

YOUNG IMPRESSIONISTS
PRESENT

OUR PLAY STORIES



Jia Thakkar (Sr. Kg A)

AN ILLUSTRATED STORYBOOK
BY SENIOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN

redbricks | Junior

ABOUT THE BOOK

Senior Kindergarten Children at Redbricks Junior (4.5 to 6.0 year olds) conducted a 5-week research project on the theme of “Outdoor Play Equipment” in September-October 2016. This book is a collection of illustrations and stories created by children in the process of sharing their experiences and imagination related to outdoor play.

At Redbricks, we firmly believe in the value of Play for young children. We integrate learning through play and seek to make all adults aware to let children Play for their own benefit. The process of learning at our pre-school is child-centric, with emergent Project Based Learning methodology.

During this project, children were engaged in visualizing and creating their own outdoor equipment for the school garden. They created a bamboo tree house structure with other components such as a tyre climber, a bamboo ladder, a tunnel slide and a hanging bridge.

This project culminated through an exhibition at Kanoria Art Gallery, Ahmedabad showcasing children’s thinking and work for the adults of the community. This book is an evidence of the high potential of young children, if allowed to express, emote, ideate and create about issues close to their hearts.

Illustrations and Content:

Senior Kindergarten Children, Redbricks Junior

Conceptualization:

Renita Handa, Founder, Redbricks Education Foundation

Editing:

Mudita Belani, Academic Coordinator, Redbricks Junior

Design:

Tushar Afuwale, Designer at Abellon Studio

Publisher:

Redbricks Education Foundation, Ahmedabad

1, 3 & 4, Ashok Nagar Bungalows, B/h Sundarvan, Satellite, Ahmedabad-15, INDIA.

Ph: (079) 26925625, (M) 9979500003.

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FOREWORD

I often try to recollect my childhood experiences and wonder why do I hold such vivid memories of some play experiences that seem so mundane to me now as an adult! I associate many places, people, smells, sights, feelings, etc., with a lot of my childhood play experiences. One of my favorite Play times was doing the morning Puja rituals with my Grandmother, and another was to clean the house when the house help was on leave! These and many other memorable play experiences helped me to engage my heart, head and hands into an activity of my own choice and liking. I had the freedom to design my play the way I wanted, without any structure or imposed boundaries.

Our young children today also need and thrive on such an environment. They become stronger, wiser, and happier when provided with such free, unstructured play experiences. Reading the play stories with illustrations of these young children in this book left me awestruck! I was amazed with the variety of aspects that children brought into their stories- people in their lives, places they like, other living things they are connected with, natural phenomena, emotions and relationships, all found a place in their stories. There is a treasure house within young children from where they can express deep understanding of the world around them, due to their own prior experiences and intuition. They can teach us how to look (or re-look) at the world from a different perspective!

These illustrations and stories are completely an original work of children, as a response to a simple question- "Share your experiences of outdoor play." The stories were told in Hindi and English, which were noted down by the teachers behind the drawings. These have been translated and edited slightly to make them readable to all readers. The language has purposefully not been refined to a greater degree, to allow for authenticity in representing children's thoughts and expressions.

I am left truly impressed by the original thinking and emotions expressed by children in this book. I hope this book brings a smile on the face of readers of all ages, and gives everyone a peep into young children's world of Play.

Renita Handa

Founder, Redbricks Education Foundation
Ahmedabad, October 2016.

OUR PROJECT JOURNEY “OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT”

This project was conducted through a design thinking process which involved stages such as – researching, visualizing, prototyping, creating, sharing and reflecting.

RESEARCHING

At the start, children shared their prior experiences about Play and using Outdoor play equipment. They explored various outdoor play equipment in the school campus, and shared about various body movements used to play on them. Later, we went for a field trip to a private house garden (Ms. Nirali Patel) and Karnavati club children’s park where they could explore a tree house, different types of slides, swings and climbing ladders. They explored the dimensions of these equipments through measurements and materials used to make them (wood, metal, plastic rope etc.). They made representational drawings, did etching, counting and tally marking at the sites. They interviewed people at the site regarding the process of installation of these equipments.



“Isko apne zameen me kaise lagaya he?”
(How did you fix these equipments in the ground?)
Helly Desai (Sr.Kg A)

VISUALIZING

After the field trip, children came up with various ideas regarding the kind of outdoor play equipment they would like to create for the school garden.

These ideas included making – A Tree House, Slides, Swings, Monkey Bar, Merry Go Around, Tunnel, Rock Climbing Wall, Water slides, See Saw, etc.

We held class discussions and debates to finalize the final components of our outdoor equipment. The final components decided were – 1) A Tree House with a Bridge, 3) Tunnel Slide, 4) Tyre Climbing, 5) Rope Climbing, 6) Rope Ladder, 7) Round Tunnel Slide.

Children were shown photos and videos regarding processes of making outdoor equipments using indigenous materials. They represented their ideas of these components and the overall structure by making clay models and drawings. The teachers collectively created a final blueprint based on children's ideas.

Children made a work plan which described the materials and the processes of making the model. We divided children into five small groups according to their interest of making the component. With children, we decided on various materials to be used. (bamboos, sticks, rope, tyres, wires, etc.)



Diya: “We will need wood, old tyres and other material to create a tree house”.

Hia: “We will use Aerolite to fix it”.

Shivika: “ We will colour the tree house using paints”.

PROTOTYPING

Children were unsure how they could make the various components. So we showed them videos on the processes of making a tree house and other components. They saw various techniques such as how to tie the knot for climbing frame and ladder. They created prototypes out of clay models and indigenous materials (ropes, boxes, etc.) to visualize their bigger model.



CREATING

Children started working on their final components. While creating final products, they faced many challenges - e.g. tying bamboos, tying knot for the ladder and climbing frame. Children also shared that they needed help of the carpenter in making big model of the tree house in order to make it strong. The base of the tree house was created with bamboos and sticks. The wall of the tree house was made using canvas and plastic curtain sheets, which were drawn and painted colourfully by children.

Children made tyre climbing, ladder, and rope climbing components with teachers' and carpenter's guidance. During the process, children also interacted with Ms. Mirali Amin (Furniture Designer) over Skype for their queries regarding using Bamboos to create their equipment.



All small groups then started assembling their work collectively, and were really excited to see the outcome of their model.



SHARING AND REFLECTING

To share their learning and experiences, children prepared a story narration on the project. They selected the work done by them to be displayed and the whole project got recalled, reviewed and evaluated. As teachers, we were amazed with children's focus and concentration in applying difficult techniques of tying the ropes on bamboos for base of the tree house, ladder and rope climbing. All in all, the project was truly enriching which has developed their thinking, problem solving and creative abilities immensely.



“

I made a tree house on the grass and made a round colourful slide on it. I used a lot of Fevicol and colours to paint the tree house. The colours dried very quickly in the sun. Then I called my friends and we played in it.

”



Ansh Chopra
Sr. Kg A



“

Nishit and Aarush are going to the garden. Both of them are playing. Nishit stayed in the garden and Aarush went home.

”

Aarush Patel
Sr. Kg A



“

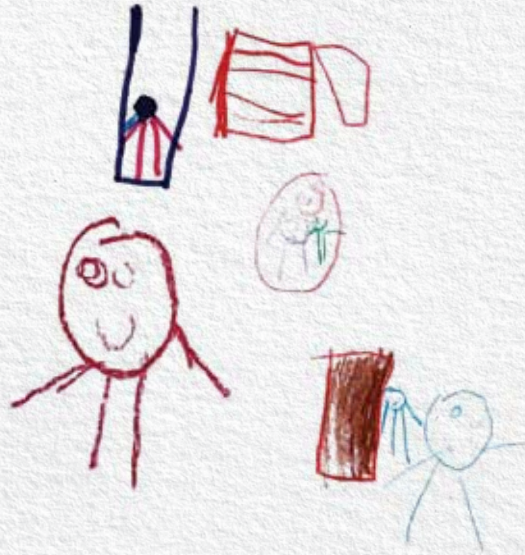
There is a sand pit area near my house. “Safal Parisar-I”.

I always play on the colourful swing. My mother was helping me while I was swinging. She was pushing me very gently.

”



Adaa Arora
Sr.Kg A



66

One day I went to the garden. I was playing on the swing. My Mother also came with me in the garden. There was a sandpit area. It was in a rectangle shape. Sandpit tools were also there. There was a tunnel in the garden. All children were playing in the tunnel.

99

Adya More
Sr.Kg A



66

This is a tree house.
There is a ladder to
climb up. There was
a boy and he was
playing on the slide.
There was a Cheetah.

He saw how I was
playing on the slides so
he also wanted to play
on the slide. Then a lion
wanted to play on the
swings. He saw a boy
and thought, "How
well he is swinging!".

99

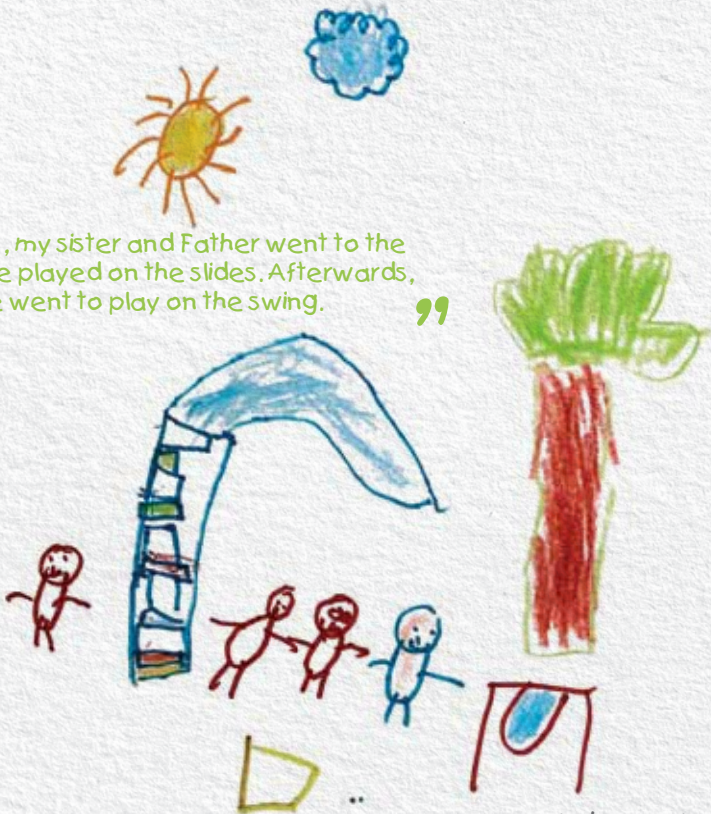


Anant Ranpara
Sr. Kg A

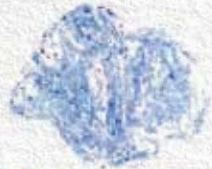
“

One day I, my sister and Father went to the garden. We played on the slides. Afterwards, we went to play on the swing.

”



Debangon Dey
Sr.Kg A



“

It was a sunny day. Children were going to a garden for picnic. Dhyey also went and my mother also came there. Dhyey was playing with a ball. He saw many children who were playing on the slides, so Dhyey also went there and was playing on the slide.



”



Dhyey Patel
Sr. Kg A



66

One day there was a boy and a girl. They were friends. There were slides in the garden. Both of them were playing on the slides. There was a swing, a tree, and a tree house. They didn't play on the swing as they decided that they would play on it later. There was green grass on the garden's field. Afterward, it was night. The moon and the stars came so both friends went back home.

99

Diya Chokshi
Sr. Kg A

66

A girl was swinging on the swing. While swinging, an idea came to her mind to dance. So she went under the tree and started dancing. It was noon time and the sun was shining in the sky. The sunlight became so hard; therefore the girl went back home. A boy came and he asked that girl why she was running to home. She said that it's too much sunlight and I won't be able to play anymore.

99



Helly Desai
Sr. Kg A



“

There was a big garden. In that, there was a man. He was making a tree house with big thick logs. It was made using screws and Fevicol. He made the tree house on a tree. There, he fixed two ladders. One was fixed using ropes and one was with colorful stairs.

”

Jia Thakkar
Sr. Kg A

“

Once upon a time there were two girls. One girl was climbing on a ladder and another girl was swinging on the swing. Then all of a sudden it started to rain. Both the girls knew that anytime it can rain, therefore, both had taken an umbrella and they opened their umbrella. It was raining heavily so both girls got wet. Even roads and parks became wet. Due to wetness on the stairs, one girl fell down and her knee was injured. But she stood up and went home. Once she reached home, her mom gave her some medicines and applied antiseptic tube on her wound. Another girl played on the slide and went back home. The rain stopped but no one was playing as there was too much sunlight.

”

Kanika Agarwal
Sr. Kg A





“

Once upon a day, Manasvi and Kanika went to the garden. There were straight ladders. Both were playing on the slide ladder. There was a ball in the garden. They saw that ball and then played with the ball.

”

Manasviba Jadeja
Sr. Kg A



“

Three boys;
Manav, Debangon
and Shayaan went
to the garden.
They all were
playing on the
slide.

”

Manav Desai
Sr.Kg A

66

One day Meet and Mummy went to the garden. Meet was playing on the slide. The slide was very big. 99



Meet Shah
Sr. Kg A

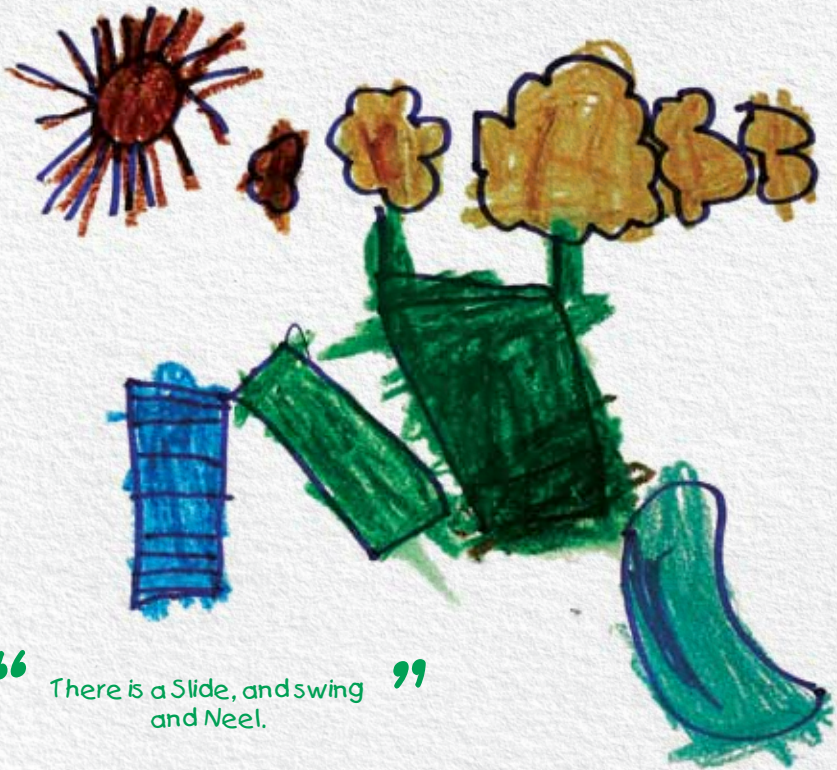


“

All children are going to school. All children's Mom and Dad come to pick up their own child. All kids are eating pizza. School Bus departs for Santej campus (Redbricks School campus) with all children. There are so many cars near the school gate. There are Swings and Slides in the school.

”

NagjiThakore
Sr.Kg A



“ There is a Slide, and swing
and Neel. ”

Neel Wase
Sr.Kg A



66

It was a very old jungle. Cheetah and Lion were living in the jungle. There was a garden in the jungle. A boy went to play in that garden. He saw lion in this dense jungle. He was scared when he saw Cheetah, so he ran away. But when Lion also looked at him, the boy started running too fast, so he got tired. When lion and cheetah went away, the boy was playing again in the garden.

99

Nishit Sharma
Sr. Kg A



66

This is me. That is a sun. Sun always says Hi to me. I daily come to this garden and Sun always says hi to me. Here is a slide. I always play on the slide and my Didi (Sister) is also playing on the slide.

99

Naisha Vora
Sr. Kg A



“

Ram was going out. The clouds became black. It started raining heavily. Then it stopped after some time.

Ram went in the garden and started playing in the treehouse. He went home when night started.

”

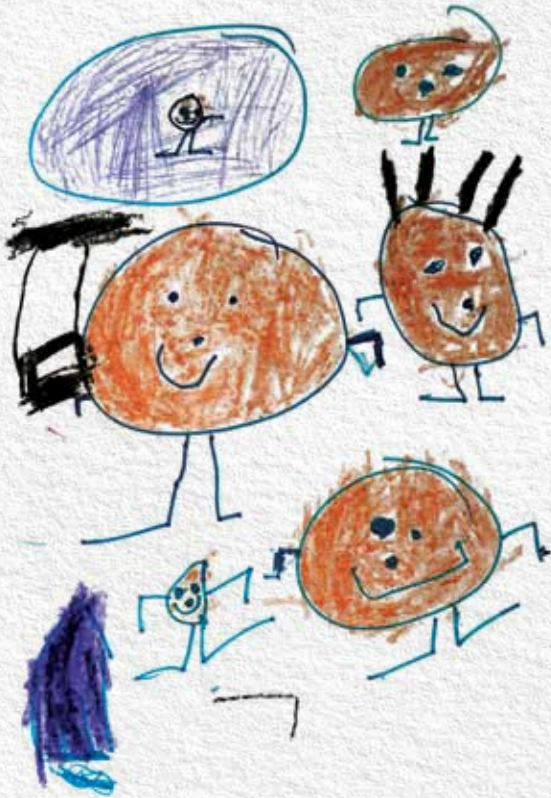


66

My friends and I went to Prahaladnagar garden. We were playing on a big colorful slide. A ladder had colorful rectangle stairs. The slide was straight and it was in a ball pit. All children were playing in that.

99

Shayaan Shaikh
Sr. Kg A



“

There were many boys in the garden. One boy asked another boy to play with him and also told him that all boys will play together in the garden. One boy sat on a swing, as he likes swings. His Mom will be swinging him. He enjoyed a lot when he swung on the swing.

”

Suresh Agarwal
Sr. Kg A



Utsav Bhatt
Sr.Kg A



“ This is a colorful rain. All children are playing in the rain. Children saw that Rainbow appeared in the sky but due to rain all children went into the tree house. When rain stopped, they all came out from the tree house and they again started playing. ”

Aahaan Kothari
Sr. Kg B



“

Once upon a time, there was a boy. A wire was in his pocket.
He was sliding on the slide.

”

Aarav Beel
Sr. Kg B



“

There was a boy. He was playing on a Merry-go-round, slide and swing. Suddenly the rain started but the boy was still playing. While he was playing, after some time the boy saw a rainbow. Then he played on the See-Saw and he played in the tree house.

”



“ Once upon a time, there was a girl. She was playing on the merry-go-round, and then she swung on swings. After some time she slid on a green colour slide. Then she went to the park to play. There were many ladders in different colours. She was playing on the orange colour ladder and she slid on the orange colour slide.

”

Arya Vir Sharma
Sr. Kg B

“

Once upon a time, there was a girl. On one shiny day suddenly rain began to fall. The rainbow appeared in the sky. Then the sun came out and the rainbow disappeared. The thunder also went away.

”



Himani Patel
Sr. Kg B



“ Once upon a time, one girl's name was Hiya. She was playing in the sandpit, then she was playing on the slide. The girl was playing on the rolling slide. Then the girl went home. Then she was playing, then she was eating, then she was sleeping, then again drinking water. Then she went to the bathroom then she went to school. The end.

”

Hiya Agrawal
Sr. Kg B

“ Once upon a time there was a girl and she was going to the park. She was sliding down the slide. She was playing alone in the garden and she saw her friend - A boy. Then the boy said to the girl “Can I play with you?” and the girl said, “Yes”.

”



Kanak Rathi
Sr. Kg B



“

Once upon a time there were two girls. They were best friends. One day suddenly rain started - and both of them didn't have an umbrella so both the friends went to their another friend's house which was near the road. At her place, all the three girls played with tea set.

”

Kiara Mistry
Sr. Kg B



“

Once upon a time, there was a boy. The boy said, “I play on the colorful merry go round.” The girl said ‘I play in the sandpit’. So both were playing in the sandpit and then the girl told the boy that she would go to play on the merry-go-round.

”

Mantavya Agarwal
Sr. Kg B



“ Once upon a time, there was a small girl.
There was a boy. There were slides, sun,
colours, and stairs. ”

Mauli Patel
Sr. Kg B

66

Swings – girl and slide and sand. First I am playing in the sand.
I made clouds and sun when I was playing in the sand. Then I
am playing on the slide. Then on the swing.

99



Mihika Lavavanshi
Sr. Kg B

“

One day there was a girl. She was playing on the slide. First, she played on the tunnel slide and then on round and round slide then on a big slide. At last she played on the two slides.

”



Myra Mistry
Sr. Kg B



“ Once upon a time, there was a girl. She was playing on a small slide & a big slide. The third girl was playing on a swing. The fourth girl was playing on a monkey bar. ”

Piya Ranka
Sr. Kg B



66

Once upon a time, there was a boy and a girl. The boy was playing with a ball. The girl told him to pass the ball to her as she wanted to play for some time. Later another girl came, and then she went back to her Mamma's home. At home, she played chess. While she was playing suddenly a cat came to her and told that she wanted to have milk.

Lastly, the boy came and he started playing with a ball along with his friends.

99

Prathamesh Gumber
Sr.KgB

“

There was a girl. She was playing with a ball in a garden. A little baby was swinging on the swing in the garden. There were so many swings and many other things to play.

”



Rajvi Sharma
Sr. Kg B



“

There was a tree house. Children were playing in the tree house. A quarrel occurred in the tree house, two friends were fighting with each other between this, and one friend died.

”

Savya Bhatt
Sr. Kg B



66

A cat was jumping in the pool. Then the cat (almost) died in the pool. The boy was saving the cat. Then the cat & boy were going home. The boy was giving medicine to the cat. The cat was alive. The cat was very happy. He is not going to go with his mom. He is going to stay with his brother. The cloud said to another cloud "Please do rain". The cat became sad because of the rain. The sun began to come up, the moon was going down. They were going on the slide (boy & cat). A big slide. Then the boy & cat were crying.

99

66

Once upon a time there was a boy. He liked to play on swings, see-saw, and monkey bar. Early morning, on one day he was playing in the garden and he thought that he would call his mother to make the tree house in the garden.

99



Aarav Choudhary
Sr.Kg C



“

There was a mummy (Mother)
and there was my papa
(Father). And my brother
Shaurya. He was also there and
we were playing in the tree
house. Then I went on the slide,
and then on the monkey bar.

”

Aarav Jobanputra
Sr. Kg C



66

Once upon a day, I went to the garden. First I went to the swing. I went to the Seesaw. I went to the tree house. I played there for some time. Then I went to the monkey bar again. Then I played with Seesaw and then I went back to home.

99

Aarna Rathor
Sr.Kg C

66

This is a
Kitchen set.
Annika is
making food.
When my
mumma asked
what are you
making. I said
I am making
rice. This is
oven and this
is fridge.

99



Annika Gupta
Sr. Kg C



“

Once upon a time, I was playing in the garden. One day my friend came to my home. On that night we both slept together. Next morning we woke up and we played on with the swing.

”

Anushka Raval
Sr. Kg C



“

One day Aarav and I were playing in the park. Then I invited him on my Birthday. Then again we both played in the garden. While playing rain began to fall so we went in the tree house. When the rain stopped, we came out from the tree house and started playing again.

”

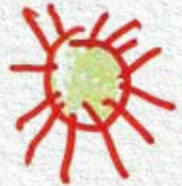
Arjun Saraswatula
Sr. Kg C



“ One day all children went to the garden. Suddenly it started to rain. There was a boy who was looking sad because due to rain he became wet. Suddenly he thought that he should go to the park as there is so much water inside and he can play in it. Next day with his friends, he went to the park and he played with sand. All the friends enjoyed a lot.

”

Dia Mehta
Sr.Kg C



66

There is a cloud, sand
and I played on the
swing in the garden. I
went with my mother.
The swing was yellow.
Aeroplane was with
the cloud. There was
sand and tree in that
garden.



99



Himanish Basu Sarbadhikari
Sr. Kg C



“

One day all the boys were playing in the garden. Then the sun came out and they played in the garden. They all went in the swimming pool and swam for long. They were looking at the sky and saw that clouds had become so colourful. They again started playing in the sandpit.

”



“

Srushti and I were playing in the park. Then I was sliding & Srushti went to the monkey bar. Then I also went there to the monkey bar.

”

66
Once there was
a girl and a boy
playing on the
swing. The sun is
happy. Butterfly
gives honey. So
she is crying. They
were given a
magical garden.
It is red & green &
silver color.

99



Mayesha Sharma
Sr. Kg C

66

Once upon a time there was a monkey bar & one child was climbing on the monkey bar. He fell down because he was talking with one child. The child was coming from this side and going to the next side, so he fell down. Once upon a time there was a swing & my friend and me were swinging. There was a slide and we come and climb up the slide to go down. He was looking somewhere so he fell down and got hurt. He went to his mother to say "I got hurt on my hands. What do I do?" Then he started crying.

99

Medhansh Dholakia
Sr. Kg C





“

Once upon a time a boy was playing in the garden. When the sun came up the boy went for swimming. When the sun went down the boy went to the park and he slid on the slide. The boy said that his day was colorful today.

”

Nirmay Bhardwaj
Sr. Kg C



“

This is me and
this is my papa
(Father). These
are swings. One
day my papa
(Father) & me
were playing
catch-catch and
in the tree house.
We played on the
monkey bar. Then
the rain came,
and papa (Father)
& me went into
the tree house.

”

Param Patel
Sr. Kg C

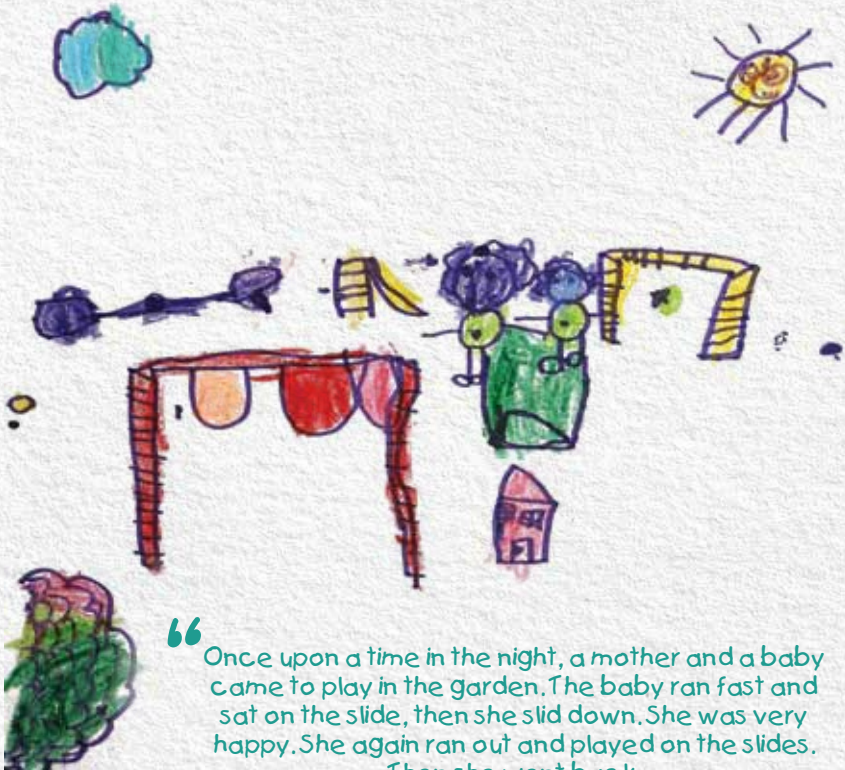


“

Once upon a time the
monkey bar was big.
Once upon a time the
sun was big and rain
started.

”

Pranshu Ashra
Sr.Kg C



“

Once upon a time in the night, a mother and a baby came to play in the garden. The baby ran fast and sat on the slide, then she slid down. She was very happy. She again ran out and played on the slides. Then she went back.

”



“ One day
there was
one butterfly.
It went up &
down on slide
& swings. One
girl was crying.
One girl was
happy as her
papa (Father)
came. One girl
was hanging
on the monkey
bar and there
was a tree and
a slide.

”

SanviPatel
Sr.KgC



66

This is her mother. She is confused what to play. She was afraid of the see-saw and the slide also. So she always did swing and played on the monkey bar. She had to call her papa (Father) to do the slide outside her house. Her father was not at home. He had gone to Delhi for some work. After that, the girl was sad and she went home. Five minutes after that, the rain started. She got afraid and then she started playing.

99



“

Once upon a time there were a boy and a girl. A girl said to the boy that she wanted to lie down on the grass in the garden and wanted to look at the sky. There was an aunt, she asked father if the girl can come to school. Later in sometime father-mother went to the little girl's home. Then the girl said to the father that she wants to do homework.

”

Shreya Nair
Sr. Kg C

66

Once upon a time
there was a baby
and the mother is
scolding the baby.

The baby was
climbing the tree
house and the rains
came. And this is
grass. Mummy was
eating food. Cutting
tomato and eating.
And this is a TV. She
is watching TV. This
baby wants to go
to take ice-cream.
She was crying as
she wanted to go
somewhere.

99





66

You jump and catch the monkey bar and this is rain.

99

Tejas Tiwari
Sr.KgC



“

One day it was a sunny day. A girl went out from the home and then she went on the swing. She was carrying a monkey bar so she went in the swimming pool. The she met two friends - Anushka and Saransh. Then they went on the slide and see saw. They were taking turns. Then they played with the hoola hoop. Then it was very cloudy and they went home.

”



“ My swing is monkey bar,
swing, merry go round. Ant
has bitten all. ”

Yug Raval
Sr. Kg C

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Teachers Involved:

**Helly Mehta, Jignasha Makwana, Kajal Shah, Megha Tripathi,
Pooja Kapur, Pratibha Todawal**

Academic Coordinator

Mudita Belani

Principal

Sharmistha Chakraborty

Academic Director and Mentors:

**Renita Handa,
Shruti Bhargava (Ph.D.),
Jigisha Shastri (Ph.D.)**

Field Trip Locations:

Nirali Patel (Private Garden with Tree house)
Karnavati Club (Children's Playarea)

Resource People:

Mirali Amin (Furniture Designer),
Saurabh Gupta (Architect)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE SENIOR KG PARENTS



“

TREE HOUSE

A tree house, a free house,
A secret you & me house,
A high up in the leafy branches
Cozy as can be house.

A street house, a neat house,
Be sure and wipe your feet house
Is not my kind of house at all -
Let's go live in a tree house.

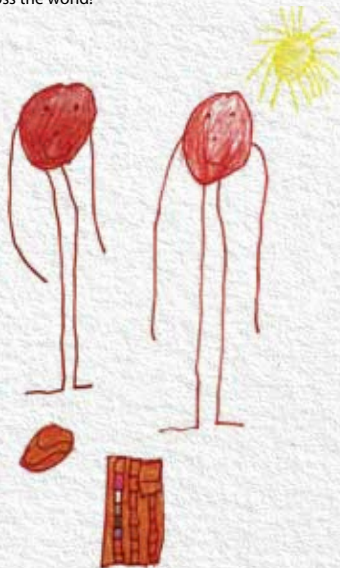
”

- Shel Silverstein

“Play is the only way the highest intelligence of humankind can unfold.” - Joseph Chilton Pearce

Play is a Natural and Universal phenomena. Children from across cultures and from the time of birth know how to Play. It is through Play that young children learn how to learn, think, express, interact and create.

This book is a collection of illustrations and stories related to Outdoor Play by Senior Kindergarten Children of Redbricks Junior Pre-school. The young artists and creators have not only used their imagination but their real life experiences to represent their perspectives regarding Outdoor Play. This book made by young thinkers can be a source of inspiration for other children, educators and parents across the world!



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