

## **Auro Mira Vidya Mandir**

**Kechla, Dist Koraput, Odisha**

### **Flower Group Report April-September**

There are 14 children in the group. They are between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. They have all been coming to school regularly. Only when unwell do they miss school; otherwise they are always present.

The children come from different villages in Kechla. Despite being so young they are able to walk to school each morning and back home in the evenings by themselves without the company of their parents.



They arrive in school at 7.30 am each morning. After reaching they start the day by playing on the swings with their friends.

When they see their elder *bhaiyas* and *didis* going for breakfast they follow and go get their plates by themselves.

After breakfast, the *didis* accompany the children to the group where they go and pick up their tooth brushes and head to the tubewell without the *didis* having to tell them how.

When they return to the group, by themselves they clean the room, unfold the mats and rugs and even get water and flowers to place in front of the Mother.

Then they sit down in a circle for chanting without the didis having to coax them too much.

Often the children tell their own friends to sit properly or quietly when someone misbehaves in the group.



Some of the chants that all the children are familiar with are

*Vakratund mahakaya,  
Korpuro gauram,  
Adharam madhura,  
Gajananam bhutaganadi,  
Yatrevo yatrevo* and many others.

They are always eager to learn new chants, and pick up the words and melody quite fast.

Some of the *bhajans* they have learnt include *Tan ho sundar*, *Jai Ganesh*, *Raja Ram*, *Bhajale pyare* and others.

Usually after chanting and singing the children like to go out play for some time; they play on the swings or run around in the garden or even sit in the group and play with dolls. Some of the children even sing *Soja munna soja* to their dolls, dress it up and carry it in their arms as if it were a baby!

After playing they soon return to the group without too much of a fuss and without the didis having to run after them. Then they sit down for whatever activities the didis have planned.





### **Skill work**

**Drawing-** The children sit in a circle and put the crayons in the middle. Then the didi writes down their names on pieces of paper and places it in the center. The children are able to recognize their names and pick out their paper.

The children are all very interested in drawing and are always keen to draw. They may not do anything else the whole day but they always insist on drawing and listening to stories. Often they tell beautiful stories about their drawings.



They always share the crayons with their friends. After finishing their own drawings some children go sit with their friends and help them out.

The children have not yet begun using pencils to draw. They use crayons and chalk. Moreover they draw from their imagination, and don't copy from any pictures.

They also enjoy cutting, pasting, paper folding, and other craft activities. They use leaves, sand, seeds, sticks, flowers and other materials. They use brushes and colours to paint birds, flowers, and even make pictures using only thumb prints.

They use beads to make rangolis.

The children have made a lot of different things in paper folding, birds, flowers, house, double-boat, dog, doll and trees.

**Clay work-** The children use clay to make houses, nests, fruits, flowers and utensils.

### **Physical**

All the children come to school neat and clean, except for two or three who come to school and wash up.

The children love to exercise and play games such as running around, the cycling exercise, all done through song. They love to learn new games, though there are a few who prefer to play games they are familiar with.



**Toilet habits-** All the children know how to use the toilets and always clean their hands and feet before coming to the group. Sometimes the children have to be reminded. Those who feel they will not be able to do it by themselves ask the *didis* for help.



**Food habits-** the children always wash their hands and their plates before taking their food. Most often they pick up only their own assigned plates to eat, and in case someone takes theirs by mistake they just stand there, and sometimes even cry!

They sit properly and eat neatly.

Like most children, they love when there are sweets on the menu!

After they finish eating they always pick up any food that has spilled over.

Moreover they do not waste food. After eating they wash their plates and place it back in the baskets.

### **Mental development**

All the children in the group have beautiful imaginations and love to tell stories and make songs based on their thoughts and what they see.

One of the songs is as follows. Each child added one line to the song...

*Cham cham cham cham chalte hai hum; Jungle ki ore jaate hai hum; Jungle mein hum sher se mile*

*Unse humne dosti ki; Sher ne hume mithai diya; Aur mango todhke khane ko diya*

*Sher ne unke upar bithaya; Bithake hume saare jungle ghumaya; Jungle mein hum fairy se mile; Fairy ke saath hum aasman gaye; Aasman mein hum indradhanush ko dekhe; Indradhanush ne hume toffee khilaya; Toffee khakar hum group mein aa gaye; Group mein aakar shaant se baith gaye; Aur Mother ko humne dil se bulaya*

### **Mathematics:**

There are a few who can count up to 40 in Hindi and English, though most can manage up to 25.

They are familiar with the basic shapes – square, circle, rectangle, triangle though they usually find it difficult to recognise the oval shape.





**Movie hour-** After lunch every day the children watch a movie, Hindi or English, and sometimes watch dramatized nursery rhymes in the movie room, after which they go to play in the field for about an hour.

The children play both indoor and outdoor games – catch the ball, net and fish, fire in the mountain, change your place, ice and water, and dog and goose.

After games they have their tiffin (evening snack) and then leave for home around 5 pm.

### **Celebrating festivals:**



On Independence Day and the children presented a song and dance. The song was *pyaari bharat maa*.

On Rakshabandhan, the children presented a song that they made themselves with the didis. The song was titled *Rakhi aayi Rakhi aayi*.

On Janmashtami, the children sang three songs – *Makhan banaye hum*, *chote chote gaiya* and *chupke chupke kanha aaya*. The first song was enjoyed the most by the children. They love to sing it at all occasions.

### **Topics covered**

#### April 2012 – We started the topic Colours.

We began with showing them objects such as crayons, vegetables and blocks of different colours. The children then divided the objects by colour.

They then asked the didis what colour was what. They did not find it hard to understand and remember the colours.

The discussion then went on to the colours of the rainbow, on which the children even made a song.

The main aim of this topic was to help the children understand and differentiate between basic colours.



Based on the colour red, the children even made a song using the different objects that are the colour red, such as a parrot's beak or a strawberry.



All the colours that were learnt, the children tried to wear clothes of the same colour and come to school. Then they would go to the other groups and see who was wearing clothes of the same colour as them. This helped them to identify the colours.

All the children showed a lot of interest in this topic, and participated enthusiastically.

They learnt the order of colours in the rainbow and made a song on the same,

*Indradhanush ke saath rang, ginti karo chan chan chan;; Indradhanush se bahut sundar, ;  
aath rang hai uske andar; Peele rang ke jhule ban jaate; Aasman ko chuke aa jate*



*ka aasman narangi*

The children identified fruits and vegetables that are the colour orange.

With the colour orange, the children identified dry leaves and ripe mangoes. They then collected objects that were of a certain colour and made rangolis.

With green, the children identified leaves on the trees, and that the fields become green

*Socho socho kya hota; Krishna ki bansuri hum  
ban jaate; Sureele dhun mein hum bajne  
lagte*

The next colour taken up was orange. The children made a song with orange as well.

*Aam hota hai narangi; Santra hota hai  
narangi; Full moon ka chanda narangi; Raat*





after the rains in July and August.

*Hara rang hariyali laayi; Kache subzi hare hare hote; Humare sharir ko taakat dete; Hara samundar mein hum saare rehte; Socho socho kya hota*

The same was done for blue...

*Neele neele aasman; Neela neela sagar; Neele neele titli; Neele neele phul-phal; Neela badanwala sab ka rakhwala; Kishan kanhaiya tera roop hai niralaa;*



The last colour was violet...

*Nachti rehti morni; Baingani rang ke jamun hote; Khane mein bahut madhur lagte; Baingani rang ke gilehari aate; Charo pedh par kuda karte; Ho ho ho ho; Baingani rang ka ghas udhta*

*Hawa mein jhumne lagta; Baingani rang ka baingan hota; Socho socho kya hota*

July 2012- We took up the topic Friendship.

The aim was to develop group harmony, to become sensitive to your friends as well as for your possessions. And not only that, everything around us, our surroundings, the environment, the animals and plants are all our friends and that we must care for them as well.

The children were made to sit in a circle and then make things for their friends, such as beautiful necklaces using flowers, and cards. They then presented the cards to their friends and made their friends wear the necklace.

The children were taught some songs, *Humaare andar ek dost hai*, and *Hum saare dost hai*.



The second song really touched the children's hearts and they

Enjoyed it a lot.

Some of the children said that The Mother was also their friend.

The children also said that all of them in the school are also friends since they learn together, eat together, play together and sleep together.

They also asked to celebrate their dolls' birthday, since the doll is "also our friend". So the children pulled out all the chairs and arranged them in a circle. Then they sat their dolls on each of the chairs and then sang them Happy Birthday. They also had halwa mae and distributed it among all the didis and bhaiyas saying it was their doll's birthday.



Understanding that the earth and the plants are also their friends, the children would go out and talk to the plants and caress them. Once after returning from the garden, the children said that the flowers told them that they were very happy that the children had come to see them. And so the children danced around the flowers. They would also tell their friends not to run around and stamp too hard since it would trouble their friend the earth.

Once Vijay was plucking the leaves of a tree. Seeing this all the other children ran to the didi and asked her to stop him saying that the tree was their friend since it did so much for them. They also made Vijay understand.

The children made a song on friendship as well...

*Tak dhina dhin tak dhina dhin*

*Sar sar sar sar hawa aayi*

*Patton ko wo sang laayi*

*Pedh dost, phul dost aur titli  
humaare dost*

*Aur mumma papa dost*

The children were told a story about two friends using dolls. One of the friends was naughty while the other was a good student. The moral of the story was that we must always take care of our environment and that we must not harm the plants, animals, insects around us.





