

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
VASANT VIHAR
(Jr. School DPS R.K. Puram)
INFANT BRANCH

MOVING BEYOND.....
INNOVATIVE TEACHING PRACTICES AT THE NURSERY
LEVEL

Enjoy the journey of discovery and growth with the child.

Madhuri Sahgal In charge

Delhi Public School
E-9 Vasant Vihar
Infant Branch
New Delhi
madhurisahgal00@yahoo.co.in
9999182674

INTRODUCTION

Children are social, emotional, physical, thinking, learning beings. When we nurture children, we look at all the parts and the whole beings that they are.

Each event or situation in our little Infant school that we call, revolves around and explores the multiple intelligences in a child which moves away from the traditional view of intelligence, the notion that the individual's single capacity is fixed based on which is his ability to use language and mathematics.

This foundation stage is all about developing the key skills of speaking, listening, collaborating, concentrating and persisting. It is also about developing the literacy and numeracy skills that will prepare the young children for the next stage.

Our Delhi Public School Infant Branch gives computers and technology the same priority as the sand pit or the painting classes and there is a good balance between computer and non-computer resources. Language and literacy is made easy through stories and rhymes. CD players, computers, internet and our LCD screen, projectors and DVD come into play to listen and watch all that is related to the monthly theme and even going beyond the prescribed curriculum and also as our principal often quotes "teacher don't teach me the way you want to teach but teach me the way I want to learn".

TECHNOLOGICAL FORAYS

• FRIDAY WORDS PRESENTATION

Indeed computers have touched every aspect of our lives and imparting skills from this age becomes imperative. The training and usage is incorporated into the early years curriculum in a way that seems natural.

For word smart children picking up new words from home, school friends, stories related in class is not a daunting task. At times when the new word is pictorially introduced through visuals using books the impact is greater.

Every week a set of five new words introduced to our little ones are called Friday Words. A Word Wall in each class displays pictures of these words introduced.

Somewhere we felt that with the passage of time the words introduced in the previous weeks were getting hazy. So we put on our thinking caps. This is where the use of the technology came to the fore and we devised a way wherein the impression made was more lasting in the form of '**Friday Words Presentation**'. Armed with video cameras we started recording small video clips of our very own students in school showcasing pleasantries used in everyday life like 'May I' and 'Thank You' and very easy to capture some action words. An activity that was started on a trial basis turned out to be a real success.

Mesmerized by their own video clippings on the projector screen the children were actually looking forward to more of these Friday words presentations. With anew batch we see improvement in not only our recordings but also in the way the children are imbibing values and words depicted through this innovative effort of ours.

• DIGITAL CAMERAS

Digital cameras are a common piece of technological equipment in our schools. They are inexpensive, small and a powerful tool in the promotion of visual literacy. As well as being quick to transfer images of the various events in the school to our computer digital images can be accessed and shared easily, allowing teachers to insert them into documents or Power point shows, or even post on the school website for the latest updates of our school events.

Making an annual magazine for the Infants was done away with and replaced with the newer concept of sending a CDROM home with an extremely wide coverage of all the class activities and all school events and celebrations ranging from the first step into school to the last day graduation ceremony before they are poised to fly into the next class.. From a bank of more than 10,000 pictures the teachers on a fortnightly

basis download their own class pictures and update their pictures/presentation and give own headings etc. accordingly.

- **INSPIRATION ONLINE**

There comes a time when even the most creative and experienced of early years practitioners needs to go in search of new activities to extend their repertoire. A host of sites providing games, stories and songs for little children to be incorporated into the planned curriculum are used on a regular basis. They are interactive and fun and capture this age groups interest and imagination.

Example

Water being the theme for the month of October the teachers besides showing the children experiments took them on a journey online called Drippy The Raindrop. Afterwards hearing the discussions on steam, evaporation , water cycle and clouds by merely four year children was indeed heartening.

Ideas can be incorporated from these sites to display the simple stories and plays for our assembly time at the same time it also gives the children confidence to handle the computers.

Examples

CBeebies stories Tikkabilla and Jack and the Beanstalk

- **ADVENTURE AND ART, BLOW THE HOUSE DOWN !!**

Visual Text(videos, DVDs and so on)

The above can provide a wealth of opportunities to apply, extend enhance language skills. Nursery rhymes in both Hindi and English, songs on phonetics offers an easy and a long lasting way of driving home language concepts.

Movies to go with the theme of the month offer visual treats e.g Oct- Nov saw the children watching 'Finding Nemo' and ' Shark Tales'.

The verbal dialogue offered in stories and movies shown also provides the teacher with the opportunity to pause and ask questions thus helping the children to share their inferences, extend their language and understand their level of comprehension.

This wonderful medium is explored through tools and techniques, applying to materials and processes exploring visual and tactile elements, including colour and pattern.

Conclusion

The squeals of Infants when they run down the AV ROOM stairs to watch 'Little Ganesha' shows how much they cherish these moments. Also many a time the expertise of the computer savvy children comes to the fore whilst tracing the path to a particular site.

Talking of optical mouse on one hand and learning to spell the r a t on the other is the paradox of this new generation indeed.

Pictures of school children following the innovative ways of teaching and presentation of Friday words follows

References:

Nursery Education Firm Foundation for ICT managers Clare Beswick,pg 10.(April 2003)

If the Shoe Fits... How to Develop Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom by Carolyn Chapman chapter 1