



# EKLAVYA SAMACHARA

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April 2024

EKLAVYA EARLY YEARS

Vol. 1 / Sr. 7

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Play Group Joining	17 June
KG Joining	24 June

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents' Workshop Dates: 22 June, Sat 10am – 11am

### Founders' Note

Namaste Eklavya Early Years family,

We are thrilled to be beginning a new academic year with our beloved Play Group and Kindergarten children. We hope your summer vacations were enjoyable and that our children have returned with renewed enthusiasm and vigour. We missed the happy sounds of our children's laughter and are excited to be with them again.

We are happy to say that we have many things to look forward to this year. From moving into a new, more spacious campus to welcoming many more little ones to our learning community. As always, we look forward to strengthening our collaborative relationship with our parents throughout the year in order to build an even more supportive, nourishing and stimulating learning environment for our children.

ॐ सहनाववतु।  
सह नो भुनक्तु।  
सहवीर्यं कर्वावहे।  
तेजस्वी नावधितमस्तु।  
मा विदविषावहे।  
ॐ शान्तिः। शान्तिः। शान्तिः।

May we protect each other.  
May we nourish each other with knowledge.  
May we learn with enthusiasm and deep concentration.  
May what has been learnt fill us with the brilliance of wisdom.  
May it not give rise to hostility but foster cooperation and love.  
Om, peace, peace, peace.

### Curriculum

**Practical Life Skills: Making Peanut Chaat** - Since the children of PG and KG had carefully and diligently shelled many peanuts, we prepared 'peanut chaat' with them and served it to the children. The children saw each and every step of the making of the chaat and smelled and identified all the ingredients. Finally they were thrilled to eat the chaat made with the peanuts they had shelled.



**Gross Motor Skills: Learning to balance a book while walking** - As part of their efforts to gain more balance and coordination in their large motor muscles, children of PG learnt to walk in a straight line while balancing a book on their palm. They enjoyed the activity a lot and were determined to get it right no matter how many tries it took.





**English: Letter formation using beads** - The children practiced letter formation this month. The letter was drawn using chalk on the floor and the children placed beads carefully on the letter, thus fixing the shape of the letter in their visual and tactile memory. This activity required incredible patience and concentration, and the children were very quiet while working on it.



**Observing a tyre change** - This month, children enjoyed observing how the tyre of a bus and car is changed. They observed the driver uncle lift the vehicle using a hydraulic jack and then removing the nuts and bolts using a spanner. They were fascinated to see how the mechanics of a vehicle work and asked many questions.



**Clay Work: Making a mud hut** - Children learnt how to work with mud in order to make a beautiful mud hut. The joy on their faces when their hands were in the big pile of mud was truly amazing to see. Moreover, they learnt to work as a team with precision, and cooperate with each other so that they could successfully erect their hut.



**Class Party** - On 18 April, children of PG and KG had a Class Party. Children relished the delicious food sent by parents and the cake baked by the educators. They were eager to try each others' food and excited to point out which dish their parent had made.





## Annual Day 2024

On 17 April 2024, children and educators of Eklavya Early Years celebrated their first Annual Day by organizing a wonderful talent show. Children danced, sang, recited poems and even acted in a play. Their enthusiasm and excitement was truly amazing.

Children had been practicing for this show since a five weeks. Their hard work, persistence and patience were exemplary and we were proud to see them learning to concentrate and lose their inhibitions when they came on stage.

The following items were performed by students of PG and KG:

1.	Choti Si Asha	Dance
2.	Mari Mari Baa Illi	Poetry recitation
3.	Baby Shark	Dance
4.	Incy Wincy मकोडा	Poetry Recitation
5.	The Rabbit Listened	Play
6.	Ram Sam Sam	Dance
7.	Frere Jacques	Rhyme Singing
8.	I hear thunder	Rhyme Singing

Educators performed a beautiful rendition of 'आ चल के तुझे', followed by the singing of the Eklavya Song.



Our beautiful campus



An auspicious start



Baby shark do do do...



Incy Wincy with a Hindi twist



Little thespians



Learning empathy



Ram Sam Sam



Expressive & confident



Earnest faces, folded hands



It's time for a jig!



Who can go faster?



Ssssuperb!



Captivating performance



There's my Mamma & Papa !





What's happening?



Mid-performance masti

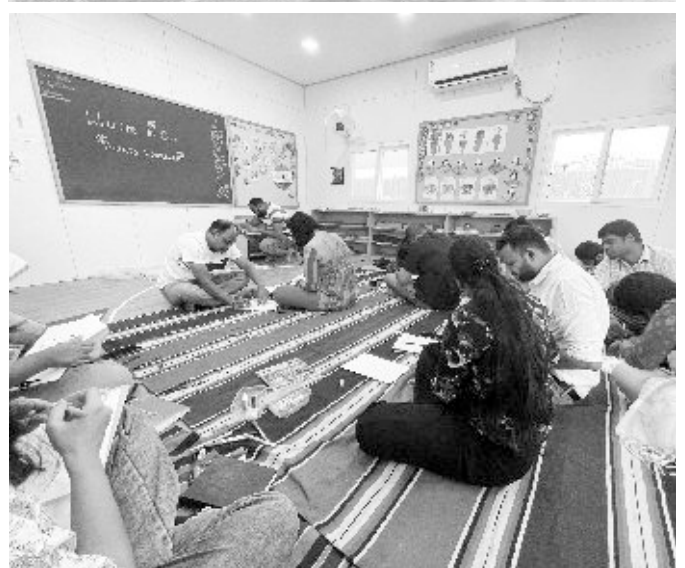


Ready for the BIG DAY!



Electrifying !

**6 April : Last Parents Workshop of the Year** - On the last Parents Workshop, parents spent time creating beautiful and artistic cards for their little ones. The messages were heartwarming and full of blessings for the children. This was followed by a simple breakfast and sharing by the parents about how their children have progressed over the year. It was a beautiful, laughter-filled but emotional morning for all.





## Professional Development

26 April: Movie 'The Ron Clark Story' - Educators watched the film 'The Ron Clark Story' as part of their professional development programme. This movie follows the journey of an idealistic teacher who leaves his small hometown to teach in a New York City public school with a diverse and unruly group of children. The film preaches the values of kindness and empathy and the importance of teaching innovatively in order to pique the interest of the students.

### Reflections:

"A teacher should never give up on her children even if it is very difficult and always think about how to improve and what can be done to make the children learn." – Rashmi S

"If you want respect from your children, learn to respect them." – Jayeeta Kanjilal

"Everyday we must welcome / greet a child with a warm smile and positive attitude." – Jayeeta Kanjilal

### 3 May: Movie 'Nil Battey Sannata'

Educators watched the film 'Nil Battey Sannata' as part of their professional development programme. This film follows the life of an extraordinary mother, Chanda Sahay, a high school dropout who works as a maid. In an effort to inspire her teenage daughter to aspire for more through education, she enrolls in her high school and works multiple jobs to make ends meet. The film espouses the values of hard work, ambition and kindness. It also highlights the importance of education and how a supportive teacher or parent can inspire a child to achieve more.

### Reflections:

"The best part of the movies was that it says that learning has no age." – Twinkle Madiraju

"There is no age limit to study and achieve our dreams in life." – Rashmi S

### 7 May: Visit to NGMA

Educators visited the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bengaluru on 7 May. They not only enjoyed viewing the special exhibition at the museum titled "Haripura Panels – Nandalal Bose" but were also happy to learn more about the history of India and the role played by the great artist Nandalal Bose, who was the illustrator of the original manuscript of the Constitution of India and the artist chosen by Mahatma Gandhi to beautify the Congress Sessions of Lucknow, Faizpur and Haripura. Educators also enjoyed the calming atmosphere of the NGMA created by the canopy of beautiful, old, lush green trees.

### Reflections:

"The place was full of greenery covered with many huge trees and I felt like I was not in the city for some time." – Shwetha S R

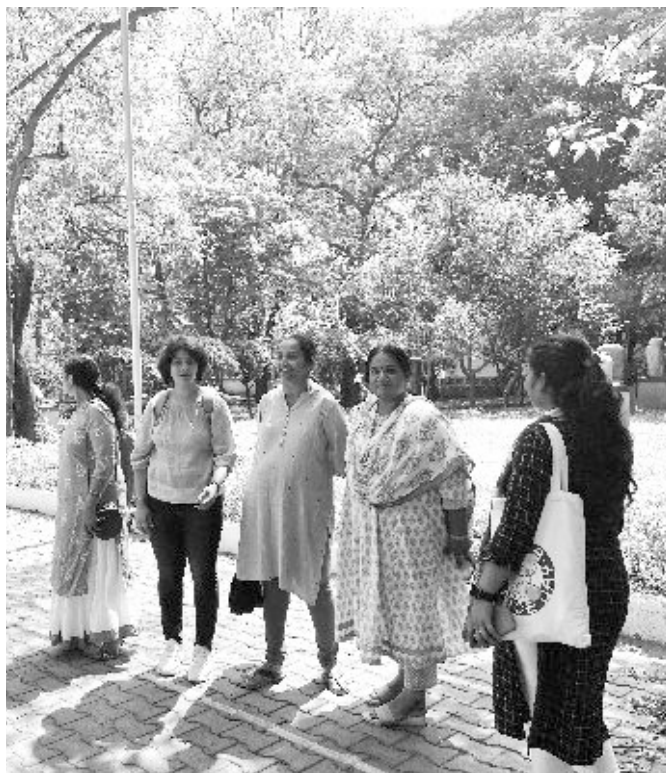
"Different species of plants can co-exist together. I saw rubber and jackfruit side by side creating a canopy and living happily. Why can't we as human beings be little more tolerant, a little more compassionate and caring for our surroundings?" – Jayeeta Kanjilal

"Creativity is not about showing what you can do but to bring

people close to your art. All the paintings were such that the common people were able to understand them. – Jayeeta Kanjilal

"It was a refreshing visit to see different kinds of paintings and statues/sculptures. This visit made me realise that I have to spend more time in nature and go to museums and art galleries." – Rashmi S

"Usually I cannot sit silently even for a few minutes, but when I sat for ten minutes alone and tried to focus only on myself, I felt more positivity inside me." Twinkle Madiraju



## EEY Outreach

**Summer Camp 2024** - From 22 April to 3 May, an exciting Summer Camp for children aged 2-6 was held at Eklavya Early Years. From learning football skills to baking delicious chocolate and banana cakes, the children were involved in many new activities. They also enjoyed farming, performing science experiments and doing clay work a lot.











## P A R E N T C O R N E R



### The Absorbent Mind

One of the most important concepts in early childhood education is that of the "Absorbent Mind." Presented by Dr Maria Montessori on the basis of her extensive observation and work with children, the 'absorbent mind' refers to a special kind of mind that children aged 0-6 have.

The absorbent mind is the sponge-like capacity of the brain of the young child to absorb what is necessary from the environment to create himself as an individual from a specific culture. For example, the little child learns to speak his mother tongue without having anyone to teach him vocabulary or grammar. The child absorbs the language as a whole – the vocabulary, its meaning and its context - seemingly without effort just by being in the same environment as those who speak the language. The child also absorbs the traits and manners of his family and community, again without much training by an adult. Montessori believed that children aged 0-6 naturally possessed such a absorbent mind as they needed it to construct the foundation of their personality.

The absorbent mind of the child is very different from our adult minds. To understand this, let us compare a photograph of a landscape with a painting of it. In the photograph, every detail of the landscape is captured exactly as it is: the colours, the



textures, the background, etc. It is fixed and it remains as it was at the moment the picture was taken. In the painting, the detail is as much or as little as the artist chooses. It is the artist's perception of the landscape, not what it is.

The absorbent mind is similar to the camera. What the child takes in during the absorbent mind period is captured as it is and remains as the foundation of his or her personality. What the child takes in later in life using the adult 'reasoning mind' is taken in through conscious work and memory, and is moulded by what he chooses to focus on.

Montessori's understanding of the power of the absorbent mind in the first six years of life is a great gift. It teaches us that we can prepare a rich environment for the young child and, as he simply lives in the environment, he absorbs from it and learns. Thus, we can give our children a broad and deep foundation, when it is completely effortless for them to learn. Through the amazing "mental chemistry" of the absorbent mind, the child builds his or her identity with wide interests. The child learns through self-chosen, engaging activity and builds a solid base habit of thoughtful concentration and structured learning.

Within the time period of 0-6 too, the absorbent mind is different at different times. The child's absorbent mind is in the unconscious phase during the 0-3 years. This means that the child does not choose to learn certain things at all but learns them regardless as a natural impulse or as what Montessori calls the child's Inner Teacher pushes him to do so. For example, the child does not choose to learn to crawl or walk, but does so at certain periods of his life automatically. But from the age group of 3-6, the child begins to show the development of the 'will' as he enters the "conscious period" of the absorbent mind. Now, even though he learns quite effortlessly from his environment, he starts developing a sense of choice and decision making. He begins to understand that he can choose to do a particular activity. The exercise of choice and will is a very important turning point in the child's life and if the environment provided to the child at this time encourages him to exercise his Will productively, it can help the child develop a more secure, confident and balanced Self.

(Paraphrase of the Absorbent Mind by Dr Maria Montessori)