

## **Group Report of Flower Group**

**April to September, 2013**

*The flower group consists of fourteen children and there is a constant endeavour to ensure that these children 'flower' beautifully. Keeping the age and the individual nature of each child in mind, goals were set for them and the entire group marched ahead in togetherness, sharing and gratitude. Coupled with this is our ardent aspiration for the progress and the well-being of each and every child.*



### **Daily and weekly-based activities:**

The children follow a routine meticulously. Post breakfast all the children brush and clean themselves - hands, legs and feet are washed with soap. After this they change into fresh clothes. Most of the children also like to put a *bindi* and use powder. This 'cleansing' ritual helps them to feel good and that translates into more focused work. The children are given the responsibility to clean the group and they sweep, wipe, dust and arrange their things which they do happily. The children are always enthusiastic about completing their





work. They also wash their clothes and any other thing they feel is dirty. Of course the *diyas* are always around to lend a helping hand.

**IMPROVEMENT:** In the last six months, we have tirelessly made an effort to get the children to maintain cleanliness for themselves as well as in their surroundings. As a result, the children are becoming more and more independent and are also being able to share their work and implement all chores harmoniously.

### **Music and Chanting Time:**

Music and chanting always allows for better concentration and reflection. The group sits together in silence and they sing and chant together. Initially, it was challenging for the children to control themselves and sit quietly, but now they are putting an effort to sit quietly without being fidgety.

**IMPROVEMENT:** This constant effort has increased their interest in music and the children have become calmer and quieter.



**Thinking and Alertness Games:** In order to develop their observational and listening skills, we played a variety of games like – find the leader, I send a letter to my father..., when we go for a walk..., can you please name the ... listening is indispensable in the process of learning, therefore we played listening games ‘captain says, 1,2,3’ bingo, Chinese whispers, action games with different words, sound and rhythm games with clapping etc. Using a variety of objects, they made different things in counts of twenty. Looking at the pictures, they were able to say five sentences about it.

**IMPROVEMENT:** The children have become alert and listen carefully now. They have also started thinking independently and wait for their turn patiently.

**Extra-curricular Activities:** After the lunch break, when they have some free time, the children get an opportunity to explore different things according to their interest; there are books, beads, seeds, paper, crayons, slate, chalk, *duppattas*, dolls and other things. Using these things, they keep themselves occupied. They go to the puzzle room and play with blocks, assemble the puzzles and sometimes watch a movie which helps them in developing their



language skills.

**IMPROVEMENT:** The children are gradually developing a sense of decision- making, and are also getting an opportunity to explore their interest.

**Language Development:** It was observed that the children are finding it difficult to follow the instructions in English and are not being able to respond in words or sentences because of their poor vocabulary. During this term, we have initiated story-telling sessions, short poems, and some rhymes in English. Some children have however, started responding in small phrases or words and in simple sentences. Most of the children can comprehend simple and small stories in English and a few of them can now repeat the same story. While working on any topic, the children made puppets for their story-telling sessions and also wrote and illustrated story books.



**IMPROVEMENT:** The children are taking huge interest in these exercises and putting in an effort to express their ideas in English.

**Sharing Time:** To share each other's thoughts, feelings and ideas plays an important role in human life. This forms an important part of learning, and growing up as each one of us has something unique and exceptional that can be offered and shared with the others. The children come from home with a lot of excitement and are always keen to share their experiences. We spend some time together, sharing, and this could be about anything - family, their work etc. All the children are eager to share and have now been trained to speak one by one instead of talking together.

**IMPROVEMENT:** The children understand being together, working together and respecting each other in an environment of peace and harmony.

**Free Play:** The children have enough time to work according to their choice and this helps them to enhance their decision making ability. Some children play with *saris* or *dupattas*, some with dolls, some play with toys, some do paper folding, drawing, making designs and patterns with different things and some simply look through pictures or picture books.



**IMPROVEMENT:** This time helps them to think on their own and utilize their time in a proper way as per

their interest and this makes them feel good about themselves.

**Initial Mathematics:** The flower group has done counting up to 30, using variety of objects and four operations also with objects up to ten through questions etc. This was done in different ways - collecting things from nature, and then counting and arranging them. We focused on - more and less, big and small and number concepts. In addition to this, more or less and other concepts were worked upon. Through this the children listened to the questions attentively and it also helped them to develop their listening skills.

**IMPROVEMENT:** They are not skipping numbers anymore and are trying to listen to the questions properly.

**Games:** To build a spirit of oneness, strong bonding and cooperation with each other, we played fun games in the group like relay races, running, jumping, hopping along with two or three friends together etc. Sometimes we did simple exercises like forward rolling, crossing the tunnel, lifting heavy things etc.



**IMPROVEMENT:** They have started listening to the instructions properly and invest their energies completely and enjoy themselves.

**Report of topics:** In order to channelize their energy in a constructive manner and observing their interest in water, the children watered the plants in the hostel garden and helped in cleaning the garden. With the aim of creating awareness about the importance of **water** and also to know more about the sources of water, the Flower group decided to work on the topic of water. Sources of water were discussed in the group and they drew pictures related to the use of water in their daily life.



After this, we worked on the topic of jungle. While working on this, the children drew scenes from the **jungle** and also made some models in their clay modeling class. The children actually went to the nearby jungle; spent some time drawing, listening to the sound of birds, wind etc. They learnt the names of different animals. We also discussed the dwellings of various animals and the children even thought of riddles on different animals. They also

learnt an action song, which they performed on the school's birthday.

**Insects:** During their visit to the jungle, the children also found different insects and started observing them. They then drew the pictures of different insects and learnt the names of common insects.



**Skill work** was also done through project work. The children loved and enjoyed clay modelling, painting, mat-weaving, paper-folding and many other activities.

**Celebration:** The children of the Flower group participated in celebrating all the festivals with a lot of enthusiasm and gusto. On Raksha Bandhan, they made *rakhis*, learnt some songs and performed them. On Independence Day, we learnt about the national animal, the national bird, the national fruit as well as the national flag. August 15<sup>th</sup> being Sri Aurobindo's birthday too, it was celebrated with great joy and reverence. Janamastami's association with Krishna is enough to excite the children. They listened to the story of Krishna, as well as watched a movie on Krishna's childhood. They learnt a *bhajan* and also wrote songs about Krishna themselves and also expressed what they liked about his adorable antics and pranks.

IMPROVEMENT: Sharing and spreading joy through festivity is something that the children absolutely enjoy and such occasions help them to inculcate qualities of caring, sharing and love.



*Our prayer for this budding group is that may each flower bloom in brilliant radiance, and may they continue to spread their joyful fragrance today and tomorrow.*