

Rainbow – Group Report

April – September, 2013

As the youngest group of the school, the children of the Rainbow group are treated 'specially' by all. Their group didi's love their antics and playfulness. However, along with all the fun and play, there is total focus and attention to the well-being and the development of these children.



Fresh changes

A lot of new developments have taken place for these children in the last six months. They have now moved from the hostel to the new school building for their daily classes. However, they still come to the hostel first, clean up, brush their teeth and then move to the new school building. In the school premises each child takes turns to sweep the classroom and change the water kept for the flowers.

The children are excited to have writing desks now. Every child has a desk with his/her name written on it so that they can recognize their desk and use it.

Earlier the rainbow group would leave the school premises by 1 pm but now the children are going back at 4.30 pm after having their tiffin.

Birthdays are also celebrated with a lot of love and differently too! On their birthdays all the children are taken to the Ashram where apart from the celebrations, they meditate for about 10-15 minutes.

Daily routine

On a day to day basis the children follow a routine in a disciplined manner. They are now well accustomed to the daily habit of cleaning themselves, brushing their teeth, oiling and combing their hair and then moving to their classroom.

Once inside the classroom, they begin by chanting mantras or *shlokas* followed by other activities. The children are always eager to move into the playground and play in the sand pit. They enjoy jumping, net climbing and playing on the swings. In the last six months, the children are more regular as well as active.



Festivals

Festivity is a part of our teaching-learning pedagogy and the children of the Rainbow group celebrated *janamashtami* with the rest of the school for the first time. They really enjoyed themselves and participated with a lot of enthusiasm. They helped in decorating the group space with the *didi's* and also sang & danced to a song called '*chupke, chupke Kanha aya*'. This is how the children narrated their experience of celebrating *janamashtami*: "Krishna is our friend and we also want to play on the swing with him."





The group celebrated *raksha bandhan* too, with a lot of joy and fun. The children made some *rakhis* and also did some paper-cutting activities on this occasion.

The little one's also celebrated Sri Aurobindo's birthday with prayers, singing and dancing on **August 15th**.

Health & hygiene

In the last six months the children themselves have become more conscious about their health and hygiene. Most of the children have started having a bath on their own. Some children still need to be reminded about bathing as well as brushing their teeth.

Now all the children except Debansh can bathe on their own. Nails of all the children are trimmed regularly by the group didi. They have also learnt to wash their hands before, and after eating on their own. Now, they can even go and fetch food for themselves on their own, clean their plates and keep them back at the right place. All children except one or two are completely toilet-trained now.

New Learnings

The children are growing beautifully as the learning continues. The children have have learnt some new songs as well as some chantings in the last six months, these include 'anand maye chaitanya maye', 'shri vakratunda maha kaye'. The children are now participating more readily in drama as well as singing except Debansh, Stuti and Mahindra who are still trying to overcome their



shy nature.



The children are also gradually becoming more involved in working on puzzles, building blocks and stringing beads.



Though playing outdoors is still a favourite with these children, gradually they are being able to concentrate more on the indoor activities, which is helping them build their attention span. Once

they are out in the open, the Rainbow group loves to run, climb and play in the sand-pit. Making 'sand structures' or 'sandy flowers' is an all-time favourite.

Activities galore

Not just academic learning, but a lot of teaching –learning takes place within the group through activities that are creatively designed. The group along with the group didi's created a play 'nila asmaan'. The didi's observed the children in different activities, their emotions and sentiments and then created a drama based on that. The children were then



asked through stories which character they would want to enact in the drama. Some of the answers that we received are : birds, sun, moon, *badal ka ghoda*, stars etc. The rainbow group then play on the school.



We pray that these children bloom into warm, compassionate and disciplined adults and that they continue to 'dream' as they move ahead in life.