

Rainbow (New Creation) Group report 2010-11 second half

The children were earlier coming to school at 7:30 am and going home at 5:30 pm as the hostel building was still under construction. From December'10 we started keeping some children in school and from February'11 all children of Rainbow (New Creation) group and Butterfly (Concentration) group started living in the hostel.

This change helped in strengthening many habits in the children. They have developed a good toilet habit. They are quite conscious about their morning bowel. Drinking of water is something that is not a natural habit in this area. The children have started drinking enough water. The



children were having three meals in school and dinner at home. Now they have dinner also in school and that helps in development of Good diet habit

Our dining hall has floor seating and some of the children still need to work on their posture. All children brush their teeth twice daily. They are sleeping for eight to nine hours at night.



This group has started cleaning their clothes properly. The children keep their room and the surroundings clean. Some children also clean the toilet without any hesitation.

Every morning for half an hour they do their exercise. Yoga is twice a week instead of exer-



cises. Most boys are interested for gymnastics. Most of them have learnt cycling and some children can even carry other children on the cycle. Sometimes the children go for swimming and a few of them have learnt how to swim a little.

In the evenings the children help in the kitchen in peeling and cutting vegetables, cleaning utensils, making and baking chapatti. Some



children are interested in gardening. They help in digging, sowing, watering and take care of the plants.

GAMES & SPORTS

Since the children have started staying in the hostel, we have exercises and physical fitness for about 45 minutes in the morning from 6:30 am. We have running, flexibility exercises, Surya Namaskar



and other asanas.

In the evenings we have Games from 4 pm to 5 pm. The children play football and many minor games.

Many children were taught cycling at this time.

Swimming was done a few times of week. Some children have learnt a little swimming but others enjoy playing in the water.

VITAL DEVELOPMENT

The children have taken to the new environment very well. Some children started staying earlier than others. We slowly increased the number of children staying in the hostel and they helped each other. Most of the children share their materials like eatables, soap, oil etc. with other children. They enjoy staying together and help each other

LANGUAGE

ENGLISH: Language was one of the subjects we spent a lot of time on. Instead of teaching it we did this through immersion, communication, short stories and plays. All children communicate in English most of the time- in the classroom, on the field, amongst themselves. Now all children can read simple English storybooks and can comprehend the story well. Everyday they spend an hour in reading storybooks. They can also spell most of the simple words. Everyday they would listen to a new story.

Children are acquainted with most of the storybooks in the library. Some children can also read the small print. Children are exposed to the language by simple English movies and songs through television and music system.

They can create their own stories in English and do role play on it.

HINDI: All children can read Hindi books. They can also read difficult words with 'yuktakshar'. Though Writing has not been emphasized children can write simple sentences. Most of the children can pronounce the aspirated letters properly. They have read many stories and Mythological stories in Hindi. These children helped the Butterfly group children in reading Hindi.

PROJECT WORK

As the children grow older they are constantly exposed to various aspects of life around them. Most of the topics taken in the group were as per the interest of the children. Some children are very inquisitive and put a lot of questions that are answered through observation, experiment, by reading, etc.

In the half yearly period we worked on six topics: - Water, Festival, Me and Myself, Flowers, Cooking, Air. The topics also helped in language development.

WATER

During the rainy season children saw various phenomenon of nature like rain, thunder, colourful clouds, etc. and they had a lot of interest to know about rain. So we decided to take this project. All of them had a common question that how does it rain? By this topic children knew about water, its usage, sources of water, nature of water, soluble and insoluble, various water plants and water animals, water fruits, the three different states of water, floating and sinking. Children did a lot of experiment on water. How can we extract salt from seawater, what is the difference between sea,

river, reservoir, pond, stream etc. Children were taken to the kitchen to see evaporation, condensation and precipitation. They learnt about water cycle.

Children also did a play at the end of the topic which was based on what the cloud is made of and the story was called "the sun fairies".



FESTIVAL

We took festival as a topic. Children imbibed the culture through this topic. Children came to know that it is not only the sister who ties rakshi the sacred thread to her brother but also it may be a wife and husband, a mother and her baby, or may be any one. Children made rakshi for their cows, goats, trees, plants, etc. they knew about



different historical and mythological events related to this celebration. They made different types of rakhis using thread, paper, etc.

Through this topic they also knew about the purpose of celebrating different festivals like Janmashtmi, Deewali, Dussehra, Ganesh Puja, Basant Panchami, Birthdays of children, Independence day, Darshan days and other special days in the ashram, Christmas, etc.

ME AND MYSELF

One day some children were going through the book MY BODY and they were very curious to know about themselves.



In this topic we proceeded very deeply through various introspection activities by asking them some self-reflective questions like who am I? What does Me mean to me? From where did I come? What is the purpose of coming to the world? What do I like? What I don't like? Etc.

They knew about different internal as well as external body parts and their functions.

They learnt the importance of being clean, need of food and water for their body.

FLOWER

When Tara di came she showed some photographs of the flowers and asked the children the name and Mother's significance of the flowers.





But they only knew a few flowers. This spurred their interest in flowers.

In this topic they knew about the names of the different flowers, various parts of the flowers, and their significance. They put various questions on the same topic and observed many things. They took interview of Sukant Bhaiya who takes care of the flowers in the Ashram. They came to know about the season of plantation and how to plant by using seeds, bulbs or cuttings.

They also made a flowerbed by planting gerbera, marigold, zinnia, etc. They dug the land

themselves and took care of the plants by watering and weeding.

Children wrote short poems on different flowers. Children did a flower exhibition, a play and an action song on this topic.

COOKING

Children decided to go on a Picnic. So cooking was made a pre-requisite for that.

In this topic children learnt some recipes. They learnt how to make tea, chapatti, Pakora, lassi, dal, rice, etc and made it for the whole school. Children also learnt how to store food and preserve them for a long time.

Why is it necessary to eat all kinds of vegetables and what is a balanced diet?

Why is it important to be clean and keep the place clean?

AIR

It was a stormy day. Children observed the dust carried by the wind. So from there they wanted to know about wind and they confused between the words air and the wind.

Children through some experiments came to know about various concepts. They observed that Air is present everywhere and its importance in our life. It has also weight and pressure. They also observed how it gets polluted. And it carries germs and makes us ill.

At the end of the topic children put a science exhibition and they did a play on Air Pollution.

MATHEMATICS

In Math children can count beyond 1000 and also know place value. They also know the numerical digits in words.

Children are also practicing from the books and they are going according to their own pace. No two children are on the same chapter. They can add three digit numbers. They have been introduced to the Abacus. They can also do simple multiplication and some children have remembered up to table of 5.

Through various topics we introduced them measurement of volume, length, width, height, weight, etc.

Children can solve simple word problems based on the four operations.

Children have been introduced the three



dimensional shapes like cube, cuboids, sphere, cone, etc.

JIGSAW PUZZLES

All children like to solve jigsaw puzzles. They are very observant. Without the picture also they can make out. Children are so acquainted with it that if they find a stray piece fallen out of a box then they can recognize it and put it back

Most of the children can spend hours continuously in solving puzzles of 300 or 500 pieces. This may take many days to complete.

ROLE PLAY

Children have been performing plays. They listen to stories and make the plays.

During this period they got a lot of exposure of performing on the stage. The children per-



formed plays in Koraput on the Valedictory function of the three National Integration Camps. They performed the clever monkey in the first camp. They also danced on Jai Sri Aurobindo.

The children modified Three Little Pigs and performed it for the second camp valedictory function. The theme of the play was Strength in Unity.

The children performed the sun fairies for the third camp. They also recited Jhansi Ki Rani with action. The Butterfly group did a play on gardening and the Rainbow group did the background singing for them.

