

FLOWER GROUP REPORT

IIIND TERM

OCT'12 – MAR'13

*Radiant colours, magical fragrance
and as fresh as dew, that's flowers for
you Bright, colourful and as fragrant
as flowers, the Flower group consists of
17 children.*



*Most of the children in this
group are between the age of 4 and 5.
Though the children come from different
villages, most of them have
managed to abide by the school timings,*

and come regularly to school.



The day begins with some cleaning up and all the children clean their classroom together. While some sweep the floor, others mop it and some simply



rearrange things. There are others who pluck flowers, arrange them in the classroom and some light the incense sticks.

The children take turns to do all these chores, and who does what, and when, is a decision they take themselves. This has helped them evolve as a 'joyful collective' over the last few months.



After the physical cleaning up, it's time to cleanse the soul with devotional songs, mantras and shlokas being chanted.

Over the last few months the children have learnt three new bhajans –Chotto mandir in Oriya, Ishwarsheesh jhukate hain hum and Om bhaja man Om in Hindi. They have also learnt the Vishnu Strota – 'shantakaram



understood the meaning of the Gayatri Mantra.

THE LEARNING SO FAR

The flower group has worked on three projects in the last six months with the sole aim of providing complete information on the chosen topics to the children.

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

VERDANT VEGETABLES

The need to take up 'vegetables' as a project was a derivation of the fact that most of the children from the flower group did not enjoy eating vegetables and were not even willing to try them out.

To ensure that our children know, and understand vegetables better, their involvement was imperative and the group didi made sure that this happened at every stage.

The project also helped to work on their language-building skills. They learnt the local, the Hindi as well as the English name of each vegetable. We also initiated this study with the premise that learning has to be fun for this young group and that their interest in the subject has to be sustained.



TOUCH THEM, TASTE THEM AND SMELL THEM TOO !

We started with displaying all the vegetables in the classroom on the very first day . The children smelt, felt the texture, as well as tasted vegetables like carrots and radish that had been plucked from our very own kitchen garden. The children learnt the names of all vegetables. To reinforce the sense of smell, they were made to smell vegetables like garlic and chillies that have a

strong smell. To tickle their taste buds the children tasted green papaya, carrots, beet root and lemon. With this experiential learning the children were able to remember the names as well as the smell and the taste.

HOW ABOUT CABBAGES AND CAULIFLOWERS FOR COMPANY !

After this learning in the classroom, the children were taken for a walk to the school kitchen garden. Names of vegetables in both Hindi and English were reiterated here. The children were both happy and intrigued, and came up with some amazing observations and comments. One of the observation



was about the ‘pumpkin’ as the child from the group thought for a moment and then said, “ Why is it that the pumpkin unlike all other vegetables is not hanging on the plant, but seems to be ‘sleeping’ instead”.

An interesting comment was made by another child who felt that the underground vegetables like carrots , potatoes ,beet root and radish were hiding under the ground and looking at them.

These bright, sparkling children are always encouraged to ask, and they do so, without any hesitation whatsoever. With questions galore, the answers too come from within the group. One child asks, and another one responds, like the one here:

Question: How did the vegetables get their colour?

Answer: The sun picked up the colours from the rainbow and gave one to each vegetable.

LARGE AND LEAFY, WE SEE NATURE’S CREATIVITY IN THEM

No activity is done in the school without adding a creative element to it.

Vegetables provided us with a golden opportunity to dig into our

‘bag of creativity’. This is what the group did together :

Drawing and painting

Drawing and colouring
vegetables.

Paper pasting of vegetables

Making vegetable headgear

Painting vegetables using the
thumb

Games

The group also played some
creative games related to

vegetable to reinforce their language skills and enhance
their alertness.

Stories, songs and drama

- A story based on the theme of vegetables, named ‘ King Brinjal, tomato and the fish’ was created by the group together.
- The group did along with the children wrote and composed a song based on vegetables. The song was in Hindi –‘*papita hoon mein papita hoon, hare rang ka hoota hoon*’.
- With some help from the children of the faith group, the flower group created a play ‘The fairy, children and vegetables’.



PROJECT 2

KNOWING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Animals have always fascinated children and for them to be able to see and touch an animal is a joyful experience. This project was initiated so that the children could learn more about some interesting aspects of animal life.

Before starting this exercise in the classroom, the children were taken to the nearby village to see some domestic animals. This was followed by displaying animal toys, charts and picture books in the classrooms.

SOME ARE SMOOTH, OTHERS ROUGH, SOME ARE MIGHTY, WHILE SOME TOUGH!

After having seen the pictures, the children were given a sensorial feel through touching different animals like a cat, a dog. A 'touch & feel' book was also used for the same. The group was also told about different animal sounds. As is usual for our children, interesting insights, questions, comments and observations are part of the learning.

One of the observations made by a child was that while all cows, sheep, goats and even horses eat grass, why is it that the pigs do not.

Others had interesting questions to ask like why the animals had tails and the humans did not.

LIONS CAN ROAR AND THE COWS MOO, BABIES & DWELLINGS THEY HAVE TOO

The flower group was also introduced to different animal babies and



their names as well as animal habitats. The children were also sensitized to the fact that animals help us a lot. A detailed discussion was conducted with the children about animals who help us.

AMAZING IS THEIR SHAPE & SIZE, SPOT THEM REAL OR IN GUISE

The group could not, not be wonder struck by the huge range of size, shape, colour, texture and the varied habitats of the animal kingdom. It also gave them an opportunity to try out their creative skills, which they did through various activities.



Drawing and clay-modelling

As the group is young they found it difficult to draw certain animals, but nevertheless kept trying. The children used clay to make animals like elephants, tortoise and camel with clay. *Games*

The children also enjoyed playing some popular

‘animal games’ like ‘the dog and the bone’, ‘rat and the cat’ and



‘duck and the goose’.

Songs, stories and dance

- Story sessions culminated with the creation of a beautiful and a sensitive story entitled ‘The elephant and the dog’.
- A song, ‘*ek samay ki baat hai*’ in Hindi was created by the flower group with the assistance of their group didi. They presented this as an action song, wearing head gears, made by the children themselves.



Project 3

FASCINATING FLOWERS

Our school garden is full of colourful, blooming flowers and the children expressed the desire to know more about them. They were especially keen to know the names of various flowers.

FLOWER FUSION

Flowers do not just epitomize natural beauty, they add a certain calm and



ethereal quality to all occasions. Keeping this in mind, the group didi initiated this project by decorating everything in the classroom with flowers on day one. The children were surprised and very happy to see this. Due to the strong association of flowers with devotion, the group immediately sat quietly, closed their eyes, and started chanting.



FLOWER FRIENDS

Before the group could open their eyes, the group didi asked them to reflect on 'what the flowers were trying to tell them'. After some thought to the question, each child in the group had an answer. One of the answers that came was that the "flowers are telling us that we must work with concentration". Like with other projects, language building was also being worked on simultaneously. The group learnt the names of flowers in Hindi and English. They also learnt about flower shapes and sizes and some parts of a flower. To enhance their sensory development, the children were blindfolded and then asked to touch and feel the texture of various flowers. Through the project all children came up with interesting questions and comments. One of the comments made by a child was that "roses have thorns because they are so beautiful and that anyone would want to pluck them".

FLOWER FUN

There is so much that can be done with the flowers creatively, and there was so much that the flower group did.

Drawing and flower pasting

Drawing and colouring flowers

Making flowers from clay

Making flowers with paper

Drying and flower pasting



Songs and stories

- The group learnt some new songs together :*Hum hain sare phool, rang birange phool ; hari dhal par lage huve thi nanhi pyari kali ; bagoon mein phool khilen ; jab se hum ne phool lagayen, har din koye milne aaye.*

They also learnt a new Sanskrit song about flowers: *ekum, dyea, treene, voyam pushpani*

- The group collectively made a story and called it, ‘ The butterfly and the flowers’.

THERE WAS SOME MORE THAT WE LEARNT

Maths

In the last six months the entire group has learnt oral counting till 30.

The group didi has also initiated a one digit addition and subtraction using an object to make it easy as well as fun for the children.

Physical development

Indoor and outdoor play is an integral part of our curriculum. The group exercised to various songs, puzzles and stories are all part of indoor activities.

When outdoors, the children play games like bat& ball, football and fun games

connected with their projects. They also play in the sand pit as well as on the swings and the slide. Running, jumping, climbing are all part of their outdoor activities.

Health & hygiene

Due to our constant endeavour to maintain good health, we emphasize a lot on personal hygiene. Over the last few months, the children of the flower group have become very conscious of it. They are careful about eating, use only clean plates, wear clean clothes and bathe everyday.

WE HOPE.....

In The Mother's words:

“Be like a flower. One must try to become like a flower: open, frank, equal, generous and honest.”
With these inspiring words from The Mother we surge ahead.

