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# BUILDING BRAINS THROUGH MATHS

**The emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving will create confident youngsters who will grow to become capable adults.**

A recent survey conducted by UPM's alumni centre, found that the top characteristics sought by potential bosses are critical thinking skills, followed by English language proficiency (*The Star*, May 13, 2008).

An earlier report revealed that Singapore was a role model to the world in teaching maths. According to the article, the United States has implemented the Singapore method of teaching mathematics. The emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving and creativity has made this the world's top method of teaching maths.

The BrainBuilder Maths Enrichment Programme employs the same strategies as adopted by Singapore.

Author, Dr Fong Ho Kheong, was directly involved in introducing these methodologies in Singapore, and over 85% of Singapore schools use Dr Fong's textbooks.

This is further reflected in BrainBuilder students' achievements in the 2007 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) World Exam, conducted by the University of New South Wales. One student was awarded a gold medal, another achieved Global Top 1% and many more were in the Global Top 10% and Global Top 20%.

ICAS emphasises knowledge, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills. This is the basis for the globally recognised "Modern Maths" curriculum, on which the BrainBuilder Maths Programme is structured.

The emphasis in today's learning culture must be on thinking and the use of the mind to find solutions to emerging problems. Students must be taught the means through which they can maximise their creativity and capacity for innovation. The more creative you are, the higher your rate of achievement.



Pictures showing students having a ball while improving maths skills at BrainBuilder.

BrainBuilder will soon be launching Maths Programmes for kindergarten and secondary school students. Their current Maths Programme was developed for primary school pupils. With the additional modules, they can now cater to the needs of children from the ages of five (kindergarten) to 15 (Form 3).

Each child has his individual stages of growth. BrainBuilder's well-qualified instructors are actually personal coaches, and not mere administrators.

They are trained to recognise this individualised growth pattern and "tailor-make" the delivery accordingly. The objective is to work towards bringing out the best in your child and maximising his potential.

Children enjoy learning at BrainBuilder as their approach transforms maths from boring, rote-learning exercises into stimulating, fun and out-of-the-box activities. This enhances a child's confidence and makes the learning curve fun and engaging.

Dr Fong is currently Associate Professor and Head of Mathematics and Science at the Emirates College for Advanced Education in Abu Dhabi.

To find out how BrainBuilder can help your child enjoy maths and build a better foundation for his future, call BrainBuilder at 03- 5631 1235, 012-681 1235, or visit [www.brainbuilder.com.my](http://www.brainbuilder.com.my).