2015-2016



"I Can Climb"

I can climb on a tree I can climb on a tree

With a rope, with a ladder.

I can climb on a tree I can climb on a tree

With gloves and jumping shoes.

OUR PROJECT JOURNEY ON LIVING NATURE ...

OCTOBER 2014

I can climb on a tree I can climb on a tree

With blocks and chawkis.

I can climb on a tree I can climb on a tree."

- By Keya & Aarshi (Sr. Kg)







CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

Playgroup

Arnam Reengusia Aarjav Garg **Aarush Agarwal** Aarush Jain **Achyut Agarwal** Arna Shah Aryan Gadhvi Avashya Shah Devansh Agarwal Divyanshi Jadeja Keshav Aggarwal Medha Agarwal Nia Makwana Param Kanabar Pheona Patel Pranjay Rajput amaira Aggarwa

Nursery

Adaa Arora Aahaan Kothari Aarav Beel **Aarav Choudhary** Aarav Jobanputra Alvssa Rav Thaker Ananya Soni Anishka Saksena Arjun Mittal **Blessy Anada** Daksh Ajwani Debangan Dey Dia Mehta Diksha Parikh Diya Chokshi Helly Desai Hridhaan Shastri Jahal Patel Khanak Shah Khushi Gohel Krishna Huiare M H Amulva Mahnaaz Daruwalla Manav Desai Maurvin Sanghvi Medhansh Dholakia Mihika Lavanshi Myra Mistry Nagji Thakore Naisha Vora Nirmay Bhardwaj Param Patel Prathamesh Gomber Raghav Agrawal Savya Bhatt Shaurya Bahl Shayaan Shaikh Srushti Barbhaya Tanishka Mandal Yuq Raval Yug Sharma Zenil Patel

Junior KG

Aayush Yadav Aaditya Raval

Aadvika Sood Aanshi Shah Adbhut Adeshara **Anay Shah** Angel Dharaiya Anirudh Jhunjhunwala Anushka Lakhanpal Arihaan Sheth Athary Vedpathak Avyaan Khanna Ayaan Sharma Ayan Mistry Charitra Mehta Daksh Arora **Dhairy Patel Dheer Patel** Dhyanaa Parikh Diya Patel Dwij Patel Grishma Patel Jaitra Prajapati Jakshay Parekh Jaywardhansinh Gohil Jhanvi Gohil Jiya Shah Juana Rana Keya Koradiya Lavanya Bali Matta Maalav Agarwalla Manasvi Rathi **Manbir Banvet** Mehar Narang Myra Daruwala Nayansai Peddiraju Nishka Nagpal Ojasvini Singh Prajayraj Singh Renan Fernandez Rewa Malhotra Saanvi Gupta Saanvi Saundh Sachi Shah Samaira Patel Sanvi Patel Sarvesh Radhakrishnan Shivam Mittal Slesha Barevadia Srishti Mazumdar Tanuj Goyal Vansh Patil

Yana Shah

Senior KG

Anitra Kaur Bakshi Aanya Amin Aarshi Amin Aashka Subramanian Anaavi Parayani Ananya Purey Anushka Sharma Armaan Raj Bhandari Ayaan Raghuvanshi Bhavya Patel Bhavyaa Nathani **Dhriti Agrawal Drumil Ashra** Garima Pareek Gurbani Parayani Heer Khatri Hitarth Shah Jahan Desai Kabir Gautam Kashti Shah Kaustubh Dave Kavish Agarwal Keya Jain Mannat Aggarwal Manya Joshi Melzar Waghmare Nandan Patel **Neev Shah** Nirvaan Jain **Prajeet Sonavane** Praveer Sonavane Sanika Hemani Shanaya Bapna **Shashank Dave** Shivaditya Sisodia Sudipti Asrani Yashi Hundia



Children at Redbricks Junior (1.5 to 5.5 year olds) conducted 6-week research projects on the themes of "BIRDS, INSECTS AND TREES" in September and October 2014. The project topics were chosen under the broad theme of "LIVING NATURE" with an attempt to build on children's natural curiosity and connections with nature.

This calendar is a collection of the stories and evidences from the projects, which showcases the processes of learning as well as the in-depth thinking of children.

The projects were conducted through a pedagogical approach called "The Project Approach" which is conducted in three phases. The first phase is where children wonder, share prior experiences and raise questions for investigation. The second phase is where children conduct investigations through field work, interactions with experts, and first hand investigations in and outside school. The third phase is where children interpret their findings, consolidate their learnings and present their understanding through an exhibition.

This calendar has documentation of the projects of each of the four classes- Playgroup, Nursery, Junior Kg and Senior Kg. Each class has been devoted three pages, where each page represents the three phases of the project in order. The journey of the project is shared through a project story page before the section of each class.











LEARNING TO FLY (BIRDS)

A Project by Playgroup Children (1.5-2.5 year olds) Length of the Project: 6 weeks Teachers: Ayushi Patel, Dimple Solanki, Palak Jain (Art teacher)



PHASE ONE

Our children always get fascinated with peacocks seen in our school campus. We started the birds project by introducing some pictures, books, and materials related to birds in our classroom. Children started curiously exploring these resources and talking about birds they see around them with a basic vocabulary. During free play time, they started talking about various birds and also started to pretend play as birds through various props. We also played some outdoor games such as making movements of birds, making sounds, etc. Most of children's talk about birds reflected how they related birds to their own selves- E.g.- "Duck sleeps on the pillow". They talked about the food items, home, young ones etc., of birds in relation to their own lives.

PHASE TWO

We arranged a field trip to our school's neighbourhood park- Sundervan Nature Park in order to first hand explore birds. The birds we observed at Sundervan were- write names of all birds observed. We tried to engage children in sensorial experiences such as touching and feeling birds, their eggs and other materials like leaves, stones etc. We also invited a parent to come as a resource person with love birds to the classroom. Children touched the love birds, listened to their melodious voice, imitated their sounds and body movements. We also engaged children in storytelling related to birds, playing various games of bird movements and sounds and enactments related to birds. After the investigations, children could now name and describe many more birds like pigeon, duck, love birds, etc. They could express about what they eat, where they live, body parts, their movements, their sounds, relationships, etc. They could now also see some connections between birds and trees as well as birds and insects through their field experiences.

PHASE THREE

As children were most fascinated with ducks throughout the project, we decided to prepare a life-size Duck model with the children and encouraged children to think about the materials that can be used to prepare the duck. Children also created stories, scribbles their thoughts, made clay models and shared verbally to express their learnings and feelings. Children who were just speaking a few words couple of months back now started making not only sentences, but started linking them to create stories!

COMMENTS

We as teachers tried to minutely observe children to understand their thoughts and feelings. This project has made us more sensitive to children's voices and their different ways of expression. We have seen a tremendous development in all the five domains- cognitive, socio-emotional, language, creative and physical- of the children. Most importantly, they have become more enthused to explore the natural world around them.



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Feeding the Ducks at Sundervan Park (PLAYGROUP - PHASE 1)

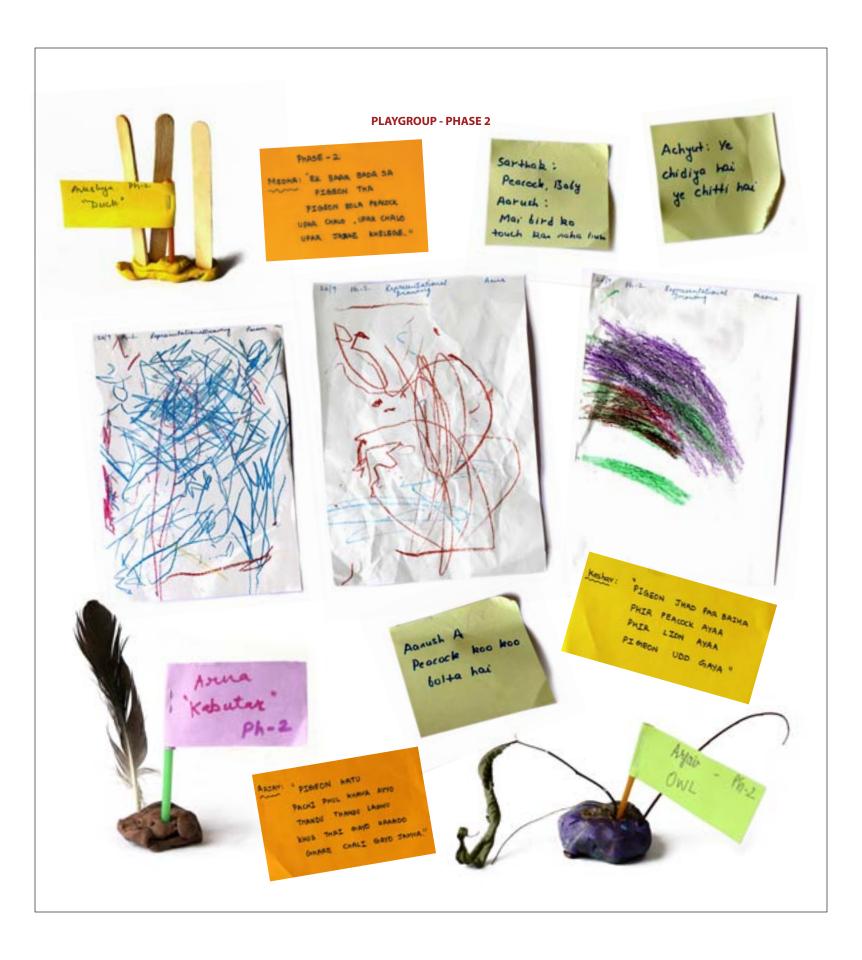
January 2015

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Touching and Feeling the Eggs of Birds at Sundervan Park (PLAYGROUP - PHASE 2)

February 2015

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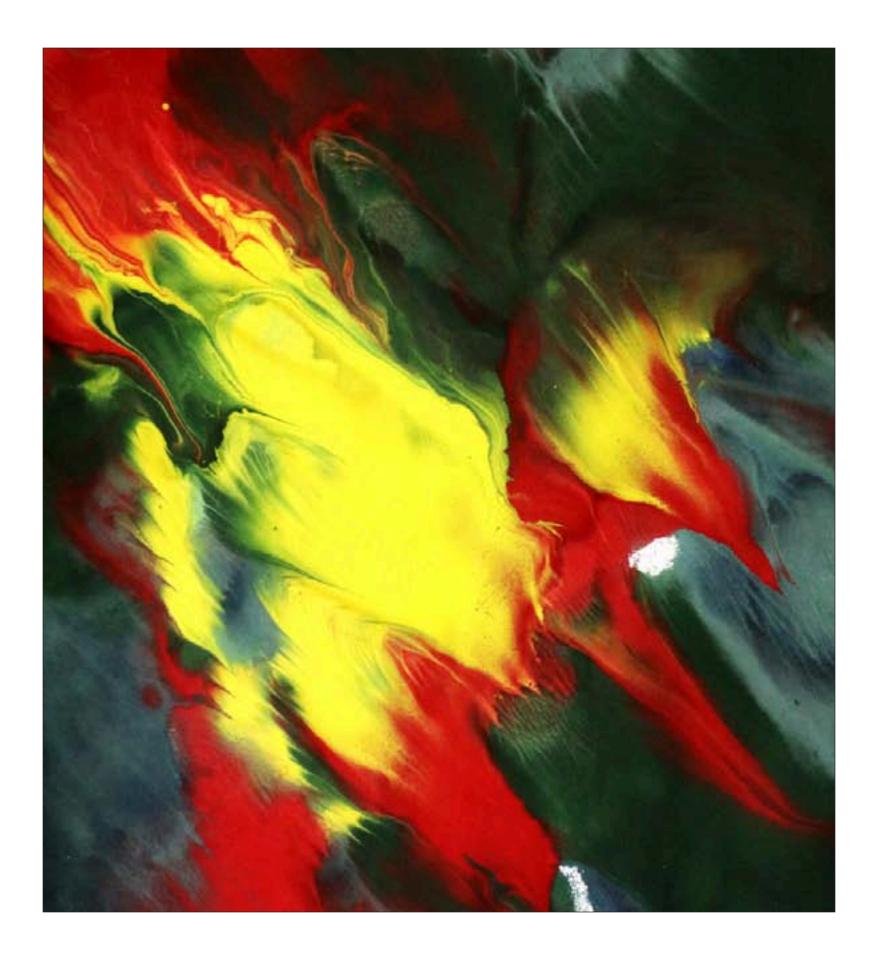
March 2015

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OUR EXPLORATION OF BIRDS

A Project by Nursery Children (2.5-3.5 year olds) Length of the Project: 6 weeks Teachers: Dipika Panchal, Pankti Shah, Puja Raval, Rachana Shah, Mittal Raval, Palak Jain (Art teacher)



PHASE ONE

We started discussing about different birds with children, by placing familiar pictures and materials in the environment which stimulated children to discuss about their past experiences. From these experiences emerged their understanding about birds and their emotions when they see, feed, hear birds around them. Eg.-: "Hu dada sathe pigeon ne mum aapva jau chu" (I go with my grandfather to give food to the pigeon.) Children tried to hypothesize about birds and how they live based on their observations and imagination. In this process, many myths about birds emerged. Eg-"Birds sirf fly karte hain, chalte nahi" (Birds only fly, they don't walk). Their vocabulary was very basic, limited to the basic body parts (mostly in Gujarati/Hindi) and some names of birds. Most children couldn't name "Feathers" at this stage.

PHASE TWO

We explored birds through campus walks in our school campus and also went to two external places for field work- Sundervan Nature Park and Madhuban Farm. Children did first hand explorations of birds such as- Ducks, Parrot, Macaw, Emu, Love Birds. They asked many questions such as- " Duck kya udd sakte hain ke sirf chalte hain?" (Can ducks fly or they only walk?). At the field sites, they not only observed the birds closely but also felt the textures of their eggs & feathers, counted different birds and objects, measured their sizes through hand span, made representational drawings, collected different feathers, etc. A bird feed area was created in the school campus which children explored daily and made representational drawings while watching them eat grains. Children's vocabulary now expanded dramatically and they could now name unusual birds. They could also identify and describe different body parts of birds, their food, house, colours, shapes, etc. They enthusiastically made movements and sounds of various birds, created stories and rhymes, and made clay models which now showed more detailing and forms of birds. A Parent, Mrs. Sisodiya, also brought Love birds to our classroom and children then learnt about how their care was being taken by their pet owner.

PHASE THREE

Towards the end, we decided to make small 3D models of "Lovebirds, Kingfisher, Sparrow, Parrot and a Duck" based on children's interests. We also decided to make a life size model of "Peacock" (2.5-3 ft) as our school campus has an abundance of peacocks and it is the most fascinating for our children. We showed various indigenous materials to children, from which they decided the materials to be used in making the models. In the last week, we reflected with children about all the experiences of the project.

COMMENTS

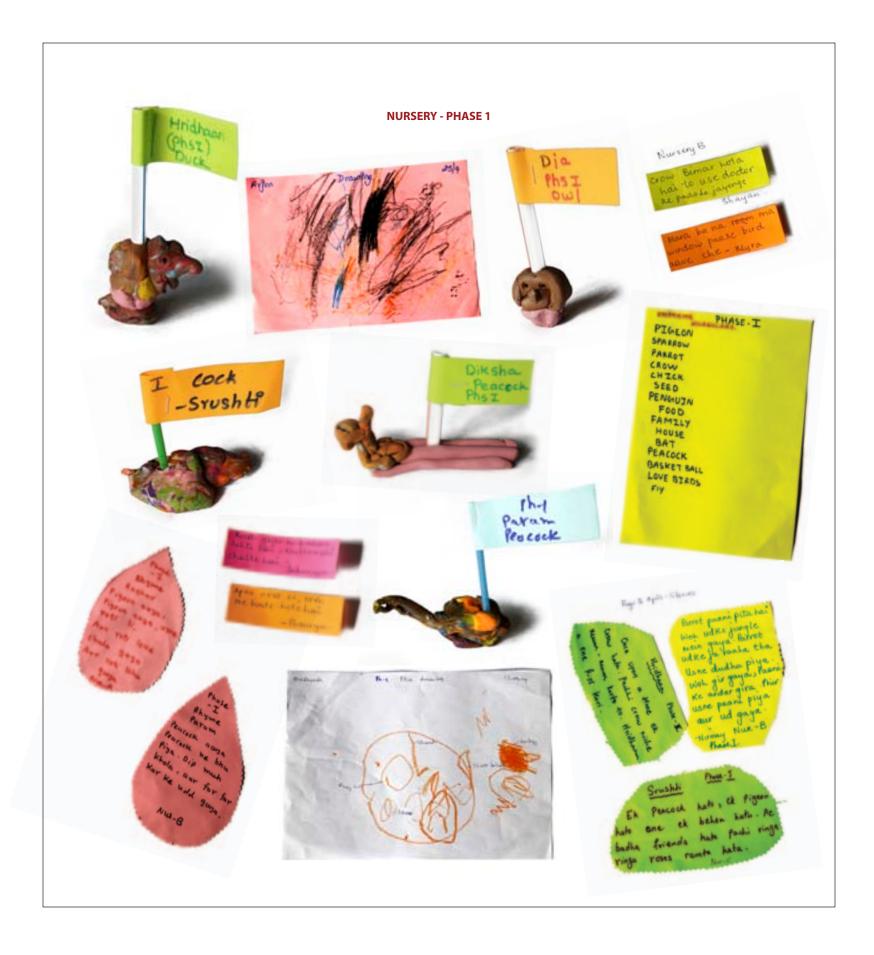
This project was an exciting journey for us and we noticed that children learnt to closely observe, think and express on their own. A lot of development happened in their vocabulary, expression, questioning skills, confidence, ability to interact with others, thinking, math readiness and much more.



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Observing a Macaw at Madhuban Farm (NURSERY - PHASE 1)

April 2015

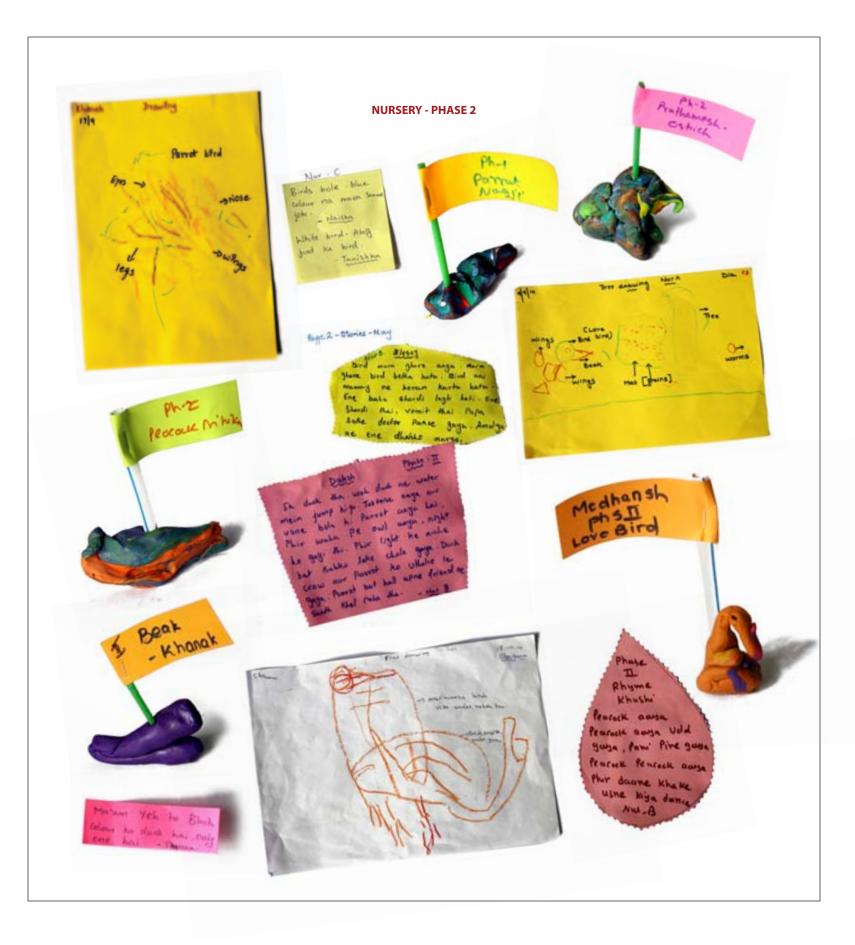
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Feeding the Ducks at Sundervan Park (NURSERY - PHASE 2)

May 2015

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Making a life size model of a peacock for the exhibition (NURSERY - PHASE 3)

June 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					













A Project by Junior kg Children (3.5-4.5 year olds) Length of the Project: 6 weeks Teachers: Ayushi Shah, Krishnakali Dey, Puja Kapoor, Sampa Nandy, Shikha Verma, Shimoli Sheth, Palak Jain (Art teacher)

PHASE ONE

We started our project with a lot of apprehension and anxiety. Some teachers were scared of insects and we worried that many children will also be scared. However, the initial group discussions with children left us astounded! They shared a lot of insect names like honeybee, ladybug, mosquito, firefly, butterfly, cockroach, tiger beetle, grasshopper, ants, dragonfly, caterpillar etc. Most children thought that all insects are harmful and none of them could agree on a defination of insects. Eg-"All insects have 4 legs." They were very keen to explore insects and learn more about them. Children had their own stories about insects. Along with true facts, children also shared many myths about what are insects. They were confused between reptiles and insects and named lizards and snakes also as insects. Their previous observations in cartoons also influnced their thoughts about insects. They were not sure about many thingsnumber of legs and wings, life cycle, sounds, movements, habitat, etc., related to insects.

PHASE TWO

We went for a field trip to Redbricks School-Santei campus to trace insects in their natural habitat. We were armed with magnifying lenses, bug viewers, boxes to collect insects. We also went to Serenity Garden where experts helped children to explore different insects and their homes. Children asked many questions such as-"What do insects eat?" "How do insects talk to each other?" Children did explorations using magnifying lenses, collected insects, counted and compared insects, made representational drawings, etc., at the field site. Once back in the class, they made tally charts from site data, referred encyclopedias and watched videos on insects. Parents also sent lots of insects from their homes to the school in small boxes which we explored in our classrooms. A parent- Mrs. Kiran Sonavanealso came to class and showed models of insects while explaining their characteristics. Our school campus has a butterfly park, where children could actually observe the butterfly lifecycle in real life- right from the eggs, larva, caterpillar, pupa, to the adult butterfly. Children were now able to find similarities and differences between insects and other things in nature e.g. trees, birds, other animals. They were also able to describe the interdependency between trees, birds and insects.

PHASE THREE

We discussed various explorations done until now in the classroom. Children created many drawings, clay models, charts, stories, rhymes and riddles to share their learnings. Eg-"Insects can identify a danger with the help of their antennae and they avoid going close to it." We decided to make 3-D models for the exhibition -'Ant and anthill,' 'Honeybee and Beehive' and the 'Life cycle of a butterfly'. First they made a blue print of the model, and themselves decided which indigenous materials to use to make the models. Interesting discussions around how to make the eyes, mouth, legs, body, etc., emerged which also helped us to recap the project learnings. Eg-"Honeybee's body has black lines on it." Caterpillar

COMMENTS

Insects may be repulsive or creepy to many adults, but kids were fascinated by them!! Children realized that not all insects are harmful, and our instinctual reaction to be afraid or kill insects is not appropriate. Children became more sensitive and observant about insects. The world needs insects, and they have an important role of play in our natural world.



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Tracing Insects at Redbricks Santej Campus (JUNIOR KG - PHASE 2)

July 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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Exploring Caterpillar Eggs on Leaves at Serenity Garden With an Expert (JUNIOR KG - PHASE 2)

August 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30













Collecting and Exploring Caterpillers in our school campus as we enter school in the morning (JUNIOR KG - PHASE 3)

September 2015

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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TREES - OUR BEST FRIENDS

A Project by Senior kg Children (4.5-5.5 year olds) Length of the Project: 6 weeks Teachers: Ankita Ramani, Nayana Kher, Pratibha Todawal, Shuchita Sharma, Palak Jain (Art teacher)



PHASE ONE

We started our project by conducting group discussions and probing children about their current understanding of Trees. We were struck with children's prior knowledge about trees. They also expressed deeper statements, emotions and sensitivity towards trees. E.g.- "Trees have future. This means that trees have life." Along with the true facts and knowledge about trees, children also shared some myths and misconceptions- some of which were their hypothesis and some their imagination. E.g.- "Trees can grow anywhere!" "We know the age of the tree by measuring the height!"

PHASE TWO

We arranged for field work experiences in the School Campus and Serenity Garden to explore varieties of trees and clear children's myths and guestions. We wanted children to closely observe the different parts of trees, touch and feel them. We encouraged them to raise their own questions about trees, which were clarified by exploring and talking to expert resource people. E.g.- "Why do leaves have different colours?""How are medicines made from trees?" Various mathematical (classification, sorting, counting, measuring) and language skills (interviewing, presenting, reading, writing, etc.) were also enhanced through the field work activities. Children now knew the names of different trees like Arjun Tree, Tree of Heaven, Simdo Tree, Saptkarni Tree, etc. They made Venn Diagrams to compare the leaves of different trees and a Bar chart with the measurement data of the width of the trunk of different tree. Children also referred encyclopedias and watched videos in the class to learn more about trees. We invited an expert resource peron Dr. Monica Shah to help us explore trees in our school campus and to learn how to measure the age of the trees! Given students keen interest, we decided to arrange for tree climbing experiences in our campus. We discussed with children about ways to climb a tree, safety measures to be adopted, etc. With lots of enthusiasm, children finally succeeded in climbing the trees with a rope.

PHASE THREE

Children finally applied all their knowledge and learnings in preparing for the culminating exhibition. They decided to make a life size model of "Arjun Tree". They themselves decided the materials to be used in making different parts of the tree, which colour and which living creatures should be on the tree. They created a blueprint of the model, made mini models and then started working on the main model. Work was divided between different groups of children. They also created lots of stories, rhymes, riddles, drawings, clay models etc., to represent their learnings.

COMMENTS

We have discovered the potential of each child in our class through this project. This project boosted children's confidence and language skills to a great degree. Their logical thinking and reasoning seemed to be operating at a much higher level than their age. We were particularly impressed with the detailing in children's drawings and the way they could connect between different elements of nature by the end of the project.



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Senior kg student measuing the length of the trunk of a tree (SENIOR KG - PHASE 1)

October 2015

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Measuring the Width of a Trunk of a Tree in School (SENIOR KG - PHASE 2)

November 2015

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Can we climb the trees? Anretis We need a give which can stick to a tree and then, we can climb-Sharya: He need a ladder and a rope to climb a tree.

Ph 3 . I Con Climb I can climé en a tree I can climb on a tare with a tope, with a ladder I can climb on a ture I can climb on a ture With gloves and jumping there, I can clink on a fire I can clink on a fire With blocks and chekies. I can clind on a tire I can climb on a dire. La By Keya & Asishi

SENIOR KG - PHASE 3



Phase III Story

Ek din ek tree the web johan route the Waken Sunlight nahi dati the Phir wake Kei Pani rahi deta the exist with other others dead hone lags, wahen ex girl this wish uske Sk din peni dena Start hogayi. Phir se wah grow home laga uspe mapis flowers whi mane lage. Wahan pe sawlight bhi dane laga phir wish tree green his gaya

Gurbani Parayeni

Neev - beep breathing that we do, we get it from Trees. Ayaan + Insects also need water and food that we require.

Gravima - Ant lives in hole under the and it is the of the tree.









Feelings of Chables Tress
Asshire I fest very
also to allow the bet.

Coursell - I saw mallpade climbing the truck when I will climbing the tree. Anthra - I was feeling god good and I here

Jahan- Tfelt as if fruits are falling as





Climbing Trees in our school campus (SENIOR KG - PHASE 3)

December 2015

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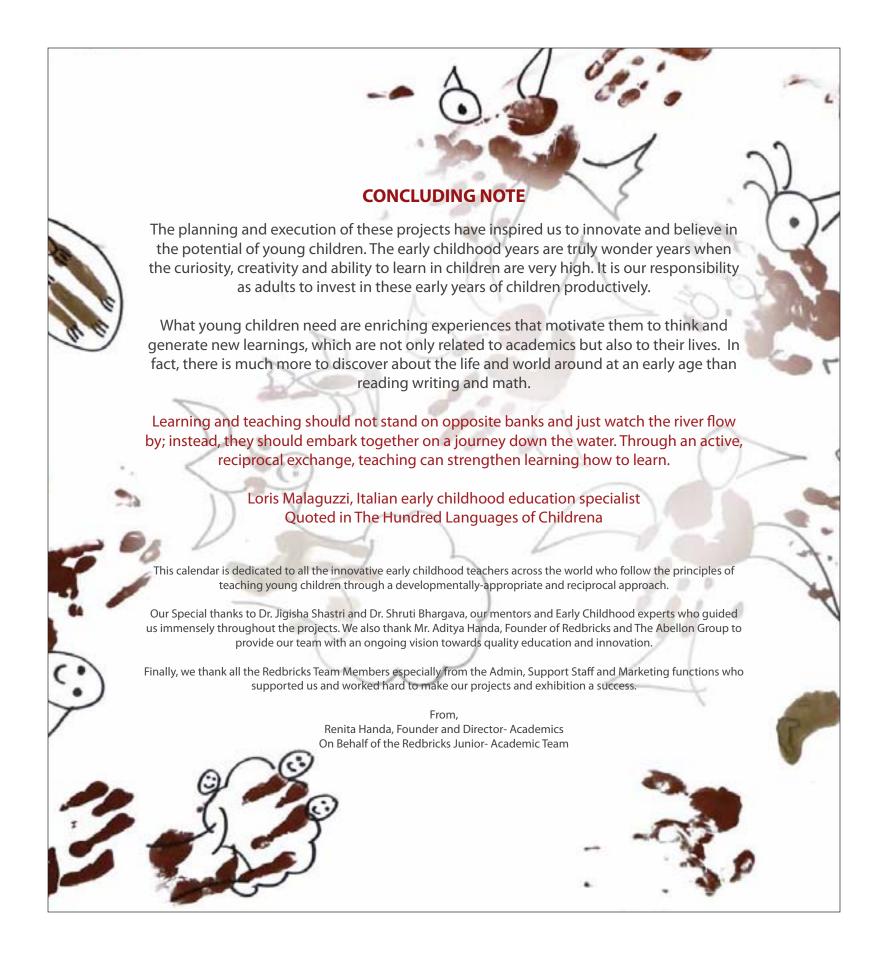








Red ains walking on the branch. Sn.kg A Connections butterfly is flying home. they ed leaves.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THE TEAM

For the Conceptualization of the Projects & Exhibition

MRS. RENITA HANDA, Founder and Director- Academics, Redbricks Foundation

MRS. HIRAL DHOLAKIA, Principal, Redbricks Junior

DR. JIGISHA SHASTRI - Academic Mentor, Redbricks Foundation

DR. SHRUTI BHARGAVA - Academic Mentor, Redbricks Foundation

FOR MAKING THE PROJECTS & EXHIBITION POSSIBLE

Redbricks Junior Teachers

Aayushi Patel (Playgroup) Ankita Ramani (Sr Kg B)

Ayushi Shah (Jr Kg C)

Dimple Solanki (Play Group) Dipika Panchal(Nursery C)

Krishnakali Dey (Jr Kg A)

Mittal Raval (Nursery A)

Nayana Kher (Sr Kg A)

Pankti Shah (Nursery B)

Palak Jain (Art Educator)

Pooja Kapur (Jr Kg B)

Pratibha Todawal (Sr Kg B)

Puja Raval (Nursery B)

Rachana Shah (Nursery A)

Sampa Nandy (Jr KG C)

Shikha Verma (Jr KG A)

Shimoli Seth (Jr Kg B)

Shuchita Sharma (Sr Kg A)

Admin, Marketing & Design

Teams

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Ashini Raikundaliya

Beena Vaid

Hemang Anglay

Manoj Kothari

Mudita Belani

Neha Shah

Prachi Vii

Pravin Upadhayay

Ravikant Saripaka

Riddhi Patel

Ruzvelt Solanki

Sandipsingh Bhadoria

Seema Chauhan

Suchita Daruwala

Tushar Afuwale

Umesh Patel

For Inspiring Us Towards Innovation and Quality Education

MR. ADITYA HANDA, Founder of Redbricks Foundation and The Abellon Group

Class **Field Trip Locations**

Playgroup Sundarvan Park

Nursery Sundarvan Park and Madhuban Farm Santej Campus and Serenity Gardens Junior Kg

Serenity Gardens Senior Kg

External Resource People

Mrs. Vrinda Sisodia - brought love birds

Mrs. Vrinda Sisodia - brought love birds

Mrs. Kiran Sonavane - explained life cycle of insects

Dr. Monika Shah - explained different facts about trees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the places we visited in Ahmedabad and the resource people who came to our school during the project:

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LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST..... A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE **REDBRICKS JUNIOR PARENTS**

Thank you for sending resources from home and for continuously encouraging us and the children!!