

POTENTIAL

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KUMON *feature*

Turning Challenges
into Opportunities

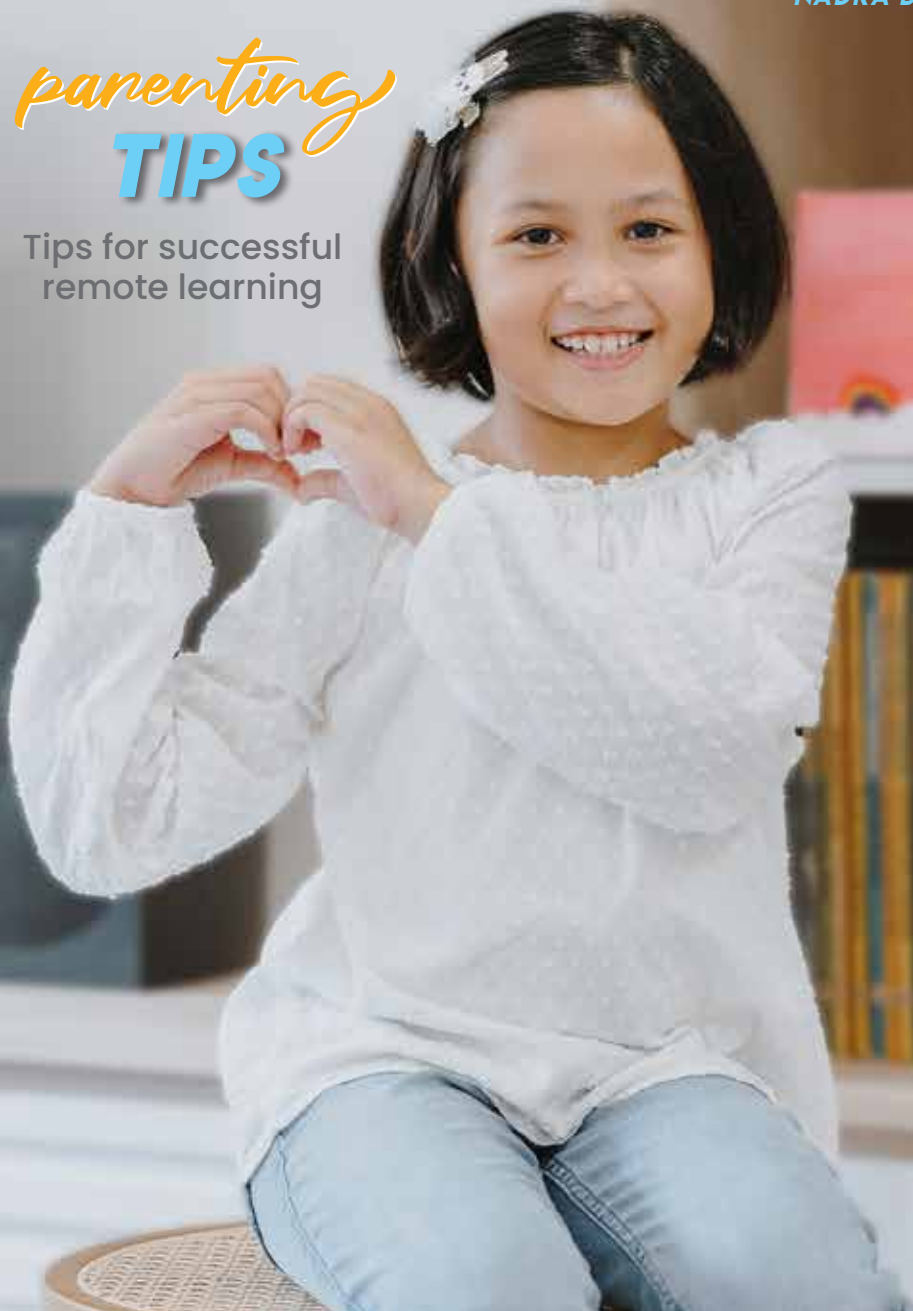
parenting TIPS

Tips for successful
remote learning

my life, my dream

PRAHLADA VARADAN VIJAYARAGHAVAN

NADRA BINTE MUHAMMAD FAIZ



KUMON



editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of Potential Magazine 2022.

As we continue to navigate the dynamic and rapidly evolving situation of COVID-19, we are committed to bringing you, students and parents, articles to support your learning journey with Kumon.

In this issue, we have some great sharing from two young Kumon students about their learning experience with Kumon. They are Nadra (9 years old) and Pahlada (8 years old). Together with their parents, they share how continuous learning with Kumon has benefited them beyond the classroom.

With the aim to optimise your child's learning experience with Kumon, My Kumon App is now available for download on iOS and Android smartphones.

Last but not least, remember to follow us on Facebook @KumonSingaporeOfficial and Instagram @Kumon.sg to receive up-to-date information about Kumon! Do feel free to get in touch with us at prmd@kumon.com.sg. We would love to hear your thoughts and any inspiring stories you may have!

For now, we wish the new year brings you new hopes and new opportunities.

Stay well,

Elphin
PR & Marketing, Kumon Singapore



ON THE COVER Jan-Jun 2022
Nadra



Have something to say?

Feel free to send us your thoughts on the newsletter!

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Tips for successful remote learning

8-year-old Pahlada is an avid reader who desires to accumulate facts about the world, such as dinosaurs, marine life, and particularly aeroplanes. Since enrolling in Kumon at four years old, Pahlada has been committed to striving for the best and growing academically and personally. He is currently working on computational skills with fractions, a Math concept far above his peers. With this, he is paving the way towards fulfilling his aspiration of starting an aviation company with a fleet of technologically-advanced aircrafts.

"I read a lot about aeroplanes during my free time and keep myself updated on the latest trends and happenings in the industry," shared Pahlada.

Ms Anjana credits that the Kumon Programmes have laid down a strong foundation of basic Maths and English skills, allowing Pahlada to expand beyond that.

"We have seen his mental calculations skills improved tremendously, which seems to be a result of constant practice. He has also developed a strong ability in sentence formation as well as reading comprehension, which we believe should be very helpful as he progresses to Primary 3 and beyond," shared Pahlada's mother.

Studying advanced material has allowed Pahlada to stay ahead of what is being taught at school. He is determined to learn more Maths and English. "I aim to finish all the levels in the Kumon programmes. I enjoy the satisfaction of mastering the respective topics and applying them in school. The trophies and medals that I receive upon completing each level and being ahead of my school grade give me great motivation."

Remote learning with Kumon

Pahlada's transition to remote learning was almost effortless. He expressed, "I didn't struggle as I was already in the habit of completing work independently. And I feel that remote learning sessions save a lot of travel time."

Having Pahlada started with Kumon at a reasonably young age, Ms Anjana could not be prouder of the achievements his boy made. The routine of daily practices has instilled in him a sense of self-discipline and good study habits, which will benefit him far beyond school. She encouraged parents to start their children with Kumon at an early age to get used to the daily study routine. She added, "Both parents and Kumon teachers need to work hand in hand for the child to reap the most benefit from the Kumon program."



Pahlada Varadan
Vijayaraghavan

8 years old

Student School Grade Level:

Primary 2

Subjects Enrolled in:

Maths - Starting Level:

5A - Reading Numbers

English - Starting Level:

6A - Familiar Sentence

Structures





Nadra is a meticulous, diligent and determined 9-year-old girl with several passions ranging from painting, drawing, reading mystery and adventure books, and playing the piano to cycling and rollerblading. To further develop her self-discipline and meet her constant thirst for new challenges, her parents enrolled her in the Kumon Maths Programme at six.

Nadra's parents recounted, "We came across a Kumon advert and went for the trial lessons after receiving positive feedback from a parent of Nadra's classmate, who started her son with Kumon since preschool. She claimed that her son would finish his worksheets independently each day."

The Kumon daily worksheets practices have significantly improved Nadra's mental calculation skills and given her the independence to complete her maths work on her own. Nadra is advancing at her own pace while also learning ahead of her peers. She has since grown into a confident, self-learner who is always willing to give things a try.

In the beginning, Nadra would always run to her family or her Kumon Instructor to ask for guidance on solving challenging questions. Now, she feels more confident in her own abilities and will attempt any challenging

problems by applying previously learnt concepts.

Nadra's parents added that studying ahead of her school grade has undoubtedly given her the intellectual advantage in the classroom as she can quickly grasp new concepts taught in school. She has also inculcated good study habits by taking the initiative to complete her daily worksheets without a need for reminders.

Nadra enjoys solving challenging concepts in Kumon as she feels a sense of pride whenever she masters them, which is a key motivator in keeping her going. Her favourite worksheets are levels "E", "F" and "G".

"After a few years of being challenged by numbers and puzzling concepts, I'm proud to say that Kumon has helped me gain the confidence to figure questions out on my own. Each repeated practice enables me to understand the concept thoroughly, and now, I can complete my homework faster, with better accuracy," said Nadra.

Nadra's confidence in her own abilities has also allowed her to help her peers in school. "Kumon has helped me get well ahead in math. I often help my friends in class if I see them having difficulty completing the school work so that they are not left too far behind."



Nadra is leaving her options open for now and is considering becoming a dentist or doctor in future. She revealed, "I am going to study hard, especially in Maths and Science to achieve my goal."

Nadra's parents credit Kumon for shaping her into a successful student with perseverance, self-discipline and a positive learning attitude. After seeing how Nadra has benefitted from the programme, her parents subsequently enrolled her younger siblings, Irfan and Ilhan, in Kumon.

"We would like to see our children build confidence and to be able to help others," they shared.

Remote learning with Kumon

Aside from the initial teething issues of setting up the individual devices for three children, Nadra and her seven-year-old brother, Irfan, found it easy to transit to remote learning with Kumon. As for 5-year-old Ilhan, the youngest sibling, a little supervision was required to ensure he remained in front of the video device.

With the flexibility of remote learning, Nadra enjoys learning at her convenience. "I like that remote learning sessions can be held anywhere, even when I'm out with my family."

Furthermore, Nadra's parents found that remote learning has been an excellent opportunity to teach their children to adapt to changes. Despite having their preference for in-centre classes, they are pleased with the efforts put forward by Kumon to remain "connected" to students in the most feasible way.

When asked about a piece of advice to give to other Kumon parents who have just started the Kumon learning journey with their children, Nadra's parents shared, "Be patient and trust the process. Keep on encouraging your children and do it together with them. The first few weeks will be the hardest as you establish the routine for both you and your children, but it will get better as all of you move forward."

Nadra Binte Muhammad Faiz

9 years old

Student School Grade Level:
Primary 3

Subjects Enrolled in:
Kumon Maths Programme

Subject starting level:
3A - Adding 1

Subject current level:
Simplifying Algebraic Expressions



As the world eases Covid restrictions, many of us couldn't help looking back at how this crisis has transformed many things around us, and sped up the adoption of digital technologies by many years. Education was one such sector which took a quantum leap under the new shifts.



When the crisis forced schools and enrichment centres to close their doors and move classes online, all students were also forced to become online learners. Kumon, like many other education providers also embarked on remote learning journey.

The Kumon Method is a learning method that is designed for home study, and aims to foster independence in students. Hence, our dedicated instructors are still able to provide online instructions to students learning at home, just like how they do it in the centres.

One key strength of this hybrid study model is that, instructors can observe how students study at home, and grasp how parents engage with their children. Through this instructors are able to work together with parents to enhance the quality of their child's home learning.

Many parents may see this sudden shift as a watershed moment for remote learning and education. How would the conventional classroom learning be like from now on?

With this best hybrid study model, students are able to enjoy and continue their learning in centre or at home; by combining both online with physical lessons.

Unlike a conventional classroom whereby an instructor stands in front of the class to teach, Kumon's instructions are individualised. Every student learns a level that is "just-right" for them, and at their own pace. This way they are allowed to navigate through the level at their own pace, without the need to wait for their peers or feel pressured to catch up with the rest of the class. This way, not only do they gain better understanding on the concept, they also become more confident as they are able to learn the concepts without being taught.

An ability which Kumon develops is self-learning. The students learn from Kumon's small-step worksheets, which are designed to help our children learn on their own, in small incremental difficulty. Hints and examples are also included at the start of a new learning focus to help our children understand the concept better, and to refer to when they run into challenges. Through this learning process, not only do students grasp the concepts better, they develop self-learning ability that transcends beyond the confines of the Kumon Centres.

Making the best use of both conventional classroom and home-based remote learning, Kumon can continue to discover the potential of each individual, and develop his or her ability to the maximum; no matter where their learning takes place in centre or at home.

Turning Challenges into Opportunities



Instructors' Quotes

As the paradigm shifts from in-Centre learning to online learning, Instructors and students have had to grapple with new technology. Find out what the Instructors overcome the new challenge of remote learning, and how they think it might have been beneficial to them and their students.



“ We are living in unprecedented times that demand a different approach in the way we deliver our knowledge. Thanks to technology advancement, remote learning has been made possible especially when the pandemic is still ravaging all around the world.



Ms Julia Chua
Kumon Malaysia

We try our best in providing the best remote learning method efficiently through utilizing synchronous and asynchronous learning so that our students are able to receive it in a safe and conducive environment. Once guidance is delivered and received correctly and efficiently, it can enhance a student's performance as well as motivation. Other than that, remote learning also helps to promote certain life skills such as time management, multi-tasking, responsibility and independent learning skills which are arguably crucial to exams and later life success.

Amidst the drawbacks of remote learning, we at Kumon are always on hand to help with any remote learning needs through our dedicated team of Instructor and tutors.

“ I think that Kumon online study is a great opportunity for students to develop themselves continuously towards their study goals through close observation, guidance and compliment given by instructors. In addition, Kumon instructors can promptly communicate with parents to help support their children in the same direction.



Ms Siriluck Sreesai
Kumon Thailand

“ Most of my students are back learning in the centre. However, I still offer one or two online classes per week for children studying from home. It's important to show flexibility in our instruction methods to keep children engaged with their learning and to provide parents with options. Over the last twenty months we have seen how online instruction is effective: students can maintain adequate progress, have their questions addressed, and still have regular and meaningful contact with the Instructor. This hybrid model provides more options for me as the business owner to develop and grow my centre.



Andrea Rodriguez
Kumon Australia and New Zealand

“ Taking over a centre when classes had to shift online was tough initially, as my students and I were still getting to know one another. Communication with the students was more challenging, especially with the reserved and less outspoken ones. But children are more adaptable than adults realise. My students began warming up to the new environment sooner than I expected. I have not only seen them grow more and more independent every week but also become more resilient and less reliant on the teachers. With patience, I believe every child has the potential to be developed into a strong self-learner



Ms Natasha Leow
Kumon Singapore



The Annual Advanced Students Forum (ASF)



Mr Toru Kumon, our late founder, believed that human potential is boundless. Thus, he created the Advanced Student Honour Roll (ASHR) to reflect the academic progress of individual students who go through self-learning according to the Kumon Method.

Every October, we celebrate the effort, achievement and potential of our most advanced students in the Kumon Mathematics, English, Chinese and Japanese programmes with the Advanced Student Forum. The primary objective is to motivate these students to pursue learning beyond their current abilities.

In ASF 2021, we had a total of 274 students studying who were studying five years ahead of the Kumon International Standard (KIS). And, 94 students had completed our Kumon programmes. All of these were accomplished during the pandemic.

Amongst the Completers, the youngest were two Primary Two students, with one completed the English programme and another completed the Mathematics in the Japanese programme. And for the 5-years advanced, the youngest awardee was a four-year-old student, receiving the award in Mathematics.

In light of the Covid-19 situation, a specially dedicated microsite was created to commemorate the achievements of the brightest of Kumon students -> <https://kumon.sg/asfkumon/>.

On the microsite, we unveiled videos of two Kumon Completers sharing how they stayed motivated and persevered throughout their learning journey with Kumon. And a virtual message board featuring all the congratulatory messages of appreciation and encouragement for all the awardees.

My Kumon App

My Kumon App is now available for all Kumon families to connect with Kumon learning anytime and anywhere. Download the app to start accessing the Answer books and Audio Materials*.

Available on both the App Store and Google Play store.

Play Store

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kumon.mykumon>

App Store

<https://apps.apple.com/sg/app/my-kumon/id1501794960>

*Audio Materials (Level 7A to 2A150), only for English programme.



TIPS for successful remote learning



Establish a productive learning environment

Having toys, television, or mobile devices around might make it harder for children to focus on their task at hand. Consider choosing an area that's free from common distractions.

Create the best space

Children need a designated workspace that's comfortable. Create a feeling of belonging by getting your child to personalise their learning space.

Follow the routine

Following a routine will help children transition to remote learning more easily. Our children will learn to follow the routine for the remote learning and homework. It doesn't have to be peculiar to Kumon, following the routine will help them to transition to remote learning for school as well.

Give encouragement

Children might feel apprehensive as they transition to a new paradigm to learn. Getting an encouragement or reassurance that they are doing well will help to build confidence in our children and help to ease their anxiety as they transition to remote learning.

Communicate with your Instructor

Share any thoughts or feedback about your child's remote learning experience, any habits that you might have noticed from your Instructor.

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