

## FLOWER Group Report 2011-12

*'Beauty, colour, poise, all in one'*

*'Swaying with the winds, yet holding their heads high'*



As the youngest group, the flower group is very special to the school. Small, yet independent, loving, bright and affectionate, this group has about fourteen children. When most of the children in the group came to the school, they were very small. However, they settled beautifully in the school in no time. Fortunately some of them already had siblings in the school and that made it easier for them.

The average age group varies from about 3 years to 5 years and some of them settled down almost immediately after joining school. A lot of love and affection from the group didi created a beautiful bond within the group.

### Physical activity

Being an active lot, all the children from the flower group like the field and the jungle gym activities very much. They also enjoy fun games like rat and cat, I sent a letter, net and fish, one legged race, fire on the mountain, change the place etc. Since the group is physically very energetic, they show great interest in tree climbing.



These

children also like to explore many things on the play field. Some children are quick to grasp the instructions while others just follow the rest. Most of the games are devised keeping the age and the interest of the group in mind. However, at times the children like to play the games that the older groups are playing and they insist "*didi, didi hum bhi wohi game khelenge*". The group also shows great initiative and will be seen practicing overhead rolling and cart wheel by themselves.

The sandpit is a favourite play area with these children. It does not matter if it is hot or raining, weather is never a deterrent! Pouring sand into various containers, they love making things of different shapes and sizes. Houses, tunnels, roads, bridges, are some of their favourites etc. This is free play and creativity at its best.

Physically all the children are quite flexible and supple. They have a natural rhythm in their body. As far as dancing is concerned it is the girls who show more interest in it especially their folk dance. While most of them are happy participating in a dance activity, there are some children who feel shy and withdraw completely.



### Health and Hygiene

Since these children were very small when they joined school, they had to be toilet trained as well as made aware of their personal health and hygiene. Their nails, hair and teeth were checked regularly and monitored on an everyday basis. This helped the children to remain tidy and clean. Initially it was a bit of a struggle to toilet train them, however, though the training continues, some of them have learnt to use the toilet independently.

A lot of emphasis is laid on hand-hygiene particularly with this group as they are small and tend to dirty their hands often. The children have been taught to wash their hands before and after having their food. The group didi ensures that their hands, mouth as well as the plates are cleaned nicely. As a result of continuous emphasis on cleanliness some children have developed a habit of even cleaning their plates before every meal.





### Daily routine

The day for this toddler group always starts with circle time. Every day the group starts with sitting in a circle. Children start their day with some morning prayers and chantings. Though very small, they are always enthusiastic to learn new chantings, prayers and songs. Some mantras like the "*asotoma sad gamaya, shri vakra tunda mahakaya, Purna madah purna midam, twameva mata scha pita twameva*" specially appeal to them. Even now, some children still want to sit near their didi and some like to share the activities done on the previous day or the incidents that happened on the way to home.

### Language Skills

Initially all the children were talking in their mother tongue. But they learnt Hindi really quickly and now can converse amongst each other. All the children have started speaking in Hindi. Though all children in the school talk in Hindi, it did not take a long time for these children to grasp the new language. They can share their thoughts in Hindi and are at ease while communicating with each other. To make it easier for these little ones, the facilitator adopted the creative medium of songs and stories.



### Songs and rhymes

Every-day after circle time children sing different rhymes and songs, both in English and in Hindi. Though all children show interest in singing and action songs, there are a few who do not like to sing aloud. Through actions they understand the meaning of the songs and enjoy singing along with the action. Children have learnt different *slokas* and chant in the circle. Though their speech and accent is not clear they have memorized the rhymes well and sing in tune. Rhymes and songs are also used consciously to enhance their vocabulary and use in regular conversation. Children learn the songs by repetition.

### Story-telling

The flower group is very fond of stories and will never let go of an opportunity to listen to a new story. Most of the time children are told stories based on fantasy and imagination. Many a times the facilitator creates stories on the spot taking the group rhythm into account. Through these stories children learn many new words, it helps them to bond as well as develop their attention span. Stories are also used consciously as a medium to develop sensitivity towards various issues.

Illustrated picture books, different types of puppets, flash cards, soft toys, etc are all part of story –telling. Sometimes the teachers even enact a story out. Sometimes children create their own stories based on their drawings and paintings.



### Films

The children spend about an hour watching movies every day. They like to see movies based on mythology, animal stories, etc. They also enjoy animation films.

### Singing and Role- Play

These children also enjoy recitation and love reciting nursery rhymes. Sometimes after a movie, children recreate various characters and enjoy role play. They seem to identify with the brave characters like that of Hanuman in Ramayan or even Ram himself. While the boys see themselves as Ram, Laxman or Hanuman, Sita is the obvious choice of the girls.

### Art and craft

Like most children, the children from the flower group enjoy drawing. Some of them have developed a good hand in art. They spend a considerable amount of their time in free drawing. Through this activity they are able to express their thoughts and emotions freely. Their complete involvement with free art has also helped strengthen their ability to imagine, fantasize and create.

Though all the children love playing with colours, however, their hands are not ready for fine strokes. So thumb painting, sand painting, leaf painting, etc. are done regularly with the children. Apart from using their fingers,



they also love to explore art with the free movement of a paint brush. These children love to paint flowers, butterflies or things that are connected to nature.



Clay is another thing that the children enjoy working with. Clay is used to develop their eye-hand coordination as well as to let them explore what they can create out of a lump of clay.

The children from the flower group also spend quite some time in various activities like cutting, pasting, paper folding, collecting objects from the outdoors, making a garland out of flowers, making rangoli, drawing pictures on the floor and decorating it with colourful objects, etc. All these activities foster the fine motor skills as well as help develop eye hand co-ordination.

A lot of emphasis is also laid on 'completing the work cycle'. After each activity the facilitator ensures that the things are properly wound up. Though still very young, a few children do it very consciously while the others need to be told.



## Maths

Mathematics for this age group of children is done as a part of language. Counting different objects, counting the number of children, parts of their body, everything is part of their maths training. Maths is also done while on a nature walk or even while playing in the sand pit. Most of the children can count up to twenty and have a fair idea of big and small, far and near, long and short, more and less, etc. These children can also recognize some shapes like a circle and can also distribute even number of things amongst themselves.

Flower group is also taken for nature walks very often. Spending time close to the peace and quiet of nature encourages these children to observe many things, and has helped to sensitize them towards the natural world. Toys, blocks and various games also form an integral part of the learning process. The children use blocks to create things like a house, a temple, a bridge or even different types of vehicles etc.

Our only wish for this group is that they flower and blossom into individuals with good values, ready to take on the world with their head held high and fill it with joy and positivity.



