



EKLAVYA SAMACHARA

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August 2024

EKLAVYA EARLY YEARS

Vol. 2 / Sr. 4

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Teachers' Day	5 September
Ganesh Chaturthi	7 September
Onam	15 September
Eid-e-Milad	16 September
Bhagat Singh's Birthday	27 September

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents' Workshop Dates: 14 September, Sat 10am – 11am
28 September, Sat 10am – 11am

Field Visits

Decathlon : Children of PG and KG went to Decathlon for a Field Visit. The children were thrilled to see such a wide array of sporting goods, from badminton racquets to camping gear. They saw how rollerskating and frisbee throwing is done. The children were also told about the Olympics later in the classroom.





Gaushala : Children of PG and KG visited a gaushala this Month. They were overjoyed to see so many cows, calves and buffaloes. They learnt that all the animals in the gaushala were rescued animals. Each child was eager to feed the cows and also learnt new vocabulary such bulls, oxen, etc. The icing on the cake – the children were greeted at the gaushala by a majestic camel!



Important Events

Independence Day Celebrations : We celebrated India's Independence Day on 15 August. We hoisted the Indian flag and sang the National Anthem. This was followed by a joyous dance, vocals and theatrical performance by our children. The children danced on 'जय हो' and 'लेहरा दो' with vigour and verve, and then sang 'सारे जहान से अच्छा' melodiously. KG children also performed a beautiful skit on the meaning of 'independence' in their own lives.



लेहरा दो



Gleeful mic testing



So excited!



jay ho



Hands up high!



Mellifluous



Feeling patriotic

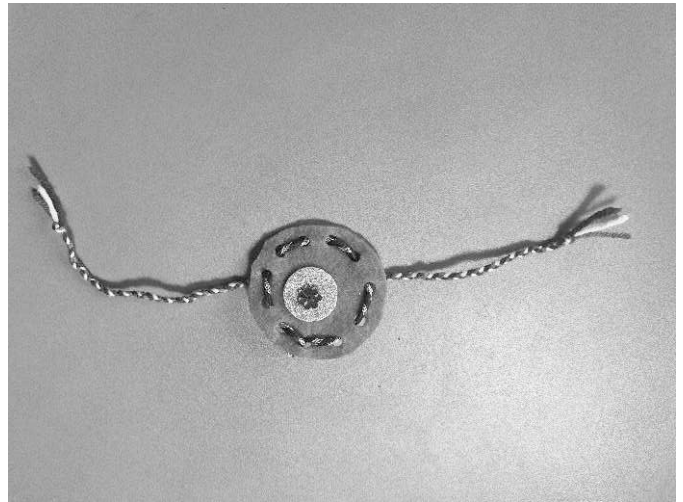


Speaking confidently



Independence means....

Rakshabandhan Celebrations : Children of PG and KG celebrated Rakshabandhan first by learning about the story of Rani Karnavati and King Humayun and the significance of this festival. Then each class made their own Rakhis. The children were also shown a 'puja thali' which is usually prepared by the sister for her brother containing rice, kumkum, rakhis and a sweet.



Janmashtami Celebrations : Children of Eklavya Early Years celebrated the birth of Lord Krishna on Janmashtami at Eklavya Early Years. Dressed up in their traditional best, the little ones enjoyed watching the customary 'matki fod', making rangolis, dancing on bhajans and chanting with gusto the 'nara' Hathi Ghoda Palki, Jai Kanhaiya Lal ki. Then they marvelled at the beautifully decorated Kanha in his swing and even made him swing.



Listening intently to stories about Bal Gopal



Admiring Little Krishna on his swing



Breaking the pot of buttermilk and butter



Decorations and adornments for little Krishna



Chanting the 'nara'



जय कन्हैया लाल की



Ringling the bell with enthusiasm

26 August - Mother Teresa's Birthday : On Mother Teresa's birthday, children of PG and KG learnt about Mother Teresa and her compassionate efforts to help the less fortunate in India. They learnt about the importance of being kind, compassionate and empathetic.



28 August – Blue/Green Day : Children of PG celebrated Blue Day while KG students celebrated Green Day on 28 August. Children came to school wearing blue or green and in their respective classrooms collected all things that were blue or green. PG children also sang a 'blue song' and enjoyed painting a cloud light and dark blue. KG children observed different kinds of green vegetables and then experimented with different colours such as orange, red, blue, etc to make green. Their shouts of joy when they somehow mixed these colours in different ratios to make different shades of green were a treat to witness.





31 August – Maria Montessori’s Birthday : Children of PG and KG learnt about Maria Montessori and her enormous contribution to our understanding of early childhood development and education. They saw her photographs, learnt about her life and KG students also located Italy and Rome on the World Map.



Curriculum

PLS - Opening and Closing Water Bottle : This PLS activity is vital for making the child more independent. The child learns how to turn her wrists such that she can open her water bottle properly. She also learns to be careful with her things.



FMS - Tearing paper : Children of KG learnt tearing paper this month. They strengthened their finger muscles by precisely tearing paper into small pieces and enhanced their concentration and patience as well.



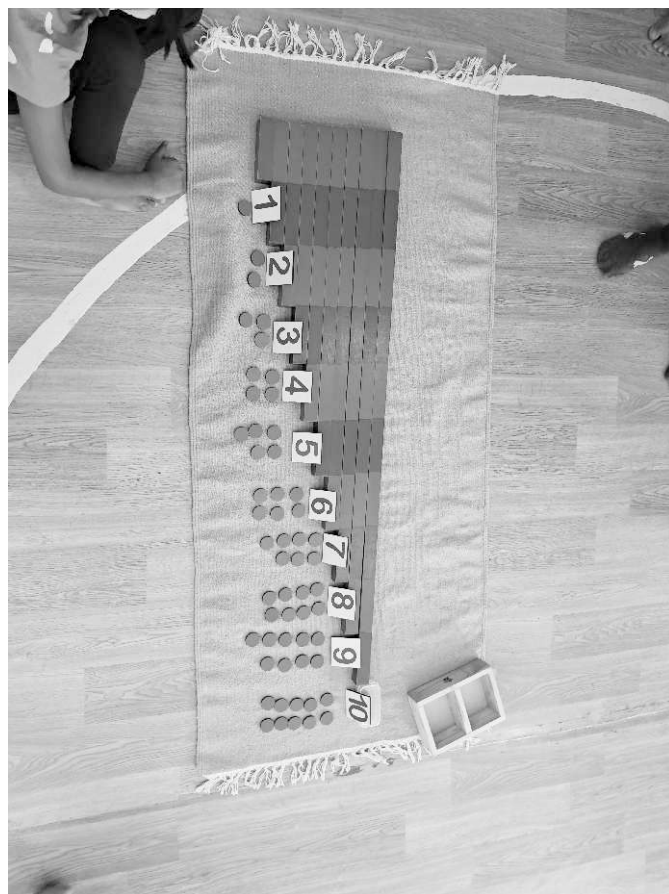
Sensorial – Red Rods : Children of PG learnt the Red Rods this month. The Red Rods is a sensorial Montessori material that enhances their visual sense. It also gives the children an overview of length and the vocabulary of long and short. The Red Rods are a difficult material to master but we saw children helping each other out whenever one of them was stuck and unsure of how to proceed with the making of the Red Rods stair.



Extensions with Brown Stairs and Pink Tower : Children of KG 1 and 2 worked on extensions of Brown Stairs and Pink Tower. Replicating these structures requires tremendous spatial intelligence. They have to process and convert a 2D image into a 3D structure. They also need a lot of patience, concentration and perseverance because the structures do fall down due to imbalance at the last moment. But we were proud to see our children not giving up until it was completely balanced and perfect.



Maths : KG2 worked together to demonstrate their in-depth understanding of the numbers 1-10 by making the Number Rods stair, placing the Number Cards next to the correct Number Rod, and then using the counters to depict the numbers.





My Time : Children of PG and KG are often given designated periods of time as 'My Time'. In My Time, the child is encouraged to independently pick up any learning material available in the classroom and work on it. This is a special time where children develop their ability to enjoy self-directed learning. The educator's role is more of an observer who assists when she feels that the child needs her support. Children look forward to My Time because it gives them an opportunity to explore their interests.



Building skyscrapers



Intensely sorting grains



Choosing pegs to make a design



Self-directed learning



Yay! I did it!



Transferring beads using tongs

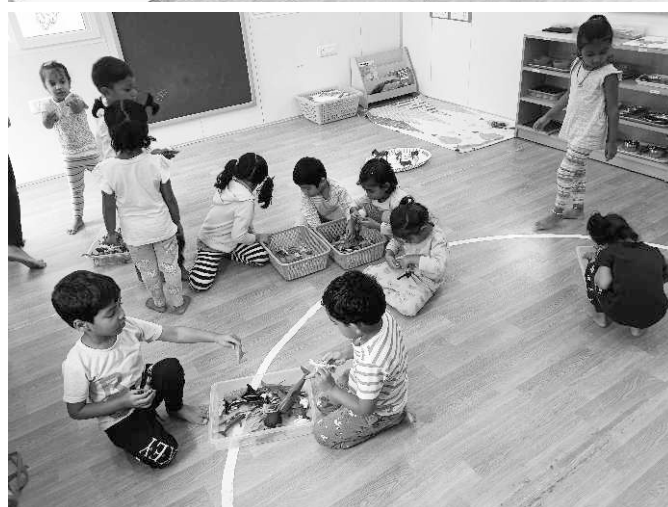


Pretend Play – running an ice cream shop

Science & Geo - Metamorphosis : Children of PG and KG observed the marvelous metamorphosis process of a caterpillar turning into a moth. They watched the caterpillar feeding on green leaves until it became double its size. Then they observed it during the chrysalis stage. Finally, after many days of waiting, they observed the newborn moth struggle its way out of the pupa and spread its wings to fly. This was a joyful experience for all children and it sparked their innate curiosity and love for learning.



Animals and where they live : Children of KG worked with a vast array of farm, wild and aquatic animal toys this month. All the children collaborated together to determine which animal lives in the sea/ocean, forest and farm. The entire classroom was abuzz with chirpy discussions and persuasive arguments, and one could truly witness how the little ones were learning not only the science and geography aspect of the curriculum but also about how to convince another person of your opinion and listen to someone even if you disagree with them.

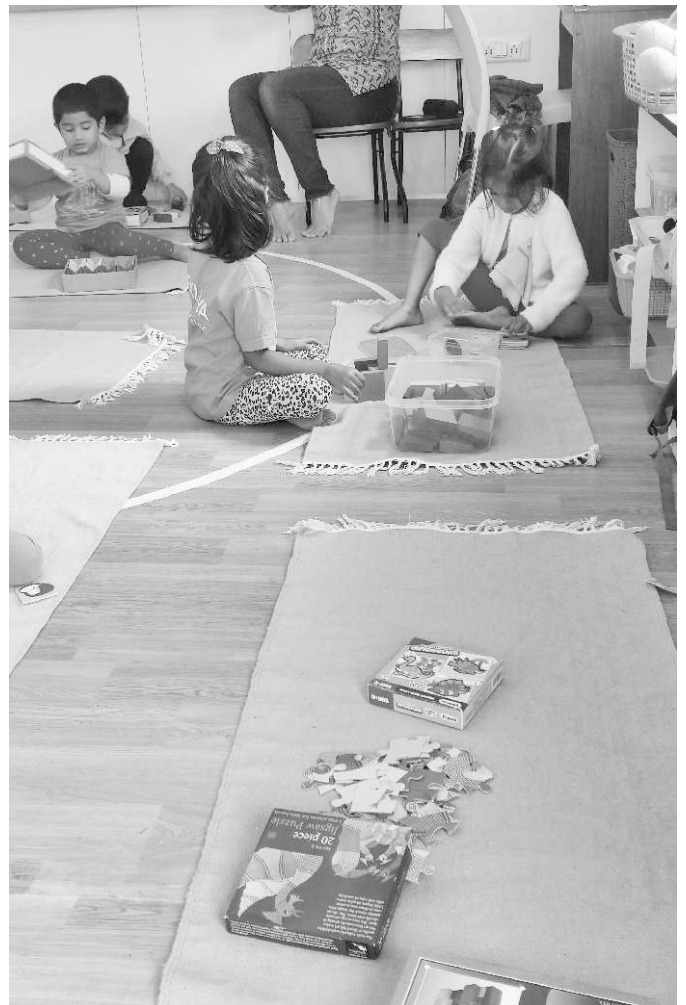


Floating & sinking : Children of PG and KG learnt about the concepts of floating and sinking this month. In a large transparent trough filled with water, the teachers dropped an array of different objects and asked the children whether it would float or sink. The children would predict which ones would float and which ones would sink to the floor. They were thrilled when they were proven right and introspective when they weren't.





Block Room : Children of PG and KG continued nurturing their curiosity through the Block Room this month. Puzzles and open ended construction material have become a great favourite of our little ones. It is common to see 4-5 children working together to build a structure during Block Room.





Art - Free Painting & Clay : Children of PG and KG enjoyed free clay and painting this month along with directed art activities as well. Free art activities give children a great sense of joy and liberation as they experiment with shapes and colours.



Making Independence Day decorations : Children of PG and KG coloured doves saffron and green (flag colours). These doves were used as Independence Day decoration and the children were thrilled on that day to see their work adorning their school campus. They also Painted flags.



Earning the Sunshine Smile Badge : Children of PG and KG earned their Sunshine Smile badges this month. The Sunshine Smile Badge was a great motivation for our little ones to either start or continue brushing their teeth twice a day. We are happy to see that so many of our students are maintaining good dental hygiene.



31 August – Special Parents' Workshop

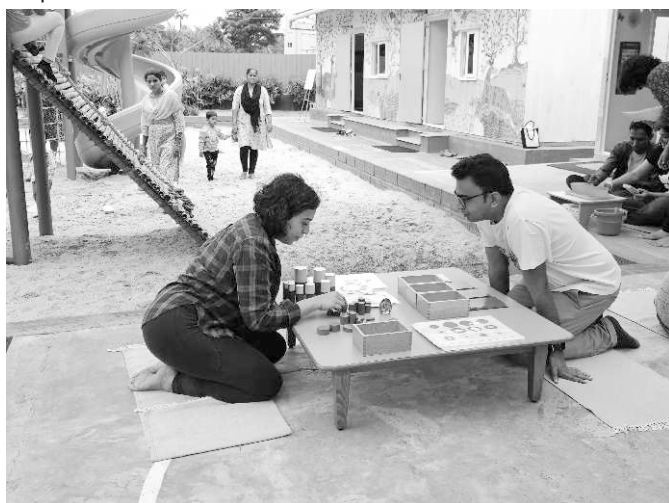
On the occasion of Dr Maria Montessori's birthday, we hosted a special Parents' Workshop at our campus. Firstly, in a special session, we discussed the importance of the 'Sensitive Periods' and how we as Parents and Educators can help support the child while they are experiencing each Sensitive Period.

Later, parents got the unique opportunity to work with an array of over 20 Montessori materials. Their enthusiasm and joy while working with each material was infectious. We heard so many: "Oh, it's not so easy at it looks!" and "Ma'am our little ones are able to do this?"

We were so happy to see our campus full of engaged and eager parents and were thankful that both parents of each child came to our campus for this special workshop.



KG parents – Sensitive Periods discussion



Collaborative efforts (Knobless Cylinders & Extensions)



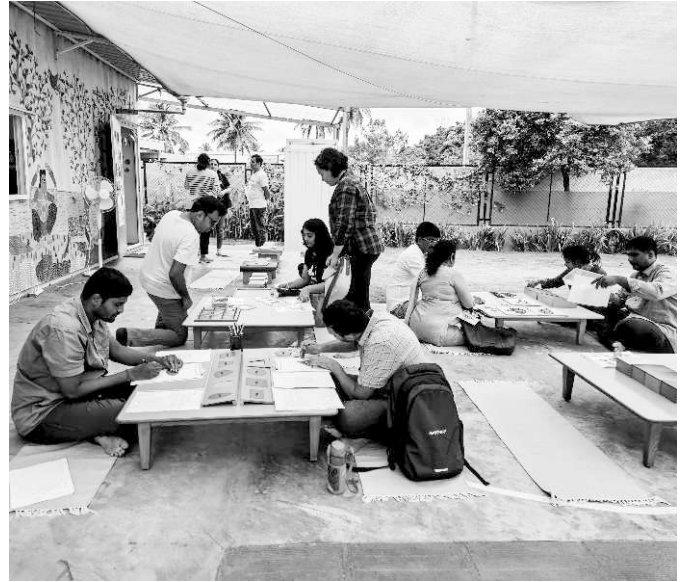
Deep concentration (Metal Insets)



Enthusiastic PG parents. – Sensitive Periods discussion



Sharpening the visual sense (Tertiary Colour Tablets)



Our keen-to-learn parent community



So difficult yet so fun! (Spooning Mustard Seeds)



True persistence (Arch and Keystone)



Learning to spell ☺(Moveable Alphabet)



Shapes galore (Geoboard & Metal Insets)



"Am I right???" (Tertiary Colour Tablets)



Putting those grey cells to work (Binomial Cube)

EEY Outreach

Parent and Child & Toddler Programme

Eklavya Early Years announces two new programmes starting September 2024:

- 1) Parent & Child – for children aged 6m to 18m
- 2) Toddler – 18m onwards

Both these programmes are steeped in Eklavya's philosophy of nurturing an innate love for learning through stimulating activities and environments. They also emblematic of our mission to provide every child with joyful, thought-provoking and child-centric early childhood education.

Admissions are open for both programmes.

EEY Outreach: - Eklavya Early Years conducted a special Parent and Child event for children aged 6 months to 2 years at Sobha City on 18 August. Toddlers and their parents enjoyed the different activities ranging from Treasure Basket to Balancing Toys on a Stick. They also dabbled in free painting with their parents and sang many songs with props such as pom poms, scarves and so on.



THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

'*Humankind* challenged me and made me see humanity from a fresh perspective'
Yuval Noah Harari

'Hugely, highly, happily recommended'
Stephen Fry

'An exceptional read'
Matt Haig



Human kind

A Hopeful History

Rutger Bregman

BLOOMSBURY

Let's talk about Play!

Over the past decades, the intrinsic motivation of children has been systematically stifled. Adults have been filling children's time with homework, athletics, music, drama, exam practice — the list of activities seems endless. That means less time for that one other activity: play. And then I mean play in the broadest sense — the freedom to go wherever curiosity leads. To search and to discover, to experiment and to create. Not along any lines set out by parents or teachers, but just because. For the fun of it.

Everywhere you look, children's freedom is being limited. In 1971, 80 per cent of British seven- and eight-year-olds still walked to school on their own. These days it's a mere 10 per cent. A recent poll among twelve thousand parents in ten countries revealed that prison inmates spend more time outdoors than most kids.' Researchers at the University of Michigan found the time kids spent at school increased by 18 per cent from 1981 to 1997. Time spent on homework went up 145 per cent.'

Sociologists and psychologists alike have expressed alarm at these developments. One long-term American study found a diminishing 'internal locus of control' among children, meaning they increasingly feel their lives are being determined by others. In the US, this shift has been so seismic that in 2002 the average child felt less 'in control' than 80 per cent of kids did in the 1960s.

Why? What's behind this shift? It's not as if parents suddenly gained oceans of time. On the contrary, since the 1980s parents everywhere have been working harder. Maybe that's the key: our fixation on work at the expense of everything else. As education policymakers began pushing rankings and growth, parents and schools became consumed with testing and results.

Kids are now being categorised at an ever younger age. Between those with heaps of ability and promise, and those with less. Parents worry: is my daughter being challenged enough? Is my son keeping up with his peers? Will they be accepted into a university? A recent study among 10,000 American students revealed that 80 per cent think their parents are more concerned about good grades than qualities like compassion and kindness. At the same time there's a widespread sense that something valuable is slipping away. Such as spontaneity. And playfulness. As a parent, you're bombarded with tips on how to steel yourself and your child against the pressures to achieve. There's a whole genre on how to work less and be more mindful. But what if a little self-help doesn't cut it?

To better understand what's going on, we need to define what we mean by play. Play is not subject to fixed rules and regulations, but is open-ended and unfettered. It's not an Astroturfed field with parents shouting at the sidelines; it's kids frolicking outside without parental supervision, making up their own games as they go along.

When kids engage in this kind of play, they think for themselves. They take risks and colour outside the lines, and in the process train their minds and motivation. Unstructured play is also nature's remedy against boredom. These days we give kids all kinds of manufactured entertainment, from the LEGO Star Wars Snowspeeder complete with detailed assembly instructions, to the Miele Kitchen Gourmet Deluxe with electronic cooking sounds.

The question is, if everything comes prefabricated, can we still cultivate our own curiosity and powers of imagination? Boredom may be the wellspring of creativity. 'You can't teach creativity,' writes psychologist Peter Gray, 'all you can do is let it blossom.'

On the face of it, play may seem like a pretty pointless use of time. But the fascinating thing is that it's the most intelligent animals that exhibit the most playful behaviour. In Chapter 3 we saw that domesticated animals play their whole lives. What's more, no other species enjoys a childhood as long as Homo puppy.

Play gives meaning to life, wrote the Dutch historian Johan Huizinga back in 1938. He christened us Homo Luden — 'playing man'. Everything we call 'culture', said Huizinga, originates in play.

(Excerpted from *Humankind* by Rutger Bregman, pages 280-283)