

REPORT ON LUZ BALWADI

I joined the Luz Balwadi as their Montessori teacher on 3rd June 2010.

The children here are in the age group of 1.5 to 5.5 years. They all looked clean and were eager to work on the Montessori Materials.

OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

We start the day with Prayers at 9.30 A.M followed by General Assembly. During this time we discuss ways and methods of maintaining healthy and hygienic habits – covering our mouths while coughing, washing hands before eating, care of the teeth, brushing teeth twice a day and bathing and washing all fruits and vegetables before consuming etc.

We also discuss on how to carry ourselves in the society, how to greet people, how to talk to elders, how to mingle with neighbors and so on;

Also taught are the English names of fruits, flowers, animals, sea animals, insects, parts of the body, life cycles of butterfly, frog, hen, tree, parts of tree, plant growth, domestic and useful animals and the like.

At 9.50 AM, the children spread out their individual mats and start working on the Montessori materials. The children work with Practical life materials, Sensorial materials, Mathematics and Language materials.

The children thoroughly enjoy working with the materials and do the jobs with utmost concentration and involvement till 11.30 A.M. We can see even one and a half year old children sitting at their mats and work with full involvement.

11.30 is Break Time.

At 11.45 we once again assemble for a session of songs and story telling.

At 12.30 the children wash their hands clean and line up for the mid day meal.

After the lunch hour while the smaller children sleep for a while, the older children once again spread their mats and work with sensorial, mathematics and language materials.

HALF YEAR AT A GLANCE

From 4th August 2010 to 13th August 2010, Montessori trainee teachers from CMTC came on an Observation Visit. They spoke of how happy and amazed they were on seeing the small children from deprived backgrounds work effectively with the materials.

On September 10th we had a Parents Teacher Meeting. Mrs.Padmini Gopalan, President of our Trust distributed school uniform to 48 children enrolled with us. The parents shared their thoughts with us which we are happy to say was a very positive feedback about our method of teaching. At the end of the Reprt, I have given some excerpts from them.

On October 15th, we celebrated Vijaya Dasami Pooja when we distributed sweet pongal, pori, fruits and sundal to the children.

From November 22nd for 10 days another batch of Trainee students from CMTC came for Observation. They commented on the responsible and disciplined way the children were working and keeping the materials back in their respective places.

On October 23rd there was a dental check up for all our children after which we distributed tooth paste and tooth brush for all children.

Once a week, we take the children to the neighborhood park. The children will be in their best behavior at the park, maintaining peace. They even set an example to others by picking up littered paper and plastic covers and putting them into dust bins. This evokes surprised reactions from walkers in the Park who complimented the children whole heartedly.

A few parents living in the neighborhood, who had brought their children along to the park, enquired about our school and some of them later enrolled their children in our Balwadi.

Our Observation is that, even those of our children who remain very quiet in the classes, mingled well with other children and spoke readily while at the Park. We were extremely happy to see them being themselves while there.

PARENT'S FEEDBACK

“Our son is not walking on the sleeping mat even at home; he himself rolls it neatly every morning as soon as he gets up.. he even rolls our mats and objects if we walk on them!”

“My children wipe the washed vessels with a clean cloth nowadays.”

“Even at 3, my children are very disciplined after coming here. They are eager to help others. They love and respect the environment!”

“I find that the children speak fearlessly here. They are independent and share things with others without even being told to. They take care of all their needs themselves and don’t depend on me”.