

## RAINBOW Group Report

IIInd term (2012-13)

*All colours in me, they merge as white*

*Across the sky, I bring wonder and delight*

Just as the rainbow brings wonder and delight with it, the 'rainbow' group too has brought joy to the school. Being the youngest group of the school, with 3+ as the average age of the group, the young toddlers can be seen frolicking, laughing and playing around. Their tiny hands and feet are always busy - jumping, running and playing around. The total number of children in this group is 16, and these children have been coming to the school for the last six months.

Initially all the children could only speak in their local dialect, but over the last six months, barring a few, all others have started understanding and speaking in Hindi too.



### **I adhere to a routine**

The day for these children starts at 8 am at the school with a nutritious breakfast. The entire group then moves to the hand pump where the group didi's help them to clean themselves. At 9am the group activity is initiated with the chanting of '*astoma satgamaya*'. This is followed by a circle time with the children where some sharing and singing takes place. By the time this is over, the children are hungry again, and are given a second round of breakfast at 10. After this, depending on the interest of the children, they have a dancing, a singing or a story session. They also play with 'Teddy' the big toy bear who is a friend to the entire group. A movie slot has been designated at 11 am, once a week. This is followed by playing in the sand pit. Lunch for this youngest group is served at 12 in the afternoon after which the children head home at 12.30.



### **My sharp taste buds like sweet, salt, sour and spicy too!**

Considering that the rainbow group has three meals in the school, care is taken to ensure that the food they get is wholesome, nutritious and clean. The children have chappati's, rice, dal, vegetables and salad. Since these children are very small they are yet to develop taste for certain vegetables. Potatoes are a favourite across the group. The children also enjoy mango squash, *neembu pani* and milk.

### ***I like to keep myself and my surroundings neat and tidy***

Since the school has always laid an emphasis on good health and hygiene, training these children was our biggest challenge as none of them were even toilet trained. However, in the last six months the two group teachers with some help from two 'nanis' ( a local name for women who help with regular chores) were able to train these children. Now the children have been trained in brushing their teeth, bathing and washing their hands with soap before having breakfast. After having digested their breakfast the children are taken for a bath to the hand pump. They have been taught to soap themselves and some can bathe on their own, with the group didi always around to help. They also change into a fresh set of clothes every day. All of this is now done effortlessly.

### ***My hands and fingers, legs and feet, eyes and ears, all work in perfect coordination***

This young group is an active lot, and a lot of emphasis is laid on the development of their motor skills.

As growing children they are encouraged to explore and experience, using their entire body and mind. Various activities are designed in such a manner that they use their hands, feet, legs and fingers.

Kneading the dough and making *chappatis* is not just a wonderful way of developing fine motor skills but is also something that the children love. With it they also learn to work together and share.

Gardening is another activity that these children do in the school and it helps three ways –first to develop their eye-hand coordination while they pluck greens in the garden. Picking it up in a basket, washing it and then helping didi to cook it is all done in an atmosphere of togetherness. Playing with clay is another favourite with this toddler group. It helps develop their fine motor skills and also strengthens their hand muscles and fingers.



### ***I enjoy being with others as well as learning new things***

Being very young, special attention is given to the socio-emotional development of these children. The group didi's pay attention to every single detail and has resulted in a great bond between the two. Within the group too, most of the activities are done together, and this encourages sharing ,comforting each other and at times simply being with each other.



### **I am fit and really agile**

Full of energy and enthusiasm, the 'rainbow' group is very active. Keeping pace with them sometimes can be quite a task. They jump, dig, mop, climb –all with complete ease. These three year olds can jump from different heights – both high and low. In the school garden the children like to dig sometimes either with the gardening equipment, but most of the times with twigs. The group is very interested in digging. Songs like 'you put your left hand in' add fun to exercising.

### **I am creative and appreciate the creativity in others too**

The school encourages creativity in all children. With a strong belief that each child is unique, each one of them has the creative freedom to express himself or herself in their own unique way. Activities in the school have been devised in such a manner that it helps the child to explore his/her creativity. This young group is helped with drawing, painting, playing with clay, beads etc. The school also encourages the use of indigenous material. Emphasis is also laid on reuse and recycling of material. Very often the blank sheets from notebooks that have been written on, are used for drawing. The children also draw on the floor with a chalk. Rubbing small pieces of bricks is primarily used to develop motor skills, but the red powder is also used to fill up drawings made by the children on the floor.

The Marigold flower is found in abundance

in the school garden and its petals are used to make figures and decoration. The children enjoy this activity immensely. Sometimes the petals are rubbed to get the orange colour. The group didi's are constantly with the group while these activities are being done. Paper craft, threading of beads, cutting and pasting are some of the other activities done by the children. The children also draw on big newspaper sheets and then use sand to fill up those pictures. Thoughtfully designed, this activity not only helps them to enhance their creativity, but also encourages them to use their fingers.





**Songs and stories, dance and drama make my life even more exciting**

Songs, stories and drama are great ways to enhance language skills in children. Without making it cumbersome for the child, he/she picks up the language, their vocabulary and the ability to build sentences also improves. Singing, dancing, stories and drama are a regular part of their everyday routine.

In the last few months the group has learnt songs in Hindi, English as well as Oriya. Some of the songs they have learnt in English are: teddy bear teddy bear turn around, row, row row your boat, two little hands to clap clap clap, fire on the mountain run run. Some of the songs in Hindi which they enjoy singing are: *lakdi ki kathi, chupke chupke, hathi aaya jhoom ke. Tiki moyna* is their favourite song in Oriya. Story-time is a favourite with the children and they enjoy stories like *Lalu aur Pilu*, Cheeku and the green cap, Rabbit and the fish. The rainbow group also has a movie-watching session once a week. The children enjoy the mythological movies like *Krishna aur Kalia naag*, *Luv & Kush*, *Hanuman*. Not only are these entertaining but also helps in building up their language skills.





**Inside a room or out in the open, I just love to play**

Full of energy, playtime is an important aspect of their growth and development. In summers indoor play often takes place in the second half of the day and outdoors in the morning so as to ensure that the children do not play in the harsh summer sun. The children play with toy cars, dolls, tricycles and a huge 'Teddy' – who is the group friend, inside the school premises. These children enjoy playing indoors as much as they do outdoors. Some of the games that are played outdoors are : ball, fish & the net, let's make a train and hide & seek. Born in the lap of nature climbing trees comes naturally to these children. They also enjoy the swings, the slide and the on the school premises. Sand pit is an area that these children love to explore.



The group didi's encourages the use of this area to roll, jump (both high and low) and hop since the chances of getting hurt here are minimal. The sand pit also brings out their dramatic skills. Very often while playing with kitchen utensils in this area, the children get into a role-playing mode, and will play 'ghar ghar', talking and conversing, sometimes alone and sometimes with each other. Sand is also used to make structures, houses and temples which are then decorated with leaves and flowers from the garden nearby.

**We hope.....**

The school hopes that this beautiful, young group blossoms into caring, sensitive and wonderful human beings who have the ability to put the needs of others before their own. The school also hopes they they grow with a firm self-belief and full of love for themselves, their fellow human beings, their surroundings, and the world at large.

