



# "Brick-Beat"

Vol.10 No.2 December 2018

**Dear Parents,**

Greetings! Wishing you a very happy new year 2019. This newsletter is to share with you the glimpses of activities from September to December 2018.

This quarter, as always, was full of exciting events and celebrations. With the change of seasons, we ushered in a festive time, through which we engaged and enjoyed with each other as a community. Various festivals were celebrated keeping the spirit of India alive. International days were celebrated to make students aware of the global culture. Sports Day lifted our energy while Read to Lead enlivened our minds.



The sensorial, thematic and project based learning approaches at the pre-school broadened children's horizons and they acquired valuable knowledge, understanding and skills. Field trips and visiting experts across classes added to the learning beyond the classroom. A range of teacher education and parent education workshops were conducted to enrich the teaching and parenting styles of our two important stakeholders. I enjoyed interacting with the small group of new parents who took the time out to attend the 'New Parents Orientation.'

In the primary to senior school, children participated in various inter-school competitions and fared extremely well with their talents and hard work. They also appeared for Olympiads, ASSET, Spell bee examinations to test their aptitude. The middle school children pursued semester long extra-curricular projects on Financial Literacy, VanGogh Art and Environment Sustainability which culminated in a wonderful community exhibition at Redbricks Satellite campus.

While our children engage in so many activities at school and at home, it is important to also help them pause and reflect. Reflection forms the basis of any form of human growth, and it is important to give children the freedom, time and space to reflect on various aspects from their day to day lives. So let us build in such times for 'doing nothing but thinking' in children's schedules so that they grow up to be skilled and reflective individuals.

Best wishes,

**Renita Handa**

Founder and Director-Academics  
Redbricks Education Foundation

# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Classroom Insights

### EYP 1

Using props in story narration helps the children to hear and feel the language and adds a great deal to the listening experience. During the theme on **'Movements'** the story of "Hare and the Tortoise" was narrated using hand puppets and creating a jungle with blocks and crepe paper. The toddlers were all ears and were excited to use the props for narrating their version of story.



**'Sensory play'** includes any activity that stimulates young children's senses: touch, smell, taste, movement, balance, sight and hearing. Sensory activities facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore. To give this stimulation, fruits and vegetables like papaya, banana, apple, chikoo, carrot and tomato were given to the children to see, touch, feel, smell and taste. The colour, shape, texture, size, number of seeds of fruits and vegetables were also discussed while exploring on the sense table.

Allowing babies and toddlers to explore flowers can develop their senses. They offer bright colors, they smell nice and they are soft to touch. As part of the **'Flowers'** theme a flower shop was created in the doll's corner where real as well as plastic flowers were placed along with ribbons, scissors, water spray bottles, wrapping sheets and a cash box with fake currency for children to pretend play. This activity enhanced children's social, cognitive, language skills. It was a pleasure listening to children negotiate with teachers as they pretended to sell flowers.



The joy of wearing head gears of birds, reciting rhymes, imitating the actions of teachers was observed in the activity planned for children during the **'Music and movement'** session. This made the music session more fun and engrossing for the children.

### EYP 2

During the **'Fruits'** project children explored different fruits in different forms. They learnt the names, their colours, textures and taste. To reinforce the concepts learnt, a treasure hunt game was planned. Different plastic fruits were hidden in the garden area for children to find, identify and say aloud their names and collect them in the basket. This is an example of how outdoor games can boost creativity, social skills and make learning fun.



During the theme on **'Textures'** different type of textures like sand paper, marble paper were placed on the sense table. Children explored the textures with a magnifying glass. In the indoors different textured cloth (velvet, silk and jute) were wrapped around used empty paper rolls and were hung with ribbons from a height for children to stretch their hands to touch, feel and explore. A brown coconut was also placed for children to explore by touching the outer- inner parts and tasting its water and the tender coconut inside. Through different sensorial activities children got an understanding of different textures.

'Small world' is an important aspect of children's play which allows them to express their thoughts and experiences and build their language skills. During the theme on **'Animals'** a small world of farm was recreated where plastic animals, along with their habitats as well as their food were placed. Many indigenous materials were used like hay, fresh leaves, sand in the small world for children to see, touch, feel and explore.



## Junior KG

Plants are an integral part of Nature, we see plants all around us. Selecting '**Plants**' as a project topic for Jr.kg was an opportunity for children to explore and do an in depth study, go beyond just seeing them. A campus walk helped children to observe the difference in trees, herbs, shrubs, creepers and climbers. The children planted seeds, watered them everyday and were filled with wonder and joy to see it germinate. They recorded the growth of the saplings everyday and compared to see which sapling was longer. The field trip to a plant nursery and an interaction with the gardener helped them to consolidate their learnings.



One very interesting theme was '**Communication**' where we talked about different modes of communication which included verbal and non-verbal. The children were well aware of the technological communication like phones, laptops, it was interesting to explore print media like letters, newspapers, magazines. The pretend play corner was set up as a communication corner with different gadgets like computers, laptops, telephones, etc which gave them an opportunity to enact the people they see around them who use different modes of communication.

The project on '**Utensils**' was something which the children could immediately relate to and were aware that utensils come in different shapes, sizes and materials. They explored different utensils and during the art session children learnt the technique of using paper and cloth mache. Using this technique, children made different utensils like bowls, glasses, small trays as moulds. The most exciting part of this activity was when the products had dried up and the moulds were removed, revealing the shape of the utensils. This activity was not only fun, children also learnt how to reuse waste paper and cloth pieces.



'**Vehicles**' is one theme children really enjoyed exploring. They came to know interesting facts of vehicles through different activities including sorting and classifying vehicles into land, air and water. During the art session they took keen interest in making an aeroplane through origami. In the process of making their paper aeroplane they discovered the precision required in folding the paper so that their aeroplanes could glide. They used these in pretend play using vocabulary like take-off, runway, cockpit, airplane wings. This is an example of integrated learning and its benefits.

## Senior KG

During the theme of '**Furniture**' we had put materials like sun-mica, boxes, glue, fabric etc in the pretend play corner to set it up as a furniture shop. Children used these materials to create the furniture of their choice. They extensively used furniture tools and pretended to be a carpenter. They enjoyed pretending to repair the furniture of the class. Their close observation of the visit to the furniture shop was also reflected in their pretend play in the following days where in they enacted like a shopkeeper and also used enhanced vocabulary.



During the project on '**Animals**' we introduced the story 'Underwater adventure'. As a follow up activity of this story children illustrated the aquatic animals in the order in which they appeared in the story. This sequencing activity helped the children enhance their cognitive skills like memory and attention also.

During the project on '**Clothes**' we created a clothes gallery in the campus. Different kinds of clothes like saree, jacket, duppata, skirt, blazer etc. were kept in the gallery. Clothes were kept with an objective to expose them to different types of fabrics and attires. Different types of fabrics included net, silk, cotton, velvet, wool, georgette etc. While exploring the clothes children got the opportunity to examine other details which are mentioned on the tags i.e. size, manufacturing place, age group etc. It helped to develop many skills like color recognition, classifying, counting and self-help skills.



# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Celebrations

### Rakshabandhan

Children came dressed up in traditional clothes to celebrate the festival. They made their own rakhis using traditional mauli thread and paper flowers.



### Parent Cooking Day

Enthusiastic parents happily volunteered to be a part of non fire cooking day where they came and served healthy dishes to the children. It also was an opportunity to build a connect between school and home.

### Janmasthanmi

The festival of Janmashtmi was celebrated with children coming dressed in traditional dresses, some dressed as Krishna and Radha also. They celebrated by singing and dancing on the beats of traditional Janmanshtami songs which filled the air with festive joy and spirit.



### Friendship Day

Friendship day was celebrated by the children by doing different art activities together. They were also told the story of Lord Krishna and his friend Sudama and explained how a good friend sticks through thick and thin.

### Independence Day

This year we celebrated our 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence day with great zeal and enthusiasm. Our younger children did various art activities while older children did an assembly where they were briefed about the importance of Independence day.



### Teachers' Day

The celebrations of Teachers' Day in school is definitely one of the best memories for many of us. On this day teachers were made feel special by organizing a fun filled event for them.

### Parent Week

Parent week gave the parents an opportunity to be part of the classroom environment. This helped them to understand our teaching and learning methodology.



### Hindi Diwas

Hindi was declared the official language of India on 14<sup>th</sup> September and to mark its significance Hindi diwas was celebrated in the school. Story narration, singing songs and skits in Hindi were a part of the celebration.

### Joy Of Giving Week

Children did different activities like making cards for the support staff, visiting an Old Age Home and spending time with them and donating Gujarati Books to 'Pustak Parab'.



### Grandparents Day

Children welcomed their grandparents by doing 'Tikka' which was followed by playing games like 'Musical Chair' and 'Passing the parcel'. They shared their childhood memories, enacted their favourite actors, sang songs, gave messages for children and played some games.

## Navratri

Navratri is the most awaited festival of the year when the air is filled with music and dance. Teachers and students came dressed in traditional clothes and all performed garba with zeal and enthusiasm.



## Fitness Week

A nutritionist and fitness trainer explained to the children about the importance of healthy food and exercise. Beyond this there were yoga and brain gym sessions in which children participated energetically.

## Diwali

The festival of lights came alive in our school campus. Different activities like making rangoli with fresh flowers and decorating diyas were enjoyed by children. It was a week long celebration where the presence of a magician and children coming dressed as their favourite story character added to the air of festivity.



## Children's Day

Each child was given a hand made card and chocolate. They were elated by this celebration, it was a joyous moment for them.

## Sr. KG Day Out

Children eagerly wait for the day where they can spend their entire day with their friends. We took the children to Redbricks Santej campus where different fun activities were arranged for them. They also watched a movie and later they enjoyed dancing on their favourite songs.



## Christmas

The children ushered in the festive mood of Christmas with decorating the Christmas tree, singing Christmas carols and dancing with Santa. The birth of Christ was enacted by the Class 1 children.

## Sports Day

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Day was held at Santej campus where all the children participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. Mr. Aquib Sameja, a national level basket ball player graced the occasion as the chief guest. Children were excited to see mothers and teachers compete in a game of tug of war.



# Workshops at Redbricks Pre-school

## Teacher's Professional Development - Workshop

Ms. Paras Mahendru, an early childhood educator conducted workshops on 'No Child Left Behind' and 'Creativity' with the teachers.

## Parent Workshop

Mrs. Renita Handa oriented the new parents about ECCE and our approach to education.

Ms. Paras Mahendru conducted a workshop on Developing Reading and Writing skills. Parents were able to understand how reading and writing happens in early years and also shared some strategies to help children develop the skills.

Mrs. Sharmistha Chakraborty, took a workshop on Handling Toddler Tantrums for EYP1 parents and a workshop on Parenting 3 year olds for EYP 2.

Teachers of Jr.kg conducted a workshop on 'Reading with young children' where in they shared some strategies to encourage children to read. Teachers of Sr.Kg conducted a workshop on 'Positive Discipline with Young Children'.

## Support Staff Workshop

Ms. Paras Mahendru conducted a workshop on the roles and responsibilities of support staff.



# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Field trips

### EYP 1

Children went on a **Bus Ride** which turned out to be the first time for many.

Children were taken to a toy shop - **Toycra** to explore different toys and observe how the toys are displayed in a systematic manner. Children took a tour of the shop and saw all the toys, interacted with salesmen, played with magnetic wooden blocks and later did an art activity which was a take away.

Children were taken to **Green Touch Plant Nursery** where they explored different types, shapes and colours of flowers. Children enhanced their senses by seeing, touching, feeling and smelling different flowers.



### EYP2

A field trip was arranged to **Star Bazaar** fruit section as part of phase II of 'Fruits' project to give them hands on experience of a market and to make them aware of the different varieties of fruits, dry fruits, fruit products, weighing and billing process.

Children were taken to a **Plant Nursery** where they explored variety of flowers and leaves. Children had sensorial experience by seeing, touching, smelling and feeling different flowers and leaves. They were also exposed to the fact that leaves grow in water as well as grow on land.

A field trip was arranged to **Kankaria Zoo** as part of phase II of 'Animals' project to give them more authentic information about animals and give them an opportunity to interact with caregivers of animals.



### Junior KG

Field trips are known for providing additional learning opportunities outside the standard educational environment, so during 'Plants' project we visited **Green Touch Nursery** where we saw and explored many plants and trees. They were amazed to see Topiary Art along with different types of colourful flowers, different sizes of pots.

**Post office** - To give children an exposure to letters as a medium of communication, they were taken to the post office. There they got an opportunity to see the postmen in action - sorting and stamping the mails. The children also got information on postal tickets, speed posts etc. The children also posted a postcard to their residential address.

**Swad Sadan restaurant** - To give them first hand experience on different types and sizes of utensils during the project we took them to Swad Sadan restaurant. Children got a rare chance to see the restaurant kitchen in action. The children learned the estimation of quantity of food to be prepared for home vs the restaurant.

**Visit to a garage** - During the theme of 'Vehicles' children got an opportunity to visit a garage. The children saw different types of tools used in repair and maintenance of vehicles. They were exposed to different parts of the vehicles which enhanced their technical vocabulary.



## Senior KG

**Krishna Furniture** - For the theme of 'Furniture' children were taken for a field trip to 'Krishna furniture' shop. Children got the opportunity to see different types of furniture, the different materials and textures used .

**Kankaria Zoo** - It was a great revelation for the young children to see their favourite animals live-up, close at Kankaria Zoo. They were fortunate enough to see the feeding process and also hear the calls of the animals.

**Birds house** - During the 'Birds' theme we visited a Birds house. Children got the opportunity to see birds like grey parrot, cockatoo and macaw.

**Blue bubbles dry cleaners shop** - Children went to a dry cleaners shop to know about care of clothes. Children saw the huge washing machines and dryer, raw materials used for dry cleaning, ironing process and lastly the packing process. Children also visited 'Om ethnic' boutique which gave them an opportunity to observe the entire process of designing the clothes which included cutting,measuring,stitching etc.



## Visits by Resource People

### EYP 2

**Mrs. Nityati Dangayach (Parent of Shiv EYP2 B), Mrs. Dhvani Vadher (Parent of Anaya EYP 2 B) and Mrs. Anjali Tanna (Parent of Kabeer EYP 2B)** came with their pet dogs. A horse along with its care taker was also called. Children were curious to know about their likes and dislikes.



**Mrs. Shivani Shah (Parent of Nachiket EYP2 C)** took initiative to visit as a resource person. She spoke about animal facts by showing various type of interesting books like touch and feel, pop up, big picture and soft toy books.

As a part of the theme 'Textures' in EYP 2. **Ms. Bhoomika Yadav - Artist (Parent of Dhyana and Saachi EYP 2A)** was invited as a resource person, where she demonstrated painting using flour, semolina and sand mixed with colours to give different textures.



### Junior KG

**Mr. Rameshbhai** our school gardener was invited to the campus as a resource person to orient children about care of plants. Children also got an opportunity to see and try different gardening tools like sickle, hoe, spade, shovel etc.



### Senior KG

**Carpenter - Mr. Sureshbhai**, the school carpenter was invited to demonstrate to children the process of making and repairing furniture. He brought the real tools like drilling machine, screw driver etc. to school. This helped to enhance their vocabulary as well.

**Mrs. Zeba Khan (Parent of Aahaan Sr.Kg B)** came with a Rabbit, and **Mr. Hardik Bhrambhatt (Parent of Devarth Sr.Kg A)** with a Hamster, Lobster and a water Lizard. They shared their pet's food habits, care and shelter.



# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Janmashtmi Celebration

Birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avataar of Lord Vishnu is considered a protector, philosopher, teacher and a leader. A mentor who guides us onto life's true path. A beautiful palna (swing) for Kanhaiya was beautifully decorated by students and teachers. The celebrations began with hymns sung by the students followed by a mesmerizing dance performance. It was an amalgamation of enjoyment and cultural learning when the students undertook the age old tradition of matki fod while chanting 'Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki', followed by aarti. The air was full of excitement and energy, as the students danced to the tune of popular garba songs in praise of Lord Krishna.



## Independence Day

Flag hoisting of the 72<sup>th</sup> Independence day at Santej campus in which one and all participated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The patriotic performance by the students be it in the form of dance, song, instrumental or skit only endorsed the fact that we are all proud Indians. Address of our founder director - Mr. Aditya Handa, our esteemed chief guest for the occasion, was full of not only patriotism but he also reminded us all as to what real patriotism is, it is not in demanding our rights but also to fulfill our duties diligently.



## Teachers' Day

"An Educator molds an individual, guiding young impressionable minds", saluting this hard work and dedication, the students at Redbricks organized a fun-filled and exciting day for their teachers where they not only conducted classes but also planned the highlight of the day - A Treasure Hunt in which all teachers participated enthusiastically and thoroughly enjoyed. The day culminated with interesting games and lots of fun filled memories to cherish.



## Hindi Divas

India is enriched in tradition and culture which is emphasized by a rich blend of vernacular languages wherein Hindi language holds a prominent position. Redbricks school's ideology is to hold on to our roots. Keeping this in mind we celebrated Hindi Divas on - 14<sup>th</sup> September to create awareness of this beautiful and versatile Hindi language, through various skits and songs. The students performed puppet shows in Hindi as part of their inter house competitions.



## Navaratri Celebration

Navaratri festivities got under way at School with amazing vigour and reverence. The day started with Dussehra Puja and Hawan where the Redbricks team sought the blessings of the Goddess of Shakti (Power) - Maa Durga followed by prashad distribution. The positivity and energy exuberating out of the enthusiastic students participating in the inter house garba competition was the highlight of the day.



## Sports Day

*"Sports accentuates good habits, confidence, discipline, leadership qualities and character"*

24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 was celebrated as Sports day with great vigour and enthusiasm. Mr. Jatinkumar Harjivan the Founder Vice chancellor of Swarnim Gujarat Sports University graced the occasion as our esteemed chief guest and lighted the torch and kick started the ceremony with vigor by kicking the football in goal post. Following it was an amazing display of synchronization and co-ordination when the four houses marched to the tune of the drumbeats. There were various mass drill displays exhibited by the first and second graders, yoga and karate drills were showcased by students of grade three to eleven. The parents, students and staff members enjoyed participating in all the races thoroughly. The students were excited and cheering proudly, the victory march by the winning house - Vikramaditya, was a proud moment for all.





# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Enriching Workshops For Redbricks Teachers And Parents

### Positive Parenting

*"Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first."*

The workshop on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018 was on 'Positive Parenting' conducted by an expert facilitator, Ms. Anjali Hardikar, shared with parents from Class 7 to Class 11 as well as the teacher community, the changes which adolescents go through and various stress-ors which their child might experience - at home and at school. She shared group various strategies like - empathizing with the child, sharing responsibilities, increasing family time and small steps which they as a family can take to bridge the gap of understanding by adapting to a healthy communication channel. She addressed all the parent queries leaving them enriched by her experiences.

### Safety at Work

In order to minimize the risk of fire at work, Redbricks School conducted a mock fire drill session for all their team members with clear instructions to understand the actions to be taken in the event of a fire. The workshop started with insights into how fire kindles and the types of extinguishers used to control fire and it ended with a practical handling of an extinguisher on a live fire. This training session was well received by all.



### Classroom Management

'Learning is a continuous process', with this mindset Redbricks regularly organises developmental workshops for all their educators. The theme for 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018 workshop by Ms. Anjali Hardikar was Classroom Management. 'Every child is unique and has special needs' was reinforced in this workshop, wherein Maslow's hierarchy of human needs and positive reinforcement was also discussed. The take away of the workshop was the fact that how important is the role of an educator as an anchor in the lives of the young students.



### Maths and English Workshops

Maths and English expert mentors of Redbricks School conducted a series of workshops for respective subject teachers to strengthen their understanding and skills related to curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.

## Change-Maker Exhibition

Students of Class 5 to Class 8 showcased their understanding of various domains namely - Finance, Arts, Science which they studied under - Enrichment Cluster, as part of their extra curricular activity. The topics this year for students to explore were Financial Literacy, Vangogh Art and Becoming a Green School.

The students of '**Financial Literacy**' cluster impressed the audience by displaying their understanding of varied aspects of Commerce and Banking which they acquired post analysis done through research, surveys, interviews, discussions and evaluations. The aim was to create more awareness in villagers towards the importance of saving and investing. They enacted a street play on financial literacy to attract the attention of all the villagers.

### 'Art is to console those who are broken by Life' - Van Gogh

The Art cluster was where the students learnt all about the life and the painting style of the great impressionist - Van Gogh. They created their own masterpieces emulating his style of bright and vibrant colors on canvases with clear brush-strokes and displayed them proudly on the exhibition day.

The students involved in '**Becoming A Green School**' cluster showcased their research and knowledge of this burning environmental issue by creative presentations which got their message across to the audience. They were segregated into six major domains of air, water, food, energy, land and waste wherein they addressed both the problems as well as solutions. It was a community event graced by all Redbricks parents and many visitors who appreciated the extensive in-depth learning and work of all the students.



# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Student Achievements

Students of Redbricks who have excelled in different inter-school platforms are:

At **School Sports Promotion Foundation** hosted by Apple Global School, Dhrishti Patel **secured** third position in 100 meters race and Long jump, Arya Patel **bagged** third position in Shot Put.

At **Khel Mahakumbh - Priyanshu Vanani** stood first in 100 meters, **Renan Fernanadez** and **Vritee Sanghvi** achieved first position in 30 meters while **Flesha Patel** in 50 meters. **Harsha Ranpara** and **Devansh Patel** stood **third** in 100 meters sprint and skating.

At **ZyZeal ZyFest 2018** - hosted by Zydus School of Excellence where **Priyanshu Vanani** and **Kairah Singh** **bagged first position** in Logo Design.

At **Euphoria** organized by St. Xaviers High School **Devyani Ganatra** bagged the first prize in Canvas painting. **Aanshi Mistry, Arya Patel and Hemank Upadhyay** secured second position in Spell Bee competition. **Brinda Sharga, Vishwas Chaudhari and Prassana Vijn** won the second prize in the Antakshri competition. **Achal Modi, Shivangi Singh Raghuvansh and Devashree Gaglani** secured second position in Best Out of Waste competition, **Pari Oza** secured second position in Creative writing category.



## Read to Lead Young Readers' Conclave (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

A Young Readers' Conclave promoting the love of reading...

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year Redbricks School Foundation took its commitment forward to promote reading, conducting workshops for budding writers, readers, illustrators and anyone who is interested in books by organising this annual two day event - Read to Lead 2018. Events, diverse and varied, catered to young enthusiasts, participating in the inter-school competitions from different prestigious schools of Ahmedabad. Valuable insights into the minds of authors by authors themselves was a factor that gravitated the students and visitors to the event. The authors panel discussion was very informative and enlightening, followed by play-a-book performances by Redbricks students on well-known children's literature.



# PARENT ARTICLE

## Role of Parents

Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey

**Be a role model for learning.** In the early years, parents are their children's first teachers — exploring nature, reading together, cooking together, and counting together. When a young child begins formal school, the parent's job is to show him how school can extend the learning you began together at home, and how exciting and meaningful this learning can be. As preschoolers grow into school age kids, parents become their children's learning coaches. Through guidance and reminders, parents help their kids organize their time and support their desires to learn new things in and out of school

**Pay attention to what your child loves.** “One of the most important things a parent can do is notice her child. Is he a talker or is he shy? Find out what interests him and help him explore it. Let your child show you the way he likes to learn,” recommends Dalton Miller-Jones, Ph.D.

**Practice what your child learns at school.** Many teachers encourage parents to go over what their young children are learning in a non-pressured way and to practice what they may need extra help with. This doesn't mean drilling them for success, but it may mean going over basic counting skills, multiplication tables or letter recognition, depending on the needs and learning level of your child. “There may be times to review, but don't take on the role of drill master, adds Diane Levin, Ph.D. And when you do review it should feel as if your child wants to be a part of the practice.”

**Set aside time to read together.** Read aloud regularly, even to older kids. If your child is a reluctant reader, reading aloud will expose her to the structure and vocabulary of good literature and get her interested in reading more. “Reading the first two chapters of a book together can help, because these are often the toughest in terms of plot,” notes Susan Becker, M. Ed. “Also try alternating: you read one chapter aloud, she reads another to herself. And let kids pick the books they like. Book series are great for reluctant readers. It's OK to read easy, interesting books instead of harder novels.”

**Connect what your child learns to everyday life.** Make learning part of your child's everyday experience, especially when it comes out of your child's natural questions. When you cook together, do measuring math. When you drive in the car, count license plates and talk about the states. When you turn on the blender, explore how it works together. When your child studies the weather, talk about why it was so hot at the beach. Have give-and-take conversations, listening to your child's ideas instead of pouring information into their heads.

**Help your child take charge of his learning.** “We want to keep children in charge of their learning and become responsible for it,” says Dalton Miller-Jones, Ph.D. “We want them to be responsible for their successes and failures, show them how engaging learning is, and that the motivations for learning should be the child's intrinsic interests, not an external reward.”

**Don't over-schedule your child.** While you may want to supplement school with outside activities, be judicious about how much you let or urge your child to do. Kids need downtime as much as they may need to pursue extra-curricular activities. “If a child has homework and organized sports and a music lesson and is part of a youth group in church or synagogue, it can quickly become a joyless race from one thing to another. Therefore, monitor your child to see that he is truly enjoying what he is doing. If he isn't, cut something off the schedule,” advises Michael Thompson, Ph.D.

**Keep TV to a minimum.** “Watching lots of TV does not give children the chance to develop their own interests and explore on their own, because it controls the agenda,” advises Diane Levin, Ph.D. “However, unstructured time with books, toys, crafts and friends allows children to learn how to be in charge of their agenda, and to develop their own interests, skills, solutions and expertise.”

**Learn something new yourself.** Learning something new yourself is a great way to model the learning process for your child. Take up a new language or craft, or read about an unfamiliar topic. Show your child what you are learning and how you may be struggling. You'll gain a better understanding of what your child is going through and your child may learn study skills by watching you study. You might even establish a joint study time.

**Reference:** <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education>

# CREATIVE CORNER



Hridya Ujalayan | EYP 1 A



Group Activity | EYP 2 A



Kabeer Tanna | EYP 2 B



Prahan Doshi | EYP 1 B



Shrey Bhartiya | EYP 2 C



Pranaksh Sanghvi | EYP 2 D



Saanvi Dudharejia | Junior Kg. A



Sarthika Pandey | Junior Kg. B



Vedas Chavda | Senior Kg. C



Diyanshi Chokshi | Junior Kg. C



Group Activity | Junior Kg. D



Mishita Math | Senior Kg. A



Aadya Jaiswal | Senior Kg. B



Rishva Dodhiwala | Senior Kg. D

**redbricks**



1, 3 & 4 Ashok Nagar Bungalows,  
Behind Sundarvan, Satellite, Ahmedabad-15, India.  
Ph: +91 79 26925625 Mob: +91 9979500003

[www.redbrickseyc.org](http://www.redbrickseyc.org) | [www.redbrickseducation.org](http://www.redbrickseducation.org) | [www.redbricks-school.org](http://www.redbricks-school.org)

Email: [info@redbrickseyc.com](mailto:info@redbrickseyc.com) | [info@redbrickseducation.org](mailto:info@redbrickseducation.org)

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Plot No. 1385 & 1386, Near Arjun Farm,  
Shilaj-Rancharda Road, Ahmedabad-382721, India.  
Mob: +91 9099900080