

It is perfectly normal for many children to feel anxious or to show resistance when starting any new learning routine. “Phase-In Period” is the initial transition period when the main focus is for the child to become comfortable with the new learning environment while the teachers gradually create connection and bonding with each child.

Please remember that every child is unique and there is no one single magical method that will work for all children. While some children take little time in transition, some may take longer. To help your child have a positive experience in transitioning, it is very important for the grownups to stay positive and patient. Your partnership and trust in the guidance of our teaching team is crucial in having a smooth and successful phase-in period.

For safety reasons, a grownup should always be present in the same room with your child throughout the whole duration of the class, but our goal is for your child to attend the class online independently with minimal assistance from a grownup. Assistance from a grownup should only be necessary during hands-on project time or technical difficulties.

What can you do to help your child?

- **DESIGNATED** quiet space for class. This is the most important first step! An ideal space has minimal distractions (i.e. no toys) and good lighting for your child to see the screen clearly. Tell your child that this space is her “home classroom” where she attends Ya-Ya classes.
- **FAVORITE** object that makes your child feel happy and secure to accompany your child during class. This could be a favorite stuffed animal buddy, a blanket, or a favorite toy.
- **STAY** with your child in the first few classes. Show your child how to mute/unmute and navigate the platform. Your close presence in the beginning will give your child a sense

of security. As your child grows more comfortable and independent, you can gradually decrease your time sitting next to your child and increase your distance from the designated space during class time.

- **ENCOURAGE** independence but remind your child that you are always there to support, even if you are watching from a distance in the same room.
- **PARTICIPATE** together with your child in activities. Some children will feel very shy in the beginning to participate in any activity. Some may even cry or run away. Please do not show any frustrations if your child refuses to participate. Stay calm and show your child that you are following the teacher's instructions to sing, to move, or repeat the vocabulary after the teacher. The goal is for your child to observe you and hopefully model your behavior.
- **FOCUS** on the positive behavior. Praise and praise more! Children in the early years need a lot of attention and encouragement to develop a sense of confidence and gain independence. Praise any positive behavior. Some examples:



- I am so proud of you that you sang with the teacher! (哇！你在跟著老師一起唱歌嗎？你真棒！)
- Good job in following the teacher's instructions! (剛才看見你在專心聽老師說話，真棒，給你拍拍手！)
- I'm so impressed that you repeat the vocabulary after the teacher! (我聽到你有跟著老師一起說單詞，太厲害了！)
- It is OK to run around. Good job in coming back here to sit down. (你可以起來走一走，動一動。我看到你有回來坐好，很好喔！)



Common Scenarios that you may encounter with your child

- *My child does not want to sit down in front of the screen.*
 - It is normal for some children to show resistance with something new. Some may get up to run around, or even hide and just peek from the corner. The new way of learning, the new teacher, all can create overwhelming feelings for a child. Always acknowledge first that we understand their feelings and anxieties.
 - Tell your children calmly that it is OK to take your time. Keep the screen on and the speaker on audible volume (loud enough for your child to hear even if your child is across the room), so that your child can still hear the teacher talking on the screen. The teacher will continue to talk to your child. Give your child time and a chance to come back to the class in her/her own time and pace.
 - Even when a child pretends that she/he is not listening or interested, our past experience showed that most children are still paying attention. All these behaviors are normal. Some children just take time to process the information, and each child chooses a different way to process all the information. Our teachers will be patient and the phase-in period will be at a gentle pace.
 - When a child is having a particularly challenging time, we will have a teacher to work with your child 1-on-1 during class time (using a breakout room technology) to provide extra support, or schedule a 1-on-1 during non-class time.
- *My child just stares at the screen and no interaction with teacher*
 - Some children may stare at the screen, act bored, or simply refuse to reply to the teacher. Do not yet feel anxious and pressure your child to talk. It will only create negative insecure feelings. If your child is not ready to talk, please stay calm and be patient. It is already a success that your child is willing to sit quietly, watch the teacher on screen and listen to the teacher talk. Our experience shows that most children are paying attention even when they show no reaction or reply. Some



children will often surprise you with how much they know some weeks later, showing that all along they have been listening to the teachers and quietly absorbing information in their own time.

- *My child keeps losing focus and just wants to get up to move around all the time.*
 - It is perfectly normal for children at this early childhood age to want to move around! Even in an in-person classroom, many children can only sit quietly in their chairs for a short period of time. This is why we will have mini-breaks, as needed. It is OK for a child to want to get up to use the toilet, get water, or even get a snack. The teacher will continue to observe the needs of each child and try to bring the focus of the child back to the class.

- *I am worried that my child is not engaged because my child cannot understand Mandarin.*
 - At this young age, it is often not a language issue, as our teacher is very good at communicating with a lot of visual aids and gestures, such that it should be easy to understand even for children whose first language is not Mandarin. Very often, it is because the child is showing resistance to the new learning environment. Again, our teacher will continue to observe and update the parents if your child needs extra support. Please always contact the teacher first if you are worried and express your concerns. Our education support team will work with your family to provide better support if needed.

- What if my child is having a bad day and misses the class?
 - Class will be recorded and kept up to 2 weeks only. Contact your teacher directly to watch the recording.

*THANK YOU for your partnership, patience, and trust
in the guidance of our Ya-Ya teaching team!*

