

ASPIRATION GROUP

OCT'14 – MAR'15

There are 10 children in the group. The average age of the children is 8.5 years. All of the children stay in the hostel.

At this age the children have developed likes and dislikes. They also have these phases, where in, they are very keen on doing some activities while they are not interested in others. After a month they start taking lot of interest in doing the same activities they were not keen on earlier.



Aspiration group children want to spend a lot of time with the older Golden Group children. When asked, they even prepared a list of activities they would want to do - like going for a walk, drawing and painting, solving puzzles, playing in the blocks room. They want cycles also.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE - The children of this group have re-started speaking in English in class but do drift off into Hindi often. Most children in this group are able to construct full sentences but often make errors in tenses while writing and speaking.

They have learnt new words and meanings through their reading. Reading has helped them with their pronunciation. They tend to drift off into Hindi while speaking especially when they don't want to participate in class.

Most seem to mix up the pronunciation of 'b-v' and 'sh-s' distinction. The spelling sense seems to be better in this group though many have a long way to go. Some children have a good awareness in spellings and can get better soon. All the children need to work on their awareness of tenses and punctuations while speaking and writing.



MATH: - Children are doing mental math fast. But take time for solving the problems in their text book. They also need teacher's help for the same. Most of the times they like to solve the problems with each other. Currently they are doing class four book.

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PROJECTS - During this period quite a few projects were taken in the class.

(1) OWN CHOICE PROJECT - The aim of this project was to take responsibility, do self study and create models of your own choice. Children selected a topic for themselves, study, create and they share the knowledge gained with others in the group. Topics children chose were - boat, house, river, bangle, butterfly, fish etc. They drew pictures; wrote about it, understood propose of use, where we get it, how it is useful to society.



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(2) *BUYING and SELLING AT A MARKET PLACE* - The aim of this project was to understand the concept of money and do working problems of addition and subtraction. Children preferred to take this topic as they felt it will help when they go to the market. They will know how many rupees are to be given to the shopkeeper, how to convert money into paisa and convert paisa into money.

Children created their own shops, acted as shopkeepers. So they made/collected the items they want to sell, put a price tag before sale and even gave their shop's a name. During the project children had these questions - do poor people go to small shops and rich people go to big shop. They also think people have shops to earn lot of money.

(3) *ME AND MY SELF* - The aim of this project was to know oneself better and understand what I really want. In this project they drew their picture, wrote down their name on picture, their date of birth, what nickname/short name/fun name people use to call them and described how the picture looks to them, what they like, given a chance - what they want to be, what angers them, what makes them happy, when and why they become sad, who are their friends and why, what they can do, why were they born in this world.



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(4) **FAMILY** The aim of this project was to know about their family, family members and relations.

Through this project they learnt their relative's names, in Hindi and English, they also understood what is the meaning of joint / nuclear family and who are neighbours. Children made their family tree, putting their family members pictures, made many dolls and wrote down their relationship.

(5) **PLANTS** - The purpose of taking this project was to know about trees and plants in our surroundings. Topics discussed in during this project were - how we get rain, how the green hills and mountains attract rain, what are monocot and dicot seeds, to grow what kind of environment do the trees need.



Also children understood the parts of a plant, their functions, where different types of plant grow like water plants; desert plants, why are forests essential, why we trees should not be cut or forests destroyed.

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Children saw / understood the different types of soil need to grow plants, how different monocot and dicot seeds are, how a plant grows from a seed, how the trees helps us in different ways, even to get clean water.

(6) LIVING AND NON-LIVING THINGS -

The aim of this project was to understand the differences between living and non-living things. By observing their surroundings, children learnt to classify the living and non-living things.



(7) CLOTHES - children were introduced to map reading and how the geography of a place effects the seasons, how seasons influence clothing, types of clothes worn in India and the world, materials and process of cloth making. Pictures of different clothes, videos on spinning and tailor bird making its nest were shown. Stories like the valiant tailor [Grimm's Fairy Tales] and the Emperor's new clothes as well as poems related to clothes were recited in class.

Activities included -

a. Working in pairs, each child had to draw and write what their partner was wearing and what material it was made of.



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b. Block Printing to demonstrate how prints and dyes work.

c. Writing and illustrating clothes they wear daily, clothes they wear on festival days and clothes they would like to wear one day.

d. Reading stories from the Grimm's Fairy Tale like the Valiant Tailor, Emperor's New Clothes, Red Riding hood or Red coat.

e. Make a story using a list of 10 words encountered while reading and integral to the project e.g. -tailor, materials, velvet etc.

The project concluded with a short test.

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(8) The next project was divided into two parts - LOOKING AT MAPS AND GLOBES AND INDIA AND THE STATES OF INDIA.

In the former, the children undertook reading of maps and understanding how our world looks like as well as understanding directions. Our Earth is round. But map is flat. What is a map? What is a globe? Which are the different kinds of maps? Next, the students were introduced to the difference between countries and continents.



Activities/Games engaged in were-

a. Performing the directions- Playing games, so children understand the different directions. As the placement of the compass changes, the directions also change. The child realises that north is the anchor.

b. Investigating the world map to find the seven continents and the countries

that comprise a continent. Simple "treasure hunts" were played.

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c. Looking at the globe. Locating India and her neighbours as well as the oceans, continents, seas, island, peninsula and so on.



The students were then assigned in pairs to work on a brief project like rivers and mountains in India, states of India, animals, monuments, continents and oceans in the world. Each group was asked to draw and write on their topic.

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Under the sub-topic India and the states of India, the location of India in Asia as well as the position of Koraput district within the state of Odisha was understood through the task of letter writing. Each child wrote a letter to a friend, peer, mentor or a senior and made a stamp of India. Finally the sender and the receiver's address were written on it.



Stories, short film clips, pictures and songs were used to introduce different states of India. Three states were extensively covered – Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Other states that were introduced were Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and West Bengal. A picture story for Karnataka, chart for Odisha and a collage for Maharashtra were made. Children read short stories from different states of

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India as well as Level 3 or Level 1 textbooks. The group has learnt to locate words in the dictionary and find its corresponding meaning accurately.

A short play on India is been rehearsed. The group has learnt two songs which will be incorporated in the play.

HINDI LANGUAGE - For Aspiration Group Hindi we are focusing on improving

- Reading Skills - Most of the children have become good in reading, 2/3 children are comparatively slow.
- Grammar - We have started the topics Sangya and Karak
- Thinking and Expressing themselves in Hindi through Speaking and Writing - most of the children are making sentences to express themselves. They speak clearly and also write properly when any topic is taken. But some children are still making spelling mistakes. We take topics like Nature, Trees, Seasons, etc.
- Writing / Spellings / Dictation - most children are able to listen to the pronunciation done and recognise the matras to write properly without spelling mistakes. But some children are still at the stage of listening, therefore they are unable to write.

We are motivating children to read more and emphasizing on listening carefully so they are able to write correct spellings.

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ODIA LANGUAGE - There are 10 children in the group. All of them study Odia twice a week. Odia has been started in 2014-15 session, 5 months back. Following is being done :-

Stories - in each class we read a moral story related to animals, trees, boat, river etc.

Games - students have played many language games using flash cards, double card game, letter games and memory games to develop their oral language skills.

Reading - through exposure to alphabet cards and through reading books, students are working on Odia letter recognition.

Singing - through songs children are learning new Odia words and their pronunciation.

Floor writing - through floor writing, students are developing fine motor skills. Some have also started writing in notebooks.

It is observed that half the students of the group participate actively in the class, others don't and are below average performers.

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GAMES AND SPORTS - at present children's favoured games are football and base-kick ball.

When they play base-kick ball before starting the games they say "Didi you please keep a target, let us see if we can do that", and they actually achieve it.



HOSTEL - Children want to finish their work quickly and so they save more and more time for playing in the hostel. They want to do a freestyle dance class as evening assembly makes them sleepy.

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FESTIVALS

On DIWALI children did drawings, made clourful diyas (lamps) with paper and decorated their class room and celebration hall.



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CHILDREN'S DAY -
children created a short poem about children. They also recited, and sang a song "sachi lagan" with actions.



On CHRISTMAS
Aspiration Group kids prepared a carol and also created a song using alphabet of in the word Christmas. The group sang 'Jingle bells'. They struggled with some stanzas but eventually got the lyrics. They started off the song and were joined by the

audience and it was fun to hear them sing stanzas they had trouble remembering.

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On PRANJAL BHAIYA'S BIRTHDAY, children made a math song. In this they used addition, subtraction, multiplications, divisions and all the shapes. It is a song about Bhaiya..



The group performed a play "A Fly Went" directed by Sangita didi. It was a story-rhyme play where all the children played the role of different animals. Every child had a lot of lines to remember and some of them had trouble initially but worked very hard to remember them. They performed with a lot of enthusiasm and confidence keeping the sing song nature of their dialogues.



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SPORTS DAY - Aspiration group participated in the Dumbbells Dance and energy boosting exercises along with the Golden Group children. While practicing for the dumbbells dance steps children would suggest steps that could be incorporated.



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On 21s Feb. 15 MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY children performed Hymn to Durga in Odia. They arranged their display boards with lamps. They also made cards for Mother.

On RAM NAVMI (the birthday of Sri Ram) Aspiration Group children presented a play enacting the story of Sri Ram's birth.