



A day in the life of a trainee EP- Singapore style

by 08-11 trainee Vivien Yang

(pictured here joining one of our taught UCL sessions on Video Skype)

The day begins with me getting a good work-out trudging up the stairs of the Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) building at Grange Road. The Psychological Services Branch is housed in an old four-storey school building in downtown Singapore. As the legend goes, some architect forgot all about us when designing the other swanky new MOE building - so here we are. Although the cracking floor tiles and the lack of a lift have been a source of many “improvement suggestions” that haven’t quite materialised, MOE’s Grange Road campus oozes old-world charm and is dotted with all sorts of exotic fruit trees (e.g. rambutan and durian). We are also proud guardians of a full-sized running track and a swimming pool, albeit one filled only with dead leaves except when the tropical monsoon rains arrive.



With the sun beating down on us at a cool 34 degrees, there are sighs of relief as people enter the air-conditioned office in their smart, sweat-soaked work attire. Halfway around the globe from the UK, we too are moaning about the weather, usually about how our summer never ends and our



While I get to do the fun bit of administering the ADOS (ie playing with the child), my supervisor gets the enviable multiple tasks of taking observation notes of the child, and of me, while simultaneously manoeuvring the video camera as the child prances around. We code the child's behaviours individually and then discuss our codings to check for consensus.



After the school visit, I spend the rest of my day writing up consultation notes and preparing a proposal for the dyslexia team. Before long it is 6pm and at the wise advice of my lovely co-workers to “go home and get a life”, I end the day Singapore style – dining at an al fresco food centre aptly named Gluttons Bay at the Marina Bay (check out the picture!).