

## CONCENTRATION GROUP

**Report for 1<sup>st</sup> Term: April-September 2013**

**Total no. of children: 15, Age group: 8 – 10years**

On the path of Integral education, this year concentration group children started their journey by concentrating the meaning of their own names. Those who knew the meaning of their names they shared freely and those who didn't know, they got a chance to think on it and find a meaning for themselves. The idea was to make them realize and visualize the beauty in themselves.

These fifteen flowers are flourishing purely, gently and fearlessly in our group garden. They are now a state of innocence where their simple hearts can feel the Divine presence when they are completely silence.



Their reflections are like this when they were asked this question: **How should we be during the music and time?**

**We should sit in a nice posture by straighten our backbone. We should not disturb others.**

**We should sit silently without opening our eyes.**

**We should pray to the Mother with closing our eyes and sitting peacefully.**

**We should bring full control on our body during the music time.**

After their response in this question they came to a state of practicing them. Then they were again asked about their feelings and they reflected like this:

**During the music time I was feeling like nobody is here.**

**I was feeling like Mother is with me.**

**Mother is coming towards me and giving me strength.**

**Mother and I are making some hanging.**

These pretty children have found their God like this: They interpret about God:

**That is God, who has made this universe and teaches us reading and writing.**

**That is God, who always stay with us and help us in each and every work.**

**God is in the world in the form of children.**

**God is in every animal. So whenever we hit any animal he feels pain.**

This is how they are connected with their inner beings. Not only that, they are also very helpful by nature. They appear as little doctors whenever they face any injured or sick friend. They are always ready to serve.



All the children of this group are extremely energetic and physically very strong. They can carry heavy loads without getting tired. They have lots of stamina to play for a long time. They never want to miss their games. They don't bother when they get hurt while playing. Most of them are so keen to play that they won't mind if it is raining or if their body is not allowing to do so. They enjoy all kinds of games we play. But they need



to play more skill fully. There is a mental resistance when they are introduced any new game but they accept it when they start playing. They play football, basket ball, dodge ball, base kick ball, table tennis, kabbadi and some fun games. Now foot ball is the most liking game. But few of them are now taking interest in basket ball as well and learning the skills



enthusiastically. Skating and cycling are the other skills which children are very keen to do. Some of the children are fearless to do skating but some needs help. . All love to swim. The joy overflows when they are taken for swimming. Now they are on the process of learning. All the children love to go for trekking on the hill. Intension behind trekking is to collect different kind fruits from jungle. That is their natural tendency. Now they are flexible enough to do gymnastics. So they can do some of the gymnastics and yoga postures gracefully. Bharatnatyam is also one of their interesting areas which they are learning now.

As they are growing up, they are able to keep an eye on the physical culture. All the children eat all types of food in a good quantity without complaining. They are now in a habit of a proper hand wash. Sometimes some children wash their plates without using the soap as they are in a hurry. But when we explain to them they receive it. The girls of this group are very neat and clean and they also keep their rooms always clean, where few of the boys need encouragement to do so. Some



children need to work hard to be able to take care of their things. Every day after an activity is over, they need to wind up their materials. Sometimes some children forget to keep their daily usable materials with them and some forget to keep them in their proper places. Taking responsibility for different things helps them to create an awareness of material care. Some children do it happily and sincerely others need constant reminders.

All the children have been assigned some kind of responsibility to arrange the group. Some are taking interest and performing their responsibilities with enthusiasm and some are still not aware.

Shramdan is the time when they utilize their strength and energy. In the morning at 6:30AM they are always ready for Shramdan. They are very obedient as they do all types of work in different areas like kitchen, garden and cleaning the toilets.

## **CELEBRATIONS:**

The children are very fond of singing and dancing. They love to sing all kinds of songs at any time whenever they asked to. They have a very good memory power that they can easily learn poems and songs. They also like to sing songs and do dance for different celebrations celebrated in school. Celebrations are one of the ways to remember our own culture and the great souls. In each and every occasion the children participate through different activities and enjoy the celebrations.

## Janamashtami Celebrations



**5<sup>th</sup> JULY: SCHOOL BIRTHDAY-** Taking the practical experience of gardening they performed a learning drama “our garden”. It was in both the languages Hindi and English. Along with that they chanted 10 Gita Shlokas after the Havan and where they gave the description of their meaning in English.

**15<sup>th</sup> August: Sri Aurobindo’s birth day and Independence Day:** Children read a book about Sri Aurobindo and enjoyed his childhood. So the play they preformed is “ Our Sweet Auro”.

### Topic

**Garden-** All the children of the group participated in our first topic gardening. Through this topic they learnt many things about gardening by preparing their own vegetable garden in the hostel. They worked hard to dig the soil, prepare the plot, making hole, putting manures and sowing seeds. Every day they were watering the plants in small groups. Through this process



they learnt how much water do the plants need to germinate and how long different seeds take to germinate. When the plants grew they weed grasses and other unnecessary plants and brought some branches from jungle for the support of the creepers. Their happiness multiplied when they saw the fruits come in their plants. Every day they were noting down their experiences and learning about gardening. Finally they prepared a play about their learning and presented before school on school's birthday.

**Jungle-** Another topic was our jungle. In this topic mostly we focused on our surrounding. The learning occurred mostly by discussing with the children about their experience, visiting the jungle and giving little more input from books. The concepts like difference between garden and jungle, the trees and animals in our jungle, how trees and animals of our jungle help us and how should we take care of it. Most of the children participated in the discussion and shared their views. Few were very fast in sharing and few needed triggering time to time. After discussion all were encouraged to write down their understanding on their own language. Few are very good in expressing their thoughts and understandings but few need help of diya to express their thoughts.

### **Sri Aurobindo's life**

After jungle topic we focused on life of SriAurobindo. We took very small portion of Sri Aurobindo, his childhood life. We read about him from his life story book to make the children understand about his early life. After reading we prepared a play. All the children participated well and memorized their dialogues. On 15<sup>th</sup> of August we offered it in the Ashram premises on Sri Aurobindo's birthday. The children were fluent and confident on delivering their dialogues. They need to work on their expressions while producing dialogue.



### **Skill work**

These children always come forward to make new things in their hands. They have a lot of interest in craft works. So we have done some craft work integrated in Math.

**Mother's symbol-**before our school birth day the children were working on mother's symbol. All of them learnt the ratios of the three circles of the symbol and divisions of each circles into different petals. They knew about the significance of flowers which symbolize about the qualities. They need to work more on their fine motor skills to draw proper straight lines.

**Sri Aurobindo's symbol-** Before SriAurobindo's birthday we worked on SriAurobindo's symbol. The children learnt how to make the symbol and knew the significance of it. Most of the children were able to draw straight line by joining two points. Few of them need to be more skilful.



**Pen stand and hanging:** They made very beautiful pen stands out of card board to keep their pencils and eraser safely. To decorate the group they also prepared some wall hangings with interest and full of concentration.



### Math

The children take a lot of interest in doing math. Most of them like to do math from different text books. Now they are able to recognize four digit numbers and do operations with it. They are able to do addition, subtraction and multiplication. Some of them are forgetting the process of doing very quickly and ask for help when they are asked to do after few

days. Doing mentally is needed to be work on more with them to develop their mental faculties. Observing number pattern and finding relation of one number with other, developing hypothesis and drawing a conclusion is to be worked more. Some children concentrate on their work while doing math but very few are reminded repeatedly.

**LANGUAGE:** We began the session with poetry and rhyming words in English. The children learnt Wordsworth's Daffodils and are currently learning Who by Sri Aurobindo. The children have always enjoyed listening to and learning poetry and we thought perhaps they were ready to try their hand at writing some. An additional reason for taking up this project was to work on their pronunciation, which we find has shown improvement. The children are at the age where they have begun to show an interest in reading substantial children's novels. To introduce them to books of this kind we began reading Kunnu the Tiger Cub. We read in a group and as we go along, we discuss the plot twists, new words and other related ideas. Though the children take turns to read, we hope that by the time we finish this book many of the children will feel confident enough to pick up such books and try to read them on their

own. In Hindi as well we focused on self reading and written expression. Now children have improved in reading with good pronunciation and also taking interest in reading small stories by their own. After reading them they are also able to express the stories in literal language. Writing poem is another appealing area for them. They mostly like to write about the natural creatures like birds, flowers etc. Along with the poems they were asked to write some riddles on different vegetables in our gardening topic. Though they were less confident in writing them still they could manage it with the help of the Diyas. They added the riddles in our gardening play.

