



EKLAVYA SAMACHARA

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Sep 2023

EKLAVYA EARLY YEARS

Vol. 1 / Sr. 2

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Gandhi Jayanti / Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti | 2 Oct |
| Navratri | 15 - 23 Oct |
| Dussehra Havan | 17 Oct |
| Dussehra | 24 Oct |
| Sardar Patel Jayanti | 31 Oct |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Dussehra Holidays | 23 - 29 Oct |
| Students Rejoin | 30 Oct |

Parents' Workshop Dates: Sat, 14 Oct, 10am - 11am

As we approach the festive season, Eklavya Early Years would like to remind all parents that attendance of the children on the first and last day before and after vacations is compulsory. Please ensure that your child is present on both days - Fri 20 Oct & Mon, 30 Oct.

Wishing you and your family a happy and festive vacation.

Field Visits

1 Sept - Field Visit to More Supermarket - On 1 September, children were taken on a field visit to More Supermarket in Sahakarnagar. The children saw, touched, smelled and identified a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, grains, millets and lentils. They learnt the names of many household items as well and had a very enriching sensorial experience of feeling, smelling and seeing different textures, fragrances and colours. Children also learnt how to conduct themselves when they are in a new place outside. Their learnings were further extended in the classroom through work with the flash cards and books on vegetables and fruits.





15 Sep - Field Visit – Model Village - On 15 September, children of Eklavya Early Years went for a field visit to Model Village. Model Village depicts the different aspects and communities of rural Karnataka. The children saw large installations depicting potters, weavers, cobblers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, farmers and so on. They also saw many traditional tools such as charkhas, potter's wheel, stone spice grinder, stone flour grinder, etc. The visit enriched the children's vocabulary and helped them understand a daily routine different from their urban life. The icing on the cake was an exciting and enjoyable horse cart ride inside Model Village.





Festival & Important Days Celebrations

7 Sep - Janmashtami - The children of KG and PG and the educators celebrated Janmashtami on 7 September 2023. The children were dressed in beautiful and colourful lehengas/lehenga davanis. They performed a dance on the Krishna Bhajan 'Achyutam Keshavam'. The educators sang the Krishna bhajan अधरं मधुरं. for the children with a new stanza that encouraged the little ones to see beauty all around them.

Lyrics

अधरं मधुरं, वदनं मधुरं
नयनं मधुरं, हसितं मधुरं
हृदयं मधुरं, गमनं मधुरं,
मधुराधिपतेरखिलं मधुरं

Flowers मधुरं, trees are मधुरं
Sandpit मधुरं, jungle gym मधुरं
Classroom मधुरं, my books मधुरं
Class रखेंगे clean हम मधुरं

Then the children also participated in 'matki fod'. They also repeated several times with enthusiasm the following नारें:

We will wind up after play, जय कन्हैयालाल की
We will always say please, जय कन्हैयालाल की
We will keep our classroom clean, जय कन्हैयालाल की
We will use gentle hands, जय कन्हैयालाल की
We will eat on our own, जय कन्हैयालाल की
हाथी घोड़ा पालकी, जय कन्हैयालाल की

The repetition of the नारें further reinforced the good habits and behaviour that is being taught daily to the children.



18-19 Sep - Preparation for Ganesh Chaturthi

Clay Ganesha Making

In preparation for Ganesh Chaturthi, children engaged in clay Ganesha making. Children practiced rolling the clay into balls in their palms and their fingers. They also learnt to roll the clay into a rope to make the trunk and to pinch the balls in between their fingers to make the ears. All of these served as wonderful fine motor skills activities for the little ones.



Ganesha Tracing - On Ganesh Chaturthi, children enjoyed tracing Ganesha. Educators had prepared an outline of Ganesha on a chart paper. The children were asked to place large pebbles on the outline. This activity required them to be precise in their movements and pay a lot of attention to details. The children of KG and PG were completely absorbed in making sure that the pebbles were placed exactly on the line and were very happy when they saw the end result.



Storytelling - Children also heard the story of Ganesha and his brother Kartikeya. The two brothers were once presented with a challenge – a race around the world three times. The one who would come first in the race would be given the fruit of wisdom. Kartikeya raced off and covered the entire world in record time. Ganesha, instead of circling the world, circled his parents three times as he considered his parents his world. Through this story, educators discussed with the children the importance of parents, and the love and respect that we should give them.

27 Sep - Bhagat Singh's B'day - On Bhagat Singh's Birthday, children were shown a picture of him. They learnt about his life and heroism during Circle Time.

In preparation for the birthday of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, a courageous and patriotic freedom fighter, children listened to and danced to 'Mera Rang de Basanti Chola', a patriotic song synonymous with the revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Ashfaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Chandrashekhar Azad. They learnt about the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh and his contribution to the Indian freedom struggle.



28 Sep - In celebration of Eid-e-Milad, the birthday of Prophet Muhammed, children were told the story of his life during Circle Time. A mosque with cellophane window and door cutouts was also used as a material to learn more about it. The use of cellophane also became a way to learn about how sunlight through the coloured cellophane changes colour. Children were eager to try it out themselves and also enjoyed looking through the cellophane windows to see the world around them change colour.



Curriculum

Shloka Chanting in September

during Assembly (every M, W, Th)

ॐ सह नावतु
सह नौ भुनक्तु
सह वीर्यं कर्वावहे
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु
मा विदविषावहे
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ।।

May all (teacher and student) together protect one another,

May all (teacher and student) nourish and share knowledge,

May all (teacher and student) work together with great energy,

May everyone's (teacher and student) intellect shine bright,

May all (teacher and student) not have any dispute or hatred towards each other.

Prayer for September

तू ही राम है, तू रहीम है,
तू करीम, कृष्ण, खुदा हुआ।
तू ही वाहे गुरु, तू ही इशु मसीह,
हर नाम में तू समा रहा।

तेरी जात पाक कुरान में,
तेरा दर्ज वेद पुराण में,
गुरु ग्रंथ जी के बखान में,
तू प्रकाश अपना दिखा रहा।

तू ही राम है, तू रहीम है,
तू करीम, कृष्ण, खुदा हुआ।

Rolling and Unrolling the Mat - As part of their Practical Life Skills curriculum, children are taught and encouraged to roll and unroll the mat. The mat is an integral part of the classroom as all work with materials happens on it. Rolling and unrolling it in a specific way is important because every time the child does it, she practices specific wrist movements. These movements are very good for her fine motor skills. Moreover, rolling and unrolling of the mat teaches the child patience and perseverance – to do it correctly and to re-do as many times as required to get it perfect. Our children are still in the process of learning how to roll the mat perfectly, but their sincere efforts to learn are really heartwarming.



Work with Knobbed Cylinders - The Knobbed Cylinder Blocks are preliminary Montessori sensorial materials. They give children an overview of dimensions, refine their visual sense and improve their tripod grip (fine motor skills). In September, children of PG and KG worked extensively on all 4 Knobbed Cylinder Blocks. Not only did it help them understand various concepts such as thick-thin, big-small, tall-short, but also gave them a great sense of joy and satisfaction every time they were able to successfully place all the cylinders in the right holes.



Fine Motor Skills : Peg Pinching - As part of their fine motor skills activities, children of PG learnt to pinch the clothes pegs and carefully place them on the rim of a bowl. This activity truly delighted the children as they loved the process of opening and closing the clothes peg. Using only their thumb and index finger, they learnt to apply adequate force on the peg to open it and improved their eye hand coordination and concentration while placing it on the rim of the bowl.



Block Room - This month, children of PG and KG began their Block Room sessions. Children got the opportunity to work with various different kinds of blocks and puzzles. The aim of the Block Room is to foster the children's imagination, creativity, problem solving skills, spatial intelligence and artistic abilities through open-ended play. It was marvellous to see children working with utmost patience, concentration and persistence with all the blocks.



Building with the Unit Blocks - The KG child began her first foray into building with the Unit Blocks. The Unit Blocks were invented by a revolutionary American educator in the early 1900s called Caroline Pratt. These Unit Blocks take inspiration from Froebel's Gifts. Their size enables children to build wonderful structures and enhance their imagination and creativity. This kind of open-ended play also provides many opportunities for the child to learn Math through play, to improve her spatial intelligence and to enrich vocabulary through discussions on what has being built by the child.



Storytelling – Thirsty Crow - Children of KG and PG were told the story of the Thirsty Crow using puppets. The children listened to the story in rapt attention, eager to know more. They also saw how the water level rises when small pebbles are placed in a glass of water. The combination of storytelling, puppetry and a science experiment truly reinforced the learnings from this story for the children.



Storytelling – Four Friends - Children heard the Panchatantra story 'Four Friends' this month: a tale that celebrates the strong friendship and unity between four animals, 'Four Friends' is also featured as a mural on our exterior classroom walls. Children were first told the story using a book, then were shown how the different scenes of the story are depicted on the walls and finally, puppets and costumes were used by the educators to bring the story to life. Children enjoyed listening to the story a lot. They were also excited to point out all the characters of the story on the wall of the classroom.

As an extension to the story into art, children also did a Q-tip/cotton ear buds dot art with the main characters of the Four Friends story. Children enjoyed printing with the cotton bud and did so with a lot of precision and enthusiasm.





Books in September - This month, children of KG and PG enjoyed being read the following stories/books repeatedly.

1. "Guess Who" of Time Life Series
2. "If You're Happy And You Know It" by Anna McQuin and Sophie Fatus
3. "Nature"
4. "A New House for Mouse" by Petr Horacek
5. "One Ted Falls Out of Bed" by Julia Donaldson
6. "Nani's Walk to the Park" by Deepa Balsavar
7. Vocabulary building books on topics such as "Clothes, Animals, Bedtime" etc
8. "Four Friends" by Kala Sasikumar



Rhymes and songs - In September, children learnt and sang the following rhymes and songs:

PG:

1. Cobbler Cobbler
2. Hannu Hannu

KG:

1. Where is Thumbkin?
2. Ten Little Fingers
3. Mari Mari Baa Illi

Pretend Play - Between the ages of 1-6 years, children engage in various levels of self-initiated pretend play. Not only is this kind of play imaginative and creative, but it is also a stimulant for self-regulation of emotions and behaviour, language building, socialization and higher order cognitive thinking.

In our classrooms, we have a special shelf dedicated to pretend play where a basket of precious 'play silks' lies. Play Silks are a staple of any Waldorf classroom – they are simple, soft, silky and colourful cloths. They have no pre-determined use and the children are free to make it whatever they wish.

In this month, the play silks have been everything from a blanket for a sleepy doll to a sari for our little ones. The children enact common experiences they have had such as their mother/father feeding them, putting them to sleep, consoling them when they are upset, or their parent talking on the phone with someone.

It is important to note that all of these creative ways to use the play silks have been initiated by the children, without any prompting by the educators. This self-directed quality of play makes the children more independent and explorative. Their views are not limited by an adult's and they seek to learn on their own.



Nature walk - Children and educators went for a beautiful nature walk in the field next to our campus. The children saw a variety of trees and plants ranging from a castor plant to an amla tree. They also saw a field full of tomato plants and learnt that tomatoes are initially green and then turn red when they ripen. They also saw banana plants with large bunches of unripe green bananas drooping from the branches. The children learnt to walk with care in the field and observe small insects in the soil. Children saw with great interest ants coming in and out of an ant's nest and also saw many hens and roosters in the farm. Children also touched and felt many kinds of leaves and identified the texture as rough or smooth.





Messy Muddy Play! - During their morning farming time, children of PG and KG got the opportunity to play and experiment with wonderfully gooey mud. They enjoyed feeling the mud between their toes and squishing it with their fist. They also loved spattering mud around themselves.

Playing with mud helps strengthen the children's sense of touch. It also presents them with a beautiful material for play and building with unlimited uses. When children get engrossed in playing with mud in an open and free environment, they develop true creativity.



Palm Printing - Children of Play Group and Kindergarten did Palm Printing using paints at Eklavya Early Years. The child enjoyed painting their hands and creating impressions of them. Palm printing is a very enjoyable and important educational art activity. It is a wonderful tactile experience that stimulates the child's senses. It aids in fine motor muscle strength building and most importantly, is a lot of fun for children.

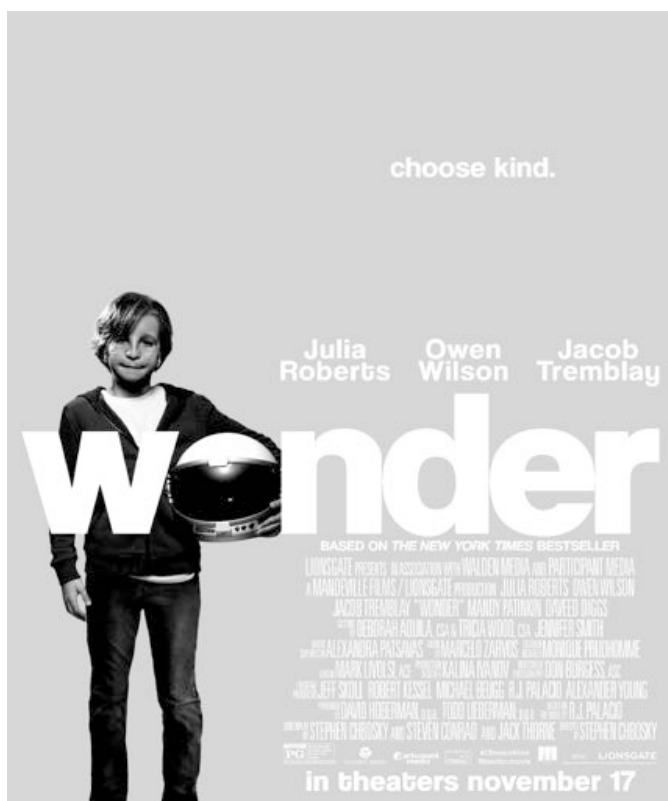


Scribbling - Children enjoyed the activity of scribbling with a wax crayon this month. For the children of PG, scribbling with a wax crayon is an expression of creativity as well as the result of large movements from the shoulder. They also experience great joy in feeling the crayon in their hand and the action-reaction experience of seeing the lines appear wherever they move the crayons. For children of KG, scribbling is all this as well as a precursor to writing.



Professional Development

Teachers celebrated the day by watching a heartwarming film about children, education and educators called 'Wonder'. Released in 2017, Wonder is based on the 2012 novel of the same name by author R J Palacio. Wonder tells the story of a young boy named Auggie with a facial deformity going to school for the first time. It follows his relationships with other children, educators and his own family. The movie suggests that empathy and kindness are far more important than being right, and that every human being has his own difficulties and must be supported for it.



Reflections on the film 'Wonder':

Jayeeta ma'am

- The movie has clear positive messages about choosing kindness, appreciating everyone for who they are and true friendship and empathy.
- Watching this will develop a deeper understanding of how their words and actions can affect others and how they can leave emotional scars.
- The concluding scene of the Principal and the parents teaches us to be compassionate.
- Favourite quotes: "When given the choice between being right or being kind – choose kind."

Keiko ma'am

- Auggie's teacher did not just leave him out of the picture even though the other children said they didn't want him in the class picture. He included Auggie, and also gave him a lot of chances to show others who he is.
- Though Auggie was different, he was always treated like the other children by the staff of the school.
- Showering children with positive and kind words can help them have the courage to do things that they fear the most and boost their confidence.

Pretend Play - Educators of Eklavya Early Years watched and reflected on a wonderful video by our Principal, Mrs Sobhana Menon on the benefits of Pretend Play. Here is the note that Sobhana Ma'am has written as a preface to the video:

A student of Shri Sunil Handa (Chairman, Eklavya School, Ahmedabad) has been working on Pretend Play toys.

He asked me to have a talk with her on various aspects of Pretend Play. He also asked me to record this talk so that we can share it with all of you.

Pretend play is a favourite activity for children between 2-6 years.

Children are at a stage where they are able to imagine and associate intensely with objects in their immediate surroundings - which is why in this stage they engage in pretend play.

Through pretend play they relive their day-to-day experiences. They learn to rely on thought and not on impulses.

The ability of the child to see a cup as a hat or a telephone; to follow the sequences of serving a meal with care and love; even caring for a sick teddy (turned into a child); driving a car by holding the imaginary steering - provides opportunities to the child to become self regulated and responsible.

We have seen nowadays that children are provided with miniature versions of most objects seen in their surroundings - for example a gas stove, a kitchen platform with all the utensils, a laptop setup etc.

The moment such toys are provided the purpose of pretend play is completely defeated.

These toys do not allow children to play with their imagination - we are restricting their ability to see a stone as a cake... a chocolate cake, a spoon as a badminton racket etc.

We are actually obstructing the children from reaching great heights of imagination and creativity.

Our role as adults is to give them an environment where children are free to convert objects in their environment to what they imagine. We should give them the space to relive and express what they are experiencing.

Below is the link to the video on Pretend Play.

www.bit.ly/pretend_play

Thank you,
Sobhana ma'am
Principal
Eklavya Early Years

Reflections of Eklavya Early Years Educators

Jayeeta Ma'am

- Generally what they [children] experience, observe and think is expressed or revealed through their pretend play.
 - Thinking Skills: Child uses her memory and thinking skills to problem solve while recreating past experiences and acting them out.
 - Social Skills: Child uses language and vocabulary to explain what they are doing, describe events and engage in pretend play with others.
- Vasudha Ma'am
- Social skills - It provides opportunities for kids to interact with others, negotiate roles and practice cooperation and communication.
 - Emotional regulation - Pretend play lets children express and work through their emotions in a safe and controlled environment.

- Empathy - By taking on different roles, children can develop empathy as they try to understand the feeling and perspective of others.

- Children tend to do Pretend Play with no aggression, and play the nice part. Even if any kind of aggression, sadness is experienced, during Pretend Play the children themselves solve it by consoling themselves with what they've heard others say in their surroundings.

- Imagination is limited when the toys that are given are exactly what they are. Example: instead of a plastic cake, a cup of wet sand can be used as a cake.

Eklavya Early Years' Outreach

Eklavya Early Years organised a fun and exciting workshop at Brigade Northridge on 2 September and at NCC Urban Nagarjuna Meadows in Yelahanka on 30 September. Children engaged in exciting Wooden Block Play using our one-of-a-kind Ultimate Construction Sets. They also learnt Bubble Wrap Painting, Sponge art, Balloon Art and Magic Painting using turmeric, lemon juice and washing powder. Children also enjoyed singing songs and doing lively movement activities.



16 Sep - Nikoo Homes 1 - Eklavya Early Years conducted an exciting workshop with fun and creative games for children aged 2-6 at Nikoo Homes 1. Children were introduced to a variety of games including

- Vipella 1 and 3, a thought-provoking wooden blocks game that requires the child to understand dimensions very well
- L angle, a balancing game that requires precision, patience and resilience
- Brahma's Rings - a deliciously complicated puzzle; and many more.

Parents were also engrossed in solving thought-provoking puzzles while their children were attending the workshop.



STEAM Workshop - On 16 September 2023, Eklavya Early Years held its first STEAM workshop for children aged 2-10 years. STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths, is an important part of early childhood learning. It enables children to develop their logical thinking ability, spatial intelligence, critical thinking skills, creativity, imagination and communication skills.

Eklavya Early Years conducts STEAM workshops every Saturday between 11:30AM - 1PM and invites all children aged 2-10 for it.

Through special games such as the Ultimate Construction Set, Crazy Blocks, Froebel Gifts, Rangometry, Pyrom and so on, children explored their creativity to make imaginative structures and designs.



STEAM WORKSHOP



Come play with Unique STEAM toys that improve

Logical & analytical
Thinking

Spatial Thinking

Creativity

Imagination

**Every Saturday
11:30am-1pm**

**For children aged 2-10 years
Rs. 500/- month**

Venue: Eklavya Early Years

To book a spot, please call 99022 31493

**LIMITED
SEATS
AVAILABLE**



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



The Value of Praise and Encouragement

Children thrive on the attention of adults. Very little pleases them more than to have their mothers and fathers show interest in what they are doing. Wise parents take advantage of this and praise their girls' and boys' positive actions as often as possible. Thus, they reinforce the youngsters' good behavior and encourage them to repeat it. An occasional spontaneous remark, such as "I like the way you and Sara are working together to build the block city," teaches good behavior and fosters self-esteem.

Reinforcing good behavior takes time and effort on the part of the parents. It is not always easy for young children to learn new social skills. Why should they want to share their toys or interrupt their play to come meet Daddy's friend? But if each stride forward is consistently noticed, commended and rewarded, they will be increasingly motivated to adopt the new behavior.

Showing approval

Recognition can take numerous forms – everything from a few well-chosen words of praise, an embrace, a thumbs-up sign or a wink, to some more tangible reward, such as bestowal of a privilege or a special treat. But every bit as important to reinforcement is the speed with which approval is shown: the praise should be immediate, so that the child can make the connection between her act and the pleasant consequences that follow.

The knack of praising

It takes skill to praise well. The trick is to praise particular behavior rather than make general comments and to praise often. "What a good girl you are!" is not nearly so effective a reinforcer as a specific: "You've been very patient to play quietly while I've been making dinner." Such a statement tells the child what you liked about her behavior, as well as what she can do next time to earn similar praise from you.

Keep compliments simple and honest. Like adults, children are put off by gushy or condescending statements. And they are apt to shrink at praise that comes with criticism or reminders of past failures. "Well, it's about time you did it!" is faint praise indeed. How much better to say: "I'm so glad you put your socks in the drawer. I knew you could keep up with the good work!"

When your youngster is engaged in a difficult or prolonged activity, do not wait until she has completed it to applaud her accomplishment. Instead, offer encouragement along the way. "That's hard to do and you're doing just fine" is just the kind of supportive remark a child loves to hear.

When reinforcing behavior, never hurry the child and never expect change right away. If your goal is to get your youngster to sit still for 20 minutes each night at the dinner table, you should praise her attempts in this direction throughout the meal – every couple of minutes in the case of a toddler, less often with an older youngster. And you must be willing to do so for several nights running until your child successfully adopts the behavior. This sounds like work, and it is – but it will not be in vain. The outcome of reinforcement is not only a more cooperative youngster, but a better parent-child relationship, in which the parent winds up spending less time hassling over daily routines.

Excerpted from "Teaching Good Behavior", by the Editors of Time-Life Books, published by Time Life Books, Virginia, pages 46-7.