

Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, Kechla, Dt. Koraput, Orissa

Mango Group report 2010-11 second half

There are 19 children in our Mango group. The children come to school from different villages. Everyday they come to school in groups, early in the morning. The children walk a distance of up to 3 km. to come to school. Even so, the children are usually before time. Most of the parents are



indifferent to whether their child goes to school or not. The teachers have to take that extra initiative to ensure that children come to school. The total number of children in the Mango group is 19, but average attendance is between 15 and 18. Sometimes very few children are present in the group due to illness.

In our group we did rhymes and singing with them. The children learnt many songs in Hindi and English. They did Free hand drawing and painting regularly. Pasting, cutting, paper folding, clay modelling and other skill works were also done. They play in the sand pit, slide, tree climbing, fun games and relay races, and ball games are a daily feature.

In February we had taken up a topic "Birds". The topic on "Birds" included going for nature walks to observe birds and copying their sound. The type of nest they make and where? Why the cranes sit near the river? How do birds fly? They learnt the names of many birds. Songs on 'Birds' were taught. They made drawings and paintings, paper folding. They collected and coloured stones that were shaped like birds. Some children made birds with bamboo leaves. Children also did thumb painting, made many birds from sand and sticks. The children made many puppets with paper and everyone told the story very nicely, made their own drawings and cut with scissors, used glue to paste with a stick. Many children made songs and stories on birds. Everyday they listened to different stories of birds.

The children usually come to school around 6.45 a.m. They help didi in 'Shramdaan', like: Bring water from the hand pump, make chapattis, cut vegetables, dig the earth, watering the plants, clean the rooms, arrange books of the library, washing clothes, etc. The official day starts with breakfast at 7:30. Everyday the menu is different. They have developed a taste for it and enjoy it.

After breakfast the children brush their teeth. Ones who have not had a bath in the morning, do so at this time. Many children suffer from cold, fever, headache, stomach problem, & skin problems, etc and the teachers administer treatment. Many children have to be sent to the hospital. All the children wash their clothes if they are dirty.

The children do chanting after going to the group. The children know many chants like: Om Aanandamayee Satya maiyee, Asato Maa, Vakratunda, Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Shaha Bhavatu, Tumena Mata, Purnamada, Shanker Chakra, Karpur Gauram, Gagananan, Hari Om





Tatsat, Yatreya, Karagrey basate, Om bhur bhuva, Mohe lagi, Paramocha prarusatya, etc. After chanting the teacher tells a story with action. Sometimes they discuss about the story. Some children shy away from speaking because they think it is a solitary activity. Sometimes children like to see brightly coloured covers and pages and feel them with their fingers. They do

not worry about books getting torn.

Children use all their senses when discovering something new.

Whenever I (teacher) tells them a story, I give them some books and allow them to choose. The quality of conversation is very important for them. So I encourage talk amongst the children in short simple sentences. Sometimes the children create their own story. When the story is being told many children try and enact the actions and sounds that come in the story. One child would tell the story and others would listen.



Mathematics: The children are exposed to counting from 1 to 100, identify many shapes, concepts like bigger, smaller, more & less, taller-shorter, etc. The children also know before and after number, addition, subtraction, etc. Through Stores children do maths. Sometime they count with objects, stones, toys, leaves, sticks, beads, pencils, books, etc.

Skill work: Every child in our group is drawing with crayons, pencil and chalk. The children have made all the drawings free hand and not copy from any books. All the children are interested to draw. Cutting and pasting is another activity that is regularly undertaken by the children. The children make drawings after cutting paper. The children do pasting with leaves, sand, seeds, sticks, flower and other materials. The children paint with brush and colour. Making birds picture with





thumb; and they tell which birds they have made. They can stitch and repair their own clothes.



Most of the children stitch a design on cloth. Children can make garlands with flowers and beads.

Paper folding

The children made with paper many flowers, birds, house, doll, butterfly, rocket, pocket, boat, tree, cap, shirt, windmill, box, etc.

Clay work

Children have made house, nest, bird, fruit,

flowers, sweets and utensils with clay. Rangoli and designing on the flower with beads, leaves, colours, bottle crowns, twigs, flowers, etc. is done by the children. After this the children go for lunch.

After lunch they go to play with toys and puzzles. Everyday they do not watch T.V. In a week the children watch T.V. only on 5 days and on 2 days they do other work. The children are shown selected children films in English and Hindi. The children are also shown Nursery





rhymes for improving language skill. The children take a nap for about an hour after this.

Games: The children play indoor and outdoor games. Everyday children go and play games from 4 to 4.45 p.m. The children play- one leg hop, net and fish, fire in the mountain, catch the ball, change your place, cat and rat, dog and bone, ice and water, red light, red light, kabaddi, I sent a letter, Say Good Morning, etc.

After games they go for tiffin. Biscuit and murmura are served and then the children go home.

Celebrations and Festivals

We celebrated the foundation of the school on 5th July & "Mother's birthday". On that day the children started the day by going to the meditation hall. In the afternoon put up a dance performance of all group children and very little





children watched what had been put up by other children. Sri Aurobindo's birthday and Independence Day was celebrated by making flags and dance show. The children made Rakhis for Rakshabandhan.

Birthdays

We celebrate every child's birthday. On his/her birthday the child wears a new dress and goes to the meditation hall and lights a candle and incense. After that everyone sings Birthday songs for the child in the group and the child distributes sweets that have been prepared in the school. The other children make cards wishing the Birthday child.