

Smile Group

Report for 2023-24 (First term)

Introduction

The Smile group comprises of 28 children. They are between 8 and 10 years in age. All the children stay in the hostel. Though they are individually very different from each other and have different interests, they are all self-disciplined and work hard.



Maths

The children of the Smile group are very sincere and active. All Children revised the addition and multiplication. We did division, measurement of height, weight, width of different objects, places and person. Children tried out the use of different units. All children develop the mathematics skill like speed, accuracy, and estimation activities. During this season we have done many concepts like:



Shapes: The children worked with the *Rangometry* kits and *jodo* straws. They learnt concepts and shapes like three-dimension, triangle, irregular pyramid, cube, square pyramid. In maths lab activities they have learnt side, vertex, edges, types of angles, types of triangles, quadrilaterals like rectangle, parallelogram, rhombus, trapeziums, pentagon, hexagon, etc.

Multiplication: The children can do skip counting. Some of them have learnt the tables and others in the process of



mastering them. The children play the all-out game to improve their calculations. They learn word problems through stories and play multiplication game- tic tac toe with flash cards.



Division: The children have started learning the concept of division and making grouping. They learn with the aid of sharing, stories, seeds, toffees, pebbles. The children have enhanced their writing skills.

Measurement: The group was introduced to the concept of weight and length, hand span, cubit and foot span. They did physical measurements of their things like pencil, book, notebook, classroom, window, etc. They used measuring tape to measure the distance from school to

hostel, to the Ashram, to the village and to their hostel. They learnt units of mm, cm, m, km, and gram, kg. They study from the textbook in the evening class. Twelve children are doing class two book, and fifteen children are practising class three. All children are actively working in the class. When they don't understand then we discuss the concept in the class all over again.



Projects

In the project class, we emphasized the development of speaking, reading, writing, understanding, and motor skills over this period. During this time, children selected three topics and participated in various activities. The first topic was "family," where we engaged in conversations about the importance of family, harmony, and the roles of family members. Concepts covered included how family members help each other, family customs, and identifying resemblances within the family. Additionally, we explored the work of each family member, introduced names, family trees, and discussed the concepts of maternal and paternal relationships.



In terms of vocabulary, the children learnt new words and grasped the distinctions between a nuclear and joint family. The activities included drawings accompanied by the children's own writing, story creation and telling, constructing family tree charts, visiting villages to observe families, reading books, and engaging in discussions. These activities were conducted in both English and the children's dialects.

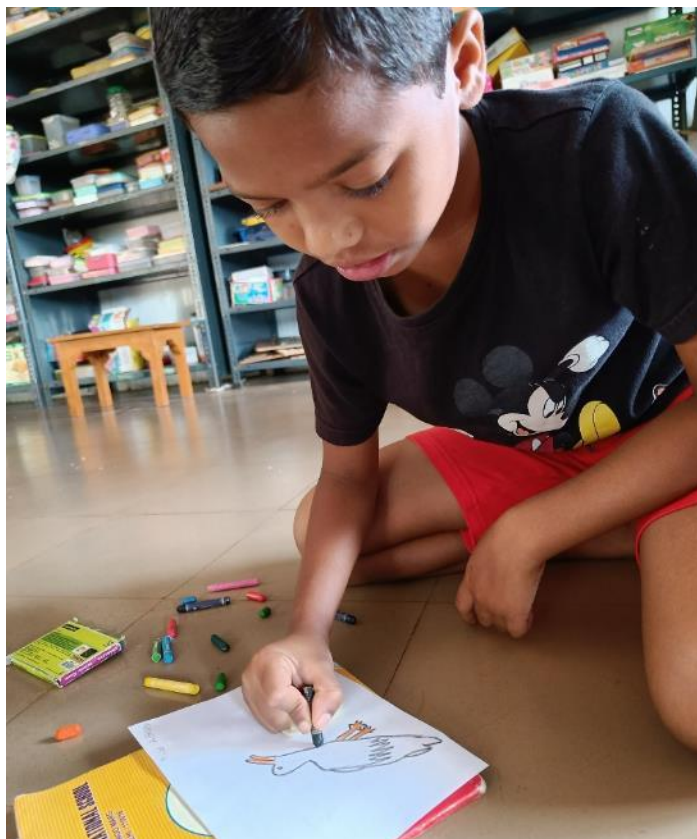
The children were divided into three groups and received individual attention, focusing on speaking and writing skills.

Writing skills were a particular focus in this topic, with children producing small sentences. Despite taking some time to write, they were able to articulate five to ten sentences.



During the family topic, children exhibited curiosity by visiting villages and gathering information. In the classroom, they were questioned about identifying their family members and their relations, leading to the creation of family trees and imaginary depictions of their parents. Most children wrote stories accompanied by drawings, while some chose to narrate their stories.

In the next topic, the "birds," children in the Smile group displayed a keen interest. The objective was to understand birds and related aspects such as habitat, classification, body parts, reproduction, care of babies, protection, and migration. Language activities, art and craft, nature walks, identification of local birds, discussions from books, and story writing were among the activities conducted. The children also mimicked bird sounds and recognized various bird-related elements, contributing to their overall language and sensory development.





The final topic focused on "occupation," aiming to make children aware of the diverse types of work in society and encouraging respect for each profession. Children were asked to identify different occupations around them and understand the importance of various activities performed by

people to enhance their lives. Questions were raised about different professions, survival in families, and the realization that individuals cannot perform all tasks by themselves.



The Smile group children are all residing in the hostel. They observed various professionals visiting their school, such as those involved in building construction, vehicle repair, maintenance, mail delivery, administration, architecture, medicine, and engineering. A story was narrated to illustrate the significance of community support. As a class project, children

discussed and created sentences on the topic. The project also included a fun element, with children selecting and performing as different professionals in a fancy-dress event, including roles like farmer, doctor, cobbler, engineer, mason, dancer, teacher, gardener, vegetable seller, fireman, postman, chef, and astronaut.





Hindi

These children have made remarkable progress over the past months, demonstrating exceptional diligence and dedication. While they typically pay close attention, occasional distractions do occur. However, their hardworking nature shines through in their academic achievements.

All the students have successfully completed writing the alphabets, Matras (diacritical marks), and have even progressed to writing 2-3 letter words. They've now advanced to crafting sentences, showcasing their eagerness to learn. Some of these ambitious students have already begun to construct sentences using the words they've learnt. Furthermore, they are venturing into writing stories from their own imaginations. Their eagerness is also evident in their enthusiasm to have their notebooks checked. Despite making mistakes, they diligently correct them and seek feedback.



In addition to their reading exercises, the students continue with free reading and group reading to enhance their reading speed. While some students already read fluently up to a full stop, others are making steady progress. To boost their Hindi language skills, the children have been divided into 3-4 groups, where they prepare short plays based on the books they've read. These activities are helping improve their Hindi language comprehension and sentence structure.

Within the classroom, the children have learnt the names of birds in Hindi, including their associated sounds. They have also delved into basic grammar concepts, such as *Varna Vichhed* (breaking and joining words), *Vachan* (numbers), and gender (*ling*). Most students



displayed a rapid understanding of these concepts due to their attentiveness and eagerness to learn. For those who required additional support, providing examples and homework assignments proved beneficial in reinforcing their grasp of grammar. Additionally, peer-assisted learning, where students explain concepts on the board, has been effective in correcting misconceptions.



The children have also acquired proficiency in *Havan* chanting, with some demonstrating a remarkable ability to learn the chants quickly. Those who initially faced challenges in pronunciation have overcome them through consistent effort and dedication.

In the realm of music and poetry, the children have learnt several songs, including "*Meri bhains ko danda kyun maara*" and "*Rang de Basanti*." They have also memorized a 13-paragraph poem, "*Yah kadam ka ped agar maa hota Yamuna tire*." During Hindi class, they've expanded their repertoire with songs like "*Hai sharde maa*," "*Galat Mat Kadam Uthao*," and "*Tan ho sundar*," which they swiftly embraced.

These children's remarkable progress and enthusiasm for learning are truly inspiring and bode well for their continued educational journey.



English

To strengthen the English language skills of the children, we have emphasized their listening and reading abilities. Various activities were encouraged to promote confident speaking in the group. As the children are not yet familiar with library rules, we provide a variety of books within the group to instil the reading habit and develop their taste for reading. Children were told stories, and after listening to the story, they answered comprehension questions. The children also engaged in step-by-step story creation and drawings in the class.



Most children hesitate to speak English and need assistance to transition from Hindi. They selected their favourite storybooks to develop their reading fluency and were divided into three subgroups based on their reading abilities.



After reading a story, they retold the same story, concentrating on reading and dictation of three to four words. They enjoyed reading adventure and fairy stories at their respective levels. In group reading, each child read one paragraph, seeking help from the teacher to correct pronunciation and word breaks.

The Smile group can create poems, riddles, and creative stories. They imagine meaningful paragraphs and create beautiful drawings. In the language class, they practised for various school programmes such as dance, drama, and speech. Discussions in the classroom covered physical expressions related to grammar, including nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Most children can communicate in English.



In drama class, the children performed short plays like "The Three Fish Friends" and "Natasha and Her Doll," though these plays were not presented to other children. For Janmashtami, they formed two groups, with one group performing a play on Krishna and Sudama, and the other presenting a dance for

Krishna's birthday. On Independence Day, they participated in a play about the freedom movement with senior group children. Currently, they are practising fancy dress related to different occupations.



The children learnt a song about birds, "Take a Tiny Hope," and recited a poem by Sri Aurobindo on Krishna's birthday. Old songs and poems are repeated periodically to ensure the children don't forget them. Additionally, they watch English movies weekly for vocabulary



development, including films like "The Little Princess" and some parts of "The King and I." During movie time, they actively participate by asking questions related to the movie, displaying a keen interest in the learning process.



Odia

The children of Smile group have started coming for the Odia class since April. They have one hour of this class in a week. They take a lot of interest in the class. They stay fully engrossed during the class



in every activity that is done in the class. They sit properly and concentrate during the class. They are quick learners and they catch everything that is taught to them very quickly. They have learnt quite a bit now. They are able to speak a few sentences about themselves and have learnt names of body parts, animals, birds, plants, etc. They are able to introduce themselves in a few sentences. They have



even learnt counting from 1 to 20 which they learnt through a song. They learnt it quite fast and are able to count quite confidently. They have learnt 3-4 songs and they performed a song 'Tu mo akhira tara' on Rath Yatra. They sang it really well.



Arts and Crafts

The Smile group has art class once a week, typically on Thursdays. During this reporting period, they had limited attendance in art class due to their involvement in the 15th August and Krishna Janmashtami plays. Nevertheless, the children participated in a range of art activities, including drawings related to their projects, shading, painting with threads, leaf painting, and brush spraying. They particularly enjoyed brush spraying and painting with threads, showing eagerness when introduced to these techniques.



Games and Sports

All children are very enthusiastic about their games period, and everyone enjoys it immensely. They consistently arrive on time at the field. In physical activities, they also learn the rules of various games and the importance of sports. The routine involves warming up before engaging in play. The children are divided into subgroups named helium, boron, carbon, and lithium, each consisting of twelve children who actively enjoy their time on the playground.



As part of their routine, the children play football, kickball, engage in yoga, have fun, and participate in trekking activities once a week.



Trip to North India

For more details, refer to the school report.









Shramdan (Work Offering)



The Smile group also enjoy participating in shramdan in the morning. They engage in various types of work, including cleaning toilets, the school, the kitchen, and the hostel.



Celebrations

On the school's birthday, the children did a drama and performed basic Kathak dance movements. On Independence

Day, which is also Sri Aurobindo's birthday, they participated in a play with the older children, focusing on freedom fighters and the freedom movement. On Raksha Bandhan, they tied threads to the hands of the elder brothers and sisters of the faith group. On Janmashtami, they performed a play on Krishna and Sudama in English, and some children danced to "Sri Krishna Govinda Hare Murari."



