence feel better and more confident about themselves.



Learning to play a new musical instrument, or a new song

Children can learn to play a new musical instrument, or a new song if they can already play an instrument. Learning to play a simple tune will encourage children to continue learning. They learn to appreciate the effort and consistency required to master the instrument, and can be immensely rewarding to their mental health.



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