

**Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, Kechla, Dt. Koraput, Orissa**  
**Butterfly Group report 2010-11 first half**

Project work – Most of the topics are taught by undertaking project work. Most of the time, the children show a desire to learn about something. At this age, the whole group takes up the same topic. An environment for the topic is created by the teachers displaying charts, models and books for the children.

The children draw, make paper models, puppets, make stories and songs in all the topics.

Transport topic – There being no vehicles in our village or for miles around, the children are always fascinated by vehicles and were therefore very happy to take up this topic. The children



came to know the ways of transportation – airways, surface and waterways. They also learnt the names of all kinds of vehicles. They came to know about animal drawn vehicles and motorised vehicles. Purpose of different vehicles and which is fast and which slow. They learnt names for the drivers of different kinds of vehicles, like – captain of a ship, astronaut for a rocket, pilot for aeroplanes and helicopters, etc. The children learnt about the basic parts of vehicles and how they function.

The children then made drawings, paper models, clay, collage, puppets, etc of different vehicles like cars, buses, cycles, trains, rockets, aeroplane, boat, launch, jeep, tractor truck, etc, and roads, road signs, railways. They also came to know about road safety and accidents. They learnt about road signs.



My body – The children came to know of their body parts and its working. Hygiene we need to maintain and why and the care we need to take care of our body. To understand the importance of the body parts, the children tried to do activities without the use of body parts. The children ate and did drawing without using their hands, went from one room to another without use of

their legs, doing things blindfolded, conversing without sound, etc. They learnt about the five senses and their sensations and their use and importance. They played many games with different body parts.





House – In this topic we learnt about different types of homes. How animals live in the natural environment like burrows, caves, etc and homes made by humans for domesticated animals like stable for horse, kennel for dog, cowshed, sty for pigs, etc. Why and how humans made homes. The children live in single room-mud and thatch houses. In this topic the children learnt about types of rooms like living room, bed room, etc. The children made a mud and full size thatch house on the field. The children made models of different types of houses in clay, paper folding, drawings, twigs and all the houses put

together we made colony, village, etc. The children also made habitat for wild animals.

Me and myself – This was a short topic in which the children were made to introspect and know themselves. Likes and dislikes, what the child should do, discrimination between good and bad, what is good conduct, thinking about their aims. The children made self portraits.



Village – The children learnt about various occupations and its nomenclature. The children knew of village life, but were made to discuss and put things in words.

My Home – Their relationships with others and their responsibility towards their family. How and why to keep their homes and surroundings clean. Children described and drew their home. The whole group with teachers visited the homes of children and the teachers helped children clean their homes and put things properly.



Animals – Differentiation between wild and domesticated animals. How and where wild animals stay. Sounds made by different animals. How domestic animals help us. Names of different animals and their little ones. Which animals are dangerous. They came to know special characteristics of animals, like camel can stay without water for a long time. We also discussed about the reasons for animals being hunted, for example, elephants for their tusk, tigers for their skin, etc. We discussed about the animals being used for transportation and various animal drawn vehicles. Can we stay with animals like Mowgli does? Which animals live in



water. How they breathe. Why fishes cant live outside water.

We made animals in clay, puppets, drawings of animals and also made homes for them in clay and twigs. We ade songs on animals. We did a drama on animals.

Birds – Why did God give wings to birds. How and why they fly and why they don't fall down. Are all the birds the same? What they eat and how they sleep. How do the birds use their various body parts. Habitats of various birds. Names of various birds. Why they sit on eggs. How and why they make their nests. How they

protect their young ones. Which are the domesticated birds and how they respond to humans. Why Peacock dances.

We made drawings, puppets and did paper folding in this topic. We made songs on birds and the children enacted birds. We cut pictures of birds from old magazines and made charts.

Trees – Parts of trees and their uses. How trees help humans, birds, animals and to the environment. Why the colour of leaves changes. All the children planted individual trees. Types of trees. How are plants and creepers different from trees. We went for nature walks. How trees act as wind breakers and how they attract rain. Why trees are our permanent friends.

We did an experiment on photosynthesis.

We made drawings and paintings of various trees. We made trees by paper cutting.

Language – Children of butterfly group love to draw and paint. With their drawing they create their own stories and songs. They spontaneously make poems according to the situation, celebration and their feelings. Once it started raining and the children made a song about the rain and gave a nice rhythm. The song was;

Rimjhim rimjhim barish aayi (Pitter patter it rained)

Mitti se dekho khushbu layi (It brought scent from the soil)

Jharna jhar jhar bahane lage (the streams started flowing)

Nadi mein sab milne lage (they joined with the river)

Moti ke jaise baraph gire (Hail fell like pearls)

Dharti pe saphedi layi (it brought a freshness to the Earth)

Jharne ko dekh ke bache kishti banaye (looking at the stream children made boat)

Barish mein bhig ke sare kishti chhode (they floated their boat getting wet in the rain)

Chham chham chham chham morni aayi (chham chham chham chham the peahen came)

Tar tar tar tar mendak gaye (tar tar tar tar the frogs croaked)

Dharti pe dekho hariyali chhai (the Earth became green)

Rim jhim rimjhim barish aayi (rimjhim rimjhim the rain came)

Suraj aaya aabhi aasman mein (the sun came on the sky)

Indradhanush tabhi pankh phelai (the rainbow stretched its wings)

Rimjhim rimjhim barish aayi (rimjhim rimjhim the rain came)

Children also make group stories.

There was a big house in a village. Many children were living there. One day they went to visit the world. On their way they stopped near a garden. Many colourful butterflies were flying in the garden. Children wanted to catch a butterfly but the butterflies flew so fast and the children ran very fast behind them but they could not catch the butterflies. They became tired and sat under a tree.



But one boy took a net and caught one butterfly and took the butterfly to his home. He kept the butterflies for many days. But one day the butterfly changed into a big aeroplane. The child told about the big aeroplane to his friends. Suddenly the big aeroplane came near them and said, “please come inside me. I’ll take you in the sky. All the children went into the sky and met with the birds. After some time the aeroplane came down and again it changed into a butterfly.

To give an exposure to the language everyday they listen to stories both in English and in Hindi. They also watch movies both in Eng-

lish and Hindi for one hour everyday.

In the month of August they started to read Hindi. Though the children are not taught the letters and how to read and write formally but through sight reading, flash cards and different language games now they can recognise different letters they are familiar with.

Some of the children in the group have started speaking some simple sentences in English and can understand the simple stories read out to them.

Mathematics – Children can count up to Hundred and can recognise the digits. They can do

simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They can also solve simple word problems and recognise different shapes like square, triangle, hexagon, etc. Children can make different patterns and designs. Most of the children can do simple non verbal logical reasoning.



Jigsaw Puzzles – Children solve jigsaw



puzzles enthusiastically. They can solve puzzles of up to 200 pieces easily by observing and without following the picture. Everyday they spend some time in solving puzzles.

Festival – Children celebrate different festivals in school.

Physical development – An hour between 4 pm and 5 pm is dedicated to physical development on a daily basis. The children do warm up, strengthening and agility exercises and also play minor games. They occasionally play football, touch-ball and other games also.

Meals – The children start the day with breakfast at 7:30 am, lunch at noon and snacks at 5 pm, just before going home.



Health and hygiene – We have been consistently working on cleanliness. The children often take a bath in school, always brush their teeth here and also wash their clothes. We administer medicines wherever required and take to the hospital if need be.

Character building and leadership – We are always working on traits like honesty, confidence, punctuality, sincerity, courage, sensitivity, discrimination between good and bad, etc.

Environment – The children are shown how to protect their environment. They plant trees, flowers and crops in school and are also given trees to plant around their village. They keep their surrounding clean and also are aware that they should not waste.

Birthdays – On every child's birthday, we give the child a pair of clothes which the child wears and then takes home. The child goes to the meditation hall and lights a candle and incense. After that everyone sings for the child in the group and the child distributes sweets which have been prepared in the school. The other children make cards wishing the Birthday child.

Visiting faculty – The children gained immensely from all those who came from outside

and spent valuable time with the children.

Sulochana di was here in May with a group of Mirambika teachers and under her guidance Sashwati, Niharika, Deepti and Rabindra worked here for about two weeks. She guided us and interacted with the children. She had an interactive session with mothers of our children.



Sashwati worked with this group of children in their project and taught them some nice songs. She taught the children actions for songs and made them dance. She told stories to children and did my Home topic with them.

With Rabindra children were singing with a lot of enthusiasm as he could play the dholak. Children were able to sing the songs with rhythm.

Surendra bhैया did a lot of creativity activities with the children. He taught the children some Hindi and Oriya songs which the children sang with a lot of enthusiasm and the children also created some new lines in the songs “Aha tamatar bada mazedar”

With the Mother’s International school children this group did a lot of activities. Children



Painted fabric on a bed-spread and learnt many English songs. They listened to many stories and learnt new games. They went for walks and treks together. Our children took the MIS children to visit their village and homes. Darshana ma'am, together with children did many battery tests and made them play many games.

Ravi created an atmosphere for learning science. He made simple science toys with the children.

