

# Learning & Teaching @EdUHK Festival

Excellence in Learning and Teaching in the Digital Era

2019  
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## Teaching Development Grants Projects (2018-19)

PROJECT  
1

### Hooking struggling readers with books they CAN and WANT to read: Teacher-made e-books

#### Principal project supervisor:

Ms. LEE Ching Lam Jessica (ELE)

#### Co-supervisors:

Dr. YUAN Rui Eric (ELE)

Dr. YU Boahua Lucy (ELE)

Ms. CHAN Ka Yin Clairine (ELE)

Dr. CHAN Hing Yee Letty (ELE)

Dr. TAYLOR, Timothy William (ELE)

Mr. WANG Tianchong Alex (C&I)

#### Objectives

This project sought to address two challenges in the training of preservice English teachers - (1) how to better prepare them to support young struggling readers and (2) how to provide opportunities for them to explore new technology tools to enhance the teaching of early reading skills. This project adopted an experiential approach to learning. Students were given opportunities to actively learn about ways to support children's literacy development through practical application and continuous reflection.

#### Implementation—six phases

1

A systematic study of children's e-books to consider criteria for evaluating e-books for use with young struggling readers

2

Providing training workshops on:

- Appreciating e-books that are appropriate and appealing to struggling readers
- Illustrating with iPad and Apple Pencil
- Making e-books with Book Creator
- Teaching struggling readers with e-books: principles and strategies

3

Recruited students developed e-books and lesson plans under project supervisors' guidance

4

Trial lessons in two local primary schools

5

Evaluating the project by examining its impact on recruited students and potential of teacher-made e-books in supporting young struggling readers

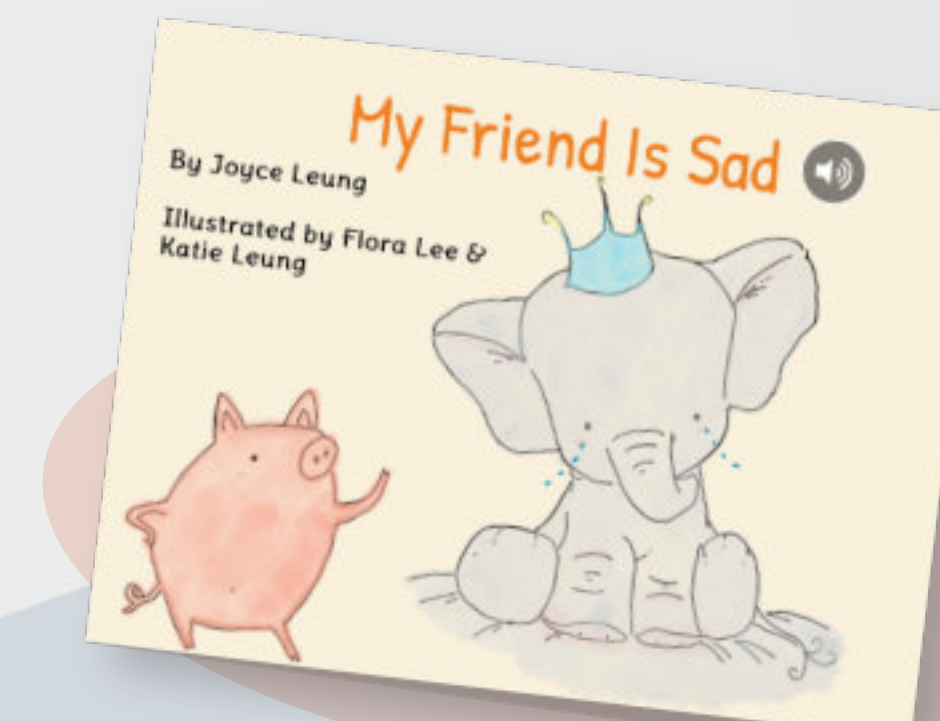
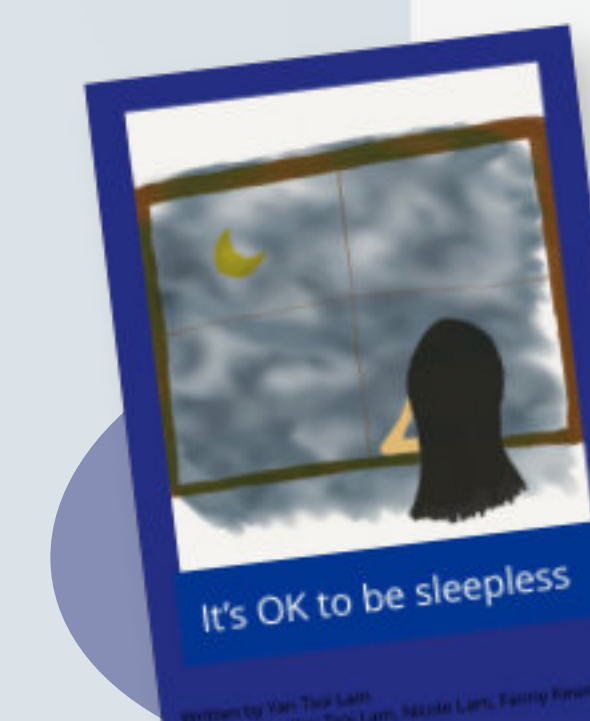
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Using project findings to inform e-book design and identify effective teaching practices



#### Findings and recommendations

- The benefits of teacher-made e-books include improving endurance and motivation to read due to improved reading speed and comprehension and promoting reading for pleasure, particularly when an e-book is designed to encourage some key facets of reading engagement, such as encouraging a child's active involvement and providing an individualised reading experience.
- It is not easy to design a book that is both accessible for and enjoyable to struggling readers. A good e-book is not just a print book transferred to screen. Preservice teachers need to actively explore new teaching and learning possibilities offered by various digital tools. Additionally, using technology does not automatically enhance one's teaching. When using a digital text in the classroom, it is important to consider how well it can be used to model, guide or encourage good literacy practices.



Scan this QR code to view an e-book created by our recruited students.