

N M  
S  
National Museum  
of Singapore



the  
MORE

we PLAY



TOGETHER!

A PLAYBOOK FOR THE  
YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART



Recommended for ages 5-12



THIS PLAYBOOK belongs To:

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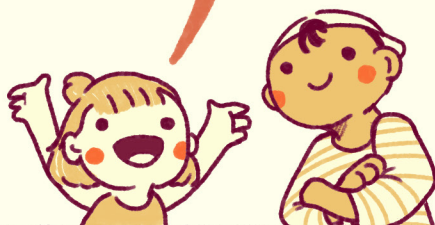
***The More We Play Together!*** – A Playbook for the Young and Young at Heart has been commissioned on the occasion of the National Museum of Singapore's exhibition *The More We Get Together: Singapore's Playgrounds 1930 – 2030*. The exhibition attempts to tell the story of Singapore's playgrounds from the past and present to the future. What do playgrounds mean to us as a society? How have they evolved to meet our needs? What are the kinds of playgrounds we want for our future and how can we build them? This playbook encourages families and kids to play together while exploring the exhibition.

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Don't you love going to the playground? It's a place where you can run around and play, make new friends and enjoy the great outdoors!



Join us on a walk through Singapore's different playgrounds over the years, and find your favourite playground!



Did you guess that the title of the exhibition is inspired from "The More We Get Together"? It was a traditional British folk song taken from a 1679 Viennese tune by Marx Augustin. The song has since become a popular nursery song internationally and in Singapore, where it has been translated into Malay, Chinese and Tamil.



## LET'S SING ALOUD!

THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER:

Oh, the more we get together,  
together, together,  
Oh, the more we get together,  
the happier we'll be.  
For your friends are my  
friends, and my friends are  
your friends.  
Oh, the more we get together,  
the happier we'll be.

BILA KITA BERKUMPUL:

Bila kita berkumpul,  
Berkumpul, berkumpul,  
Bila kita berkumpul  
Bersuka ria.  
Kawanku kawanmu,  
kawanmu kawanku.  
Bila kita berkumpul  
Bersuka ria.

当我们同在一起:

dāng wǒ men tóng zài yī qǐ

当我们同在一起 在一起 在一起  
dāng wǒ men tóng zài yī qǐ zài yī qǐ zài yī qǐ

当我们同在一起 其快乐无比  
dāng wǒ men tóng zài yī qǐ qí kuài lè  
wú bǐ

你对我笑嘻嘻 我对你笑哈哈  
nǐ duì zhe wǒ xiào xī xī wǒ duì zhe nǐ  
xiào hā hā

当我们同在一起 其快乐无比  
dāng wǒ men tóng zài yī qǐ qí kuài lè  
wú bǐ

நாம் ஒன்று கூடியிருந்தால்  
NAAM ONDRU KOODI YERUNTHAAL:

நாம் ஒன்று கூடியிருந்தால்  
கூடியிருந்தால்  
கூடியிருந்தால்

Naam Ondru koodi Yerunthaal  
koodi Yerunthaal, koodi  
Yerunthaal

நாம் ஒன்று கூடியிருந்தால்  
மகிழ்ச்சி அடைவோம்  
Naam Ondru koodi Yerunthaal  
Magilchi Adaivoom

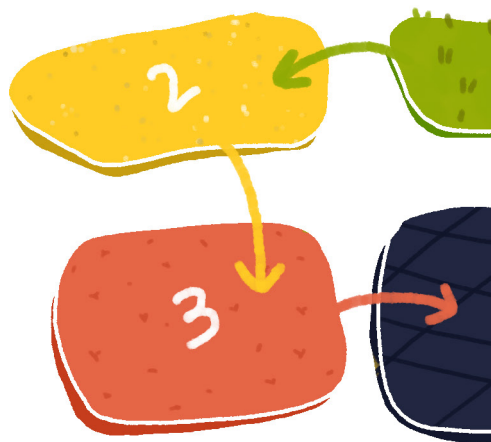
என் நண்பன் உன் நண்பன்  
உன் நண்பன் என் நண்பன்  
Yen Nanban Unn Nanban  
Unn Nanban Yen Nanban

நாம் ஒன்று கூடியிருந்தால்  
மகிழ்ச்சி அடைவோம்  
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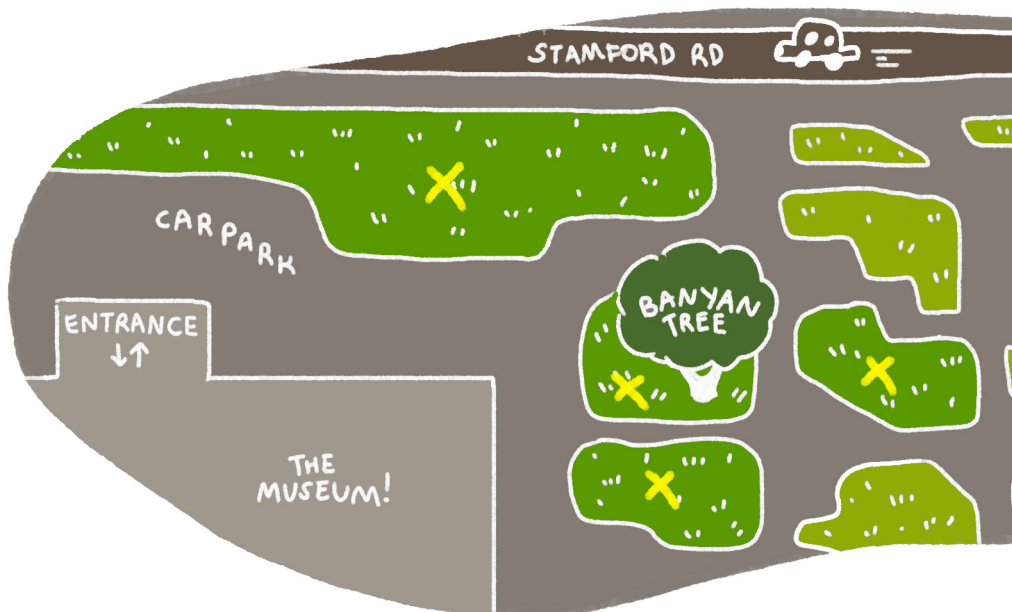


## GETTING AROUND: INSIDE MAP

1. Singapore's Early Playgrounds (1920s - 1960s)
2. Playing in the Neighbourhood: HDB Playgrounds (1974 - 1993)
3. Making Fun and Safe Playgrounds a Business: The Rise of Singapore's Proprietary Playgrounds
4. Our Playgrounds, Our Future



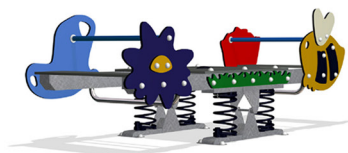
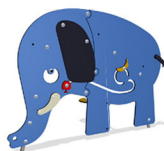
## GETTING AROUND: OUTSIDE MAP





## PLAY OUTSIDE!

Can you FIND all the animals?



Kompan play equipment, Courtesy of Playpoint, Singapore

# SINGAPORE'S EARLY PLAYGROUNDS

(1920s to 1960s)



In the early 1900s, Singapore had very few playgrounds. You had to find spaces to play in, such as big open fields, open drains and alleyways, or anywhere else you could find!



Source: Children playing with water from a standpipe in Geylang Serai, Singapore 1960s, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



## GAMES WE PLAY AT PLAYGROUNDS

At the playground, you can play many different games such as hide-and-seek or five stones! Can you FIND these toys and NAME them?



G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Unique to Singapore and Malaysia. It is shaped like a berembang fruit. You have to keep your gasing spinning for the longest time, or knock other players' gasing out of a circle drawn on the ground to win!



S \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_

A game played with woven rattan balls. You have to kick the ball over a net, without letting it touch the ground or using your hands. It's hard work!



One of the games children loved to play in the past was hopscotch. Do you play this game with your friends? How do you play hopscotch?

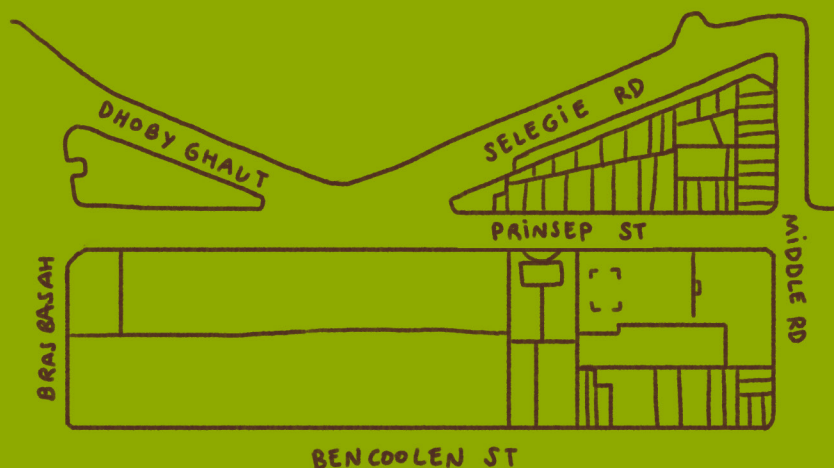
## CAN YOU FIND SINGAPORE'S FIRST PUBLIC PLAYGROUND?



In the 1920s, some people wrote in to the newspapers to ask for public parks and playgrounds that would be open to everyone.

A group of businessmen came together to buy some play equipment and built a public playground in 1928.

FIND the first public playground and SHADE or COLOR its location on the map of Dhoby Ghaut playground!



Source: Map of Dhoby Ghaut playground 1956 Survey Department Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



## VISITING SINGAPORE'S EARLY PLAYGROUNDS

Built in the 1930s, Katong Park is one of the oldest parks in Singapore. It had swings, a see-saw and a slide, and was near the beach. Wu Sijing and Ismail Taha used to visit Katong Park with their friends and family. They loved to play on the swing and slides!

Can you FIND Wu Sijing or Ismail Taha?



Wu Sijing on the slide at Katong Park  
1950s  
Photograph  
National Museum of Singapore  
Collection



Photo of the Taha Family at Katong Park,  
Courtesy of Mr Ismail Taha and Ms Fuziah Taha

Ismail and his siblings would picnic with their parents, eating sandwiches and nasi lemak. What kind of food would you eat at the park?



## PLAYING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: HDB PLAYGROUNDS (1974-1993)

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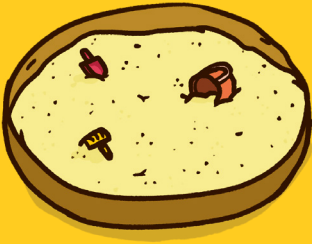
As Singapore grew into a young nation, it began to build high-rise homes to house all its different people. Playgrounds were important parts of new neighbourhoods. They were where you could meet to play with your neighbours but still be near home!

While children played together, their families would often chat with one another and become friends in the process, making the neighbourhood a cosy and loving home for all!



Photo of Jonathan Goh and his brother and cousins at a playground, 1987,  
Courtesy of Mr Jonathan Goh

## TIME TO PLAY IN THE SAND!



"I remember digging a hole in the sandpit and sprinkling sand over newspaper to conceal the hole. I would run upstairs, wait for a kid to fall into the pit and then I'd water bomb him."

- Tong Yee, 2017

Ask your parents about their favourite playground memories and the naughty pranks they played!

Singapore's playgrounds were built with many different types of materials. What can you FIND in the sandbox? DRAW what you find in the sandbox and describe how they feel!

This feels \_\_\_\_\_

This feels \_\_\_\_\_

This feels \_\_\_\_\_

This feels \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYGROUND DESIGNS

Many playgrounds were inspired by things you could find around you every day such as fruits, or your favourite folktales or nursery rhymes!



### STORY TIME!



Sang kancil is a smart mouse deer from Malay folklore who finds itself chased by animals that want to eat him. However, he always cleverly manages to escape them, outwitting a big, bad crocodile or ferocious tiger like in the Kancil Playground in Woodlands!

DRAW your favourite animal as a slide!

## SINGAPORE'S PLAYGROUND DESIGNERS

One of Singapore's most well-known playground designers is Mr Khor Ean Ghee. Mr Khor worked for the Housing Development Board (HDB) when he came up with playground designs based on animals and folktales.



Mr Khor Ean Ghee at Dakota Crescent Dove Playground, 2017, Courtesy of National Museum of Singapore

Can you SPOT the blueprints (technical drawings) of Mr Khor's designs in the gallery? Blueprints provide important details for the workers who build the playgrounds.

Some interesting HDB playgrounds were also designed by Ms Chew Chek Peng. She even designed a playground based on a famous nursery rhyme! Can you GUESS what this nursery rhyme was?



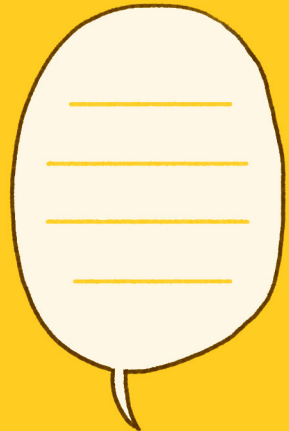
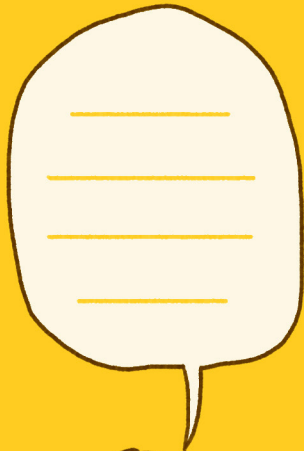
## PLAY TIME!

Playgrounds are exciting places where many adventures and friendships await you.

What else can you say  
at the playground to  
make friends with other  
children?

FILL IN the speech bubbles!

let's play  
together!





# MAKING FUN AND SAFE PLAYGROUNDS

Singaporeans love playgrounds. Did you know that some people believe that Singapore has the most number of playgrounds for a country of its size? Playgrounds are exciting places. There are many different types of adventures you can find and new friends you can make!

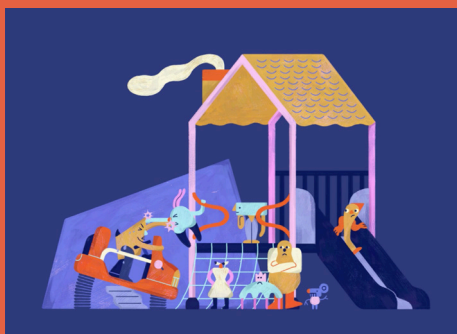
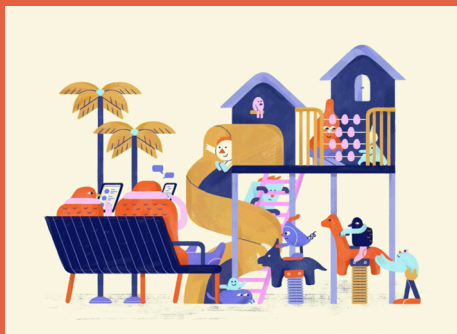
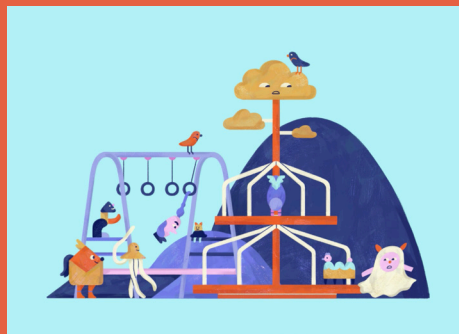
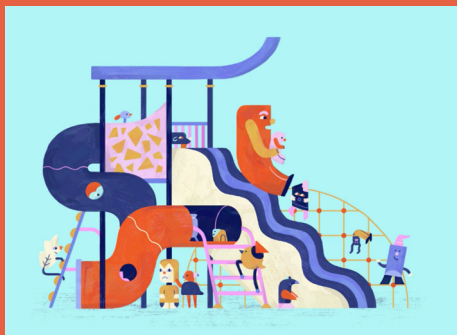


Playgrounds are fun places but we can hurt ourselves if we are not careful! For example, playgrounds with sandpits sometimes had hidden litter or broken glass, so sandpits were gradually replaced with rubber floors.

## LET'S KEEP OUR PLAYGROUNDS SAFE!

We all have a role to play in making our playgrounds fun, adventurous and safe places.

CIRCLE the (scenes in the) pictures that show children playing in an unsafe manner at playgrounds.



Images by Esther Goh and GSM Project

# OUR PLAYGROUNDS, OUR FUTURE

.....

What makes a playground perfect?

Does it need a slide? A fountain? Trees? Puppies? Your best friend or friends with you?

Should it be built in the sky? Or in a forest?



HEY PARENTS!



Talk to your child about your most memorable experience at the playground when you were young. Ask them about what kinds of playgrounds they like and what kind of playgrounds they think will be built in the future.

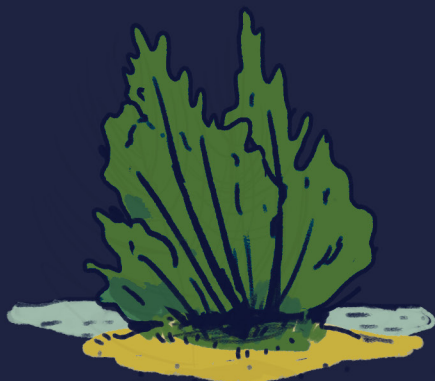
## THE DYNAMIC LINES OF OUR NEST

This is one of Singapore's first art installations specially commissioned for toddlers. Relax in the seats and watch as the installation grows and changes before your eyes!

Created by French artist Matali Crasset, the artwork is inspired by the young Australian pine tree (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) that grows along our coast.



- "Let's play I-Spy!" Get your kids to describe what they see around them.
- "What do you think of when you see this artwork? How does it make you feel?"
- "What happens to this artwork when you turn its handle?"
- "Do the moving coloured ropes make you think of a tree swaying in the wind?"



# The More We Get Together

Singapore's Playgrounds  
1930 – 2030

20 April – 30 September 2018 | Free admission

From the iconic dragon playgrounds of the 1970s to today's modern, inclusive and community-built versions, playgrounds have played a part in our collective experience of growing up in Singapore. This April to September, the National Museum of Singapore invites you to relive those memories and think about our city's future playgrounds at *The More We Get Together: Singapore's Playgrounds 1930 – 2030*.

Tread on different playground surfaces and examine the original blueprints of the iconic mosaic playgrounds. Discover how we have defined our playgrounds, not only in terms of physical boundaries and equipment but also in terms of their place and meaning in society. You can also hear from people who have built (and are building) these playgrounds, design your own, and contribute to the building of Singapore's very first playground built for a museum – right at the National Museum of Singapore!



Presented by

**N S M**  
**National Museum of Singapore**

An institution of



**National Heritage Board**

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design: Joy Ho

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