

Joy Group 2019-20

Joy group consists of 19 children. It's a joy to work with the children who keep rejuvenating us from time to time. We had to really think hard to work with them because the children are of different age, ranging from about 5 to 7 years. It's difficult to maintain equilibrium in the group as children have started their schooling at different times. We observed that though some of the children that joined late have caught up at an exceptional pace. Three of the



students have started staying in the hostel and get individual attention, resulting in a faster pace of learning. There are other students from this group who want to stay in the hostel, but are being dissuaded from doing so as they are either not mature enough to take care of themselves or still need to be with their parents.

The children of this group are quite regular. The ones staying at home have their breakfast, lunch and tiffin in school. The children are in school from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The children are expected to take a bath and brush their teeth before they come to school. However, we are never certain that they are doing so. Therefore the children are all expected to brush in the school.

Music

We assemble in the group for half an hour to pray. Slokas have a positive effect on us. It relieves stress, restlessness and anxiety. So we start the day with it to gather their attention. This time the children have learnt a few new chants. They are

Saraswati Vandana, Mukanm karoti vachalam, chants on Sri Aurobindo and some gods and goddesses.



We learn new songs and bhajans in different languages. All the children actively participate in singing and sometimes they sing with action. Most of them are in tune. They are enthusiastic to learn new songs and bhajans. There are a few boys who are shy while dancing.

Hindi songs and Bhajans:

For various occasions children learnt different songs and bhajans in Hindi and in English. Some of them are: -

- 1) *Jay sidhi vinayak jay ganapati*
- 2) Jhoom jhoom manmohan re
- 3) Aa le ke chaloon tujhko ek aise desh main
- 4) Kya phool chadau main
- 5) thandi thandi hawa khane raja gaya gaon mai
- 6) vaishnav jana to, tene kahiye je, peer parayee

A few of the English songs and rhymes learnt by them during this year were: -

- 1) Kites kites everywhere
- 2) Neem peepal banyan
- 3) And so it was bhoot ram ji
- 4) Ganga Yamuna Krishna
- 5) The ants go marching one by one hoorah
- 6) BINGO



They also learnt a few poems and sonnets by Sri Aurobindo: Tree, Shiva and Krishna

Patriotic song:

The children learnt a few patriotic songs

- 1) Hind desh ki niwasi sabhi jan ek Hain**
- 2) Kadam kadam badhay ja**
- 3) Ei watan Ei watan hum ko teri kasam**
- 4) Utho jawan desh ki vasundhara pukarti**
- 5) Aye mere pyare watan**

The children learnt a few prayers in English by the Mother.

O Mother of truth

Om Sri Aurobindo Mira, open my mind



Om Supreme Lord, eternal truth

While singing, we try to focus on their pronunciation. A few children are still struggling to pronounce the sounds correctly, but many get the pronunciation right. They all show interest in learning.

Mathematics:

The children of this group are divided into 3 groups according to their level. So that we can pay attention to each child and they would get space to learn at their own

pace. The three sub-groups are Butterfly, Flower and Mushroom.

Butterfly Group

During the year they learnt the basics of four operations, with objects. They can count in thousands with and without objects. The emphasis was on mental maths, as it is more important than written. The children mentally solve simple word problems with ease. They can do skip counting till 200 without the help of objects. They can easily comprehend place value with abacus. They were introduced money and coins, but the concept was difficult for them to understand as currency is hardly used in the village. They can read time.



A lot of time was spent in nature to visualize different shapes and patterns. They can identify different shapes and patterns with different shaped blocks and puzzles. Children enjoyed making bundles of 10s with sticks and counting flowers and fruits lying under the tree and also liked exploring various patterns in the leaves and trunks. They divided fruits amongst themselves after collecting from the jungle.

Flower Group

This group can do the four operations only till 100, which they learnt with the help of different activities with objects. They find it easy to add, but difficult to subtract mentally. They learnt place value till 100th place. Some children enjoy place value. They were enthusiastically

counting with stringed beads (ganit mala) and they participated in number breaking with jodo (joining) cubes. They like doing maths in nature. They collect sticks, pebbles, fruits and flowers and using them, love to count.

Mushroom:



This group of children can count till 100 with and without objects. As they took time to understand and comprehend, we tried to make the numbers more concrete for them. Most of the time they count with different objects. Now they can solve simple word problems mentally. They can add two-digit numbers upto 50 mentally and can subtract simple numbers. With objects they can do skip counting. They can divide only till 20. These children walk in nature to find out

the designs, shapes and patterns and they collected different things which they enjoyed counting.

Project:

As we don't have to follow any syllabus, we create our own curriculum for the children. According to their age and interest, we take up different projects to provide the children opportunities to learn in an innovative way. This year we had worked on various projects with the children. Most of the topics were chosen according to the children's interest and curiosity and a few topics we chose to make the children learn



some concepts.

Seasons:

As the days became hotter in the month of May, we took the project Seasons. The children learnt the names of the six seasons, about different seasonal fruits, flowers and clothes. Children were taken to observe in the outdoors. They observed the changes in nature and prepared charts and models of fruits and vegetables using clay. Most of them

participated in group discussions. The topic was in English. They also learnt different songs on the topic and put up a play, the story of which was their own creation.

Vehicles:

The road to our village was completed this year. Many vehicles have now started coming to the village. As the vehicles were a novelty for them, they were always getting distracted. Some villagers also bought motorbikes and there is an auto and a *Tata magic* in the village.

So we took this topic.

In the group we discussed about different types of vehicles. Children made different models of vehicles using cardboard, bottle caps, toothpaste cover, sticks, etc. They painted them beautifully and enjoyed playing with them. They learnt the names of different vehicles and the names of their drivers and operators. They learnt about the three modes of transportation. They also learnt songs about different vehicles in Hindi and in English.



First Aid:

We observed that the children are smart enough to be their own doctors when they get small injuries. It was observed that the children would use different leaves when they were bleeding. They knew the right kind of leaves that people use in the village but they were not aware of how to clean the wound before putting them. So we took this up as a project. During this topic we focussed on basic cleanliness and hygiene. Children were taught how to clean the wound and apply medicinal leaves. We talked about first aid for small cuts, burns, stomachache, etc. Children collected different kinds of leaves like neem, basil, mint, Kukudamandi (village name of leaf they apply to stop bleeding), turmeric, mustard oil, karanj (Honge) oil, red sandal, ginger, garlic and learnt about their use. Children learnt how to use dettol and betadine ointment.

After the topic it was observed that the children have become more conscious of sharp things, blades, broken glasses, etc.

My body parts:

In this topic children learnt about the names of different internal and external body parts. The functions of different organs were explained to them through charts and models. Children were taken to the science lab where they saw the model of human skeleton and observed the shape and size of different bones. They also learnt various songs and stories. Children drew body parts, coloured them beautifully, cut them and pasted them to make charts and displayed in the group. They made paper stethoscope to hear heartbeat. They watched some movies on the topic. A short quiz was arranged for the children on this topic. Children put up a play on the functions of different body parts.



My family:

Children were very confused about the nomenclature of their relatives. They used the same name for most of the members. In this topic we learnt the nomenclatures in English and in Hindi. Initially it was very confusing for them. Children made drawings of their family members and talked about how each of them helped them and how they helped their parents, brothers and sisters.

Children loved talking about their favourite family members. The concept of Nuclear family and joint family was discussed with the children. Children spoke about the merits and demerits of both types of families.

Festival: In this topic children learnt about festivals and how they are celebrated in different states. They learnt about national festivals, religious festivals and their tribal festivals. Most of the children explained tribal festivals very beautifully. They watched different videos on festivals and cultural programmes. Many of them participated in the group discussions. The children were aware of the reasons behind different celebrations and festivals as most of them are celebrated in school. During this topic children learnt the names of the states of India and their location on the map. They also learnt about some important dates. They made drawings and paintings related to different festivals and enjoyed singing the national anthem.

Food: This topic was taken in the last month of January. Children know the importance of food; the three main food groups (energy giving, body building and protective food). Many children know which food comes in which food group. They made charts based on the food groups and made pictures of the food and stuck them based on their food groups. Children were divided into three food groups. Each group remembered one food group and the foods. They learnt the importance of water and how much water they should drink everyday. They can differentiate between vegetarian and non- vegetarian food. They were made aware of junk food and can identify junk food.

We made them do dramas in three groups. The groups selected their own stories. They really enjoyed it, as it was their own creation.

Shelter: We took this topic at the beginning of February. Children selected this topic. They



drew different houses on their own. They told about their houses and made models using sticks, clothes, clay, cardboards, etc.

They learnt different types of shelter, their parts and different rooms in a house? They also learnt about the artisans who help to build a house. Children enjoyed drawing different types of houses. Charts of different houses were displayed and children also made charts using their

drawings. A Song about Houses was taught to them which they enjoyed singing.

English Language: The children of Joy Group are very young. To strengthen their English, we emphasis on their listening skills. Importance was given to building up their vocabulary and pronunciation. Various activities were planned for involving them in creating their own stories. They were encouraged to speak in the group. Children were narrated stories, which they enjoyed a lot. Sometimes they draw their pictures and tell stories based on their drawing. It was difficult to make all the children speak and only a few were initially speaking. The first six months we encouraged them to speak in small phrases, words and a few simple sentences. Children explained their days at home, school and about their friends, their favourite animals, birds, flowers, vegetables, fruits, etc. in English. We allowed them to speak freely without any interruption.

When most of them started speaking sentences, we started correcting their sentences and pronunciation.

performed a plays in the different

After narrating children were groups to enact story. Some very and some prompting.

The last three spent on letter and reading Various games,



Children number of group for occasions.

a story, divided into the same children were spontaneous required

months were recognition simple words. songs and

stories related to letter recognition were done with them. Most of them can read small words easily. Charts and paintings on letters were displayed. Story telling was a regular part of our schedule. The story 'Adventures of the Wishing Chair' by Enid Blyton was read to them. It was nice to see that children could understand the story and most of them were very enthusiastic to retell it. Questions were asked to evaluate their comprehension and most of them could answer all the questions. They were encouraged to answer in full sentence.

This year children learnt quite a few English songs with actions. Some of the songs they were taught were Kites kites everywhere, Neem peepal banyan, And so it was Bhoot Ramji, Ganga

Yamuna Krishna, The ants go marching one by one hurray, BINGO etc. Children actively participated in singing.

Hindi:



The 19 children were divided into two groups. One group has 7 children and the other group has 12 children.

The group with 7 children is little ahead of the one with 12 children. They enjoy listening to stories and sometimes they make their own stories out of fantasy. They love to tell stories and explain incidents. Some children find it difficult to pronounce the words correctly.

Their accent is very peculiar. To

enhance their vocabulary and pronuciation we do a lot of activities like to talk about their drawings, to retell a story. Once in a while they enact a story in the group. Children are shown

Hindi Movies for their vocabulary and comprehension. After watching a movie we discuss about it in the group. Sometimes children like to retell the whole movie. These children know all the letters of Hindi alphabet. They have learnt most matras and can read simple stories without any help. They enjoy playing word games and the sentence games that we play most of the time. They also love to read stories in the library. They can read and comprehend simple stories. They are learning how to write properly. Dictations are given to them and they all love to copy stories from books. Their handwriting is legible.



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The 12 children enjoy listening to stories and most of them are attentive in the group. All of them can understand the stories. These children answer the questions in phrases. We encourage them to speak in full sentence. Sometimes they tell imaginary stories from their own drawings. They have learnt Hindi alphabets and can read only simple words. We play various alphabet games with them. They all participate enthusiastically. We take one letter at a time so that they would not be confused. They have learnt a few matras and can read the words with help. They are encouraged to speak more. These children enjoy writing from the book. We emphasise on their letter formation.

Skill work (art & craft): Children did paper cutting and pasting, quilling, wall hangings with papers and waste materials, origami, etc. All children participated in the activities enthusiastically. They love to do paper folding and can make a few things like boat, bird, flower, etc. without any help. They can make the complicated foldings with little help, but they



forget the steps soon. They also enjoy making different things with clay and waste materials. They also help to decorate the group during different events.

Physical activities: These children are very good at games and sports. They are very supple and flexible. All of them participate in all different physical activities. Everyday they run for 5 minutes and exercise for 15 minutes and then play for 40 minutes. Some children are very good at running and most of them are very good at yogan. They all enjoy fun games,



yogasana, Touch ball, skip rope, gymnastics and football. This year they performed gymnastics for the school's annual sports day. They practised the difficult items in their free time on their own. It was an opportunity for them to discover their physical dimension. Once a

week they are going for a long run. Now they are learning cycling. Most of the boys are brave and can ride cycle. Some girls are little scare and they need a lot of help. The children are adventurous. All children can climb trees easily and can jump from height.

Festivals & programs:

Children participate in all the cultural programmes organised in the school. They perform song, dance, drama, etc. for different occasions. They all love to perform and all of them participate in all the programmes. This year they presented various items on the stage.

School birthday: On school birthday they put up a Sambalpuri dance. All the girls including the boys wore Sambalpuri Saree as their costume. They also did a creative drama, “My Friend” in English.



Independence Day and Sri Aurobindo’s Birthday: All children of the school participated in the play ‘Freedom Of India’ for the occasion of Independence Day. The Joy group children performed on the action song Ai Watan Ai Watan led by Bhagwati (of Aspiration Group) as Subhash Chandra Bose. They were very alert on the stage and presented it beautifully.

Raksha Bandhan : For this occasion they made colourful Rakhis using different coloured threads, beads and glitters. They could also tie simple knots to weave rakhi bands for the children. They learnt a song Aayaa re aayaa dekhore aayaa Rakshaa Bandhan Aayaa and sang it for the occasion.

Janmastami : Krishna is their hero. They all love to sing Krishna Bhajans. Children enjoy watching his movies. They like to enact Krishna stories. This year they learnt a dance on the song “Govind bolo hari gopal bolo” with music. They learnt the steps very fast and performed very well.

Ganesh puja: On this occasion children sang a Ganesh Bhajan Ho 'Siddhi Vinaayak Jay Ganapati'.



On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti they sang the bhajan "Vaishnav jana to"

Diwali : For Diwali they presented "Ram Leela", a short play in English. Children were very confident and expressive.

Children's day:

We celebrated Children's day in the group for the little ones. For this occasion Children learnt about Chacha Nehru. They were told different stories and anecdotes related to the great personality. On this occasion they learnt why do we celebrated Children's Day and also learnt two songs: 'We are children we want to shine', 'We are the buds in the garden'.

Pranjal bhaiya's birthday

The entire group is a great admirer of Pranjal Bhaiya. They



love him very much. They put up a comedy play of Charlie Chaplin and “A Fly Went By”, a small dance drama on his birthday.

Christmas day:

For Christmas, children learnt the carol Gloria and presented it with action.



The Mothers birthday:

It was Shivratri and the Mother's Birthday on 21st February. So on this occasion children recited the poem Shiva By Sri Aurobindo.

Children's birthday:

Birthday is a very special day for everyone. Children enthusiastically wait for this day. Children clean themselves properly and they are given new clothes from the school. They go to the meditation hall and concentrate there for a while. The group children sing many birthday songs for them and make beautiful cards for the birthday child.

