**Developing Effective Communication Skills in Children**

Communication is an important process in everyone’s life. Without communication, humans will cease to exist. Efficient communication is a mandatory to express one’s mind to the other and an important part of any relationship. Communication occurs in many forms; it could be verbal or it could even be non-verbal. Non-verbal communication may include facial expressions, body dynamics, attire, silence or even meaningless blabber. Young children’s understanding of language and conversation is remarkably different from those of older children. Children should be helped to master the art of efficient communication, both verbal and non-verbal.

Some children feel awkward or shy, when speaking in public, because of an air of uncertainty in expressing their feelings. Young children learn the art of communication gradually over the years, as they develop the basic skills of language, dialect, diction and vocabulary. Having efficient communication skills means more than just knowing how to talk. Children often need guidance in learning how to interact with others when speaking, writing and using electronic formats of communication. Using role-playing to teach children how to communicate with peers and adults is fun and an engaging way for kids to learn.

**Active Listening:** Children need to understand the importance and develop the skills of listening to others, while also teaching them that it is OK to ask questions if they need clarification. Teach children, in the simplest terms, how active communication works. Practice role-playing with a child to help her learn proper ways to address adults. Discuss words that are off-limits and let the child know that these words are unacceptable in the home and elsewhere. With younger children, play games like the telephone game or short a story and have your child finish it.

**Numerical Communication Skills:** Talk to children about numerical communication and discuss the importance of posture and body language. Practice different types of body language with children so they can understand how they affect others’ perception of their message. Use simple terms such as “When you stand with your arms crossed, the listener might think you are angry or frustrated even if you are not.” Practicing through role-playing or games will help children develop effective communication skills that will carry them into adulthood.

**Time of Voice:** Discuss the importance of using appropriate tone when speaking. Try to reinforce that yelling and arguing may not be the best way to communicate with others. Be mindful of your own tone of voice when talking with a child.

**Electronic Communication:** Teach your child how to communicate virtually once she thinks she is old enough for it. Discuss the importance of Internet safety and make sure she knows to avoid charting or messaging with strangers. Have a younger child practice sending emails through your email account until he is old enough to do it on his own. Emphasize how communication can be misconstrued when communicated in writing. Teach children about the importance of thinking about the wording of messages before clicking the “Send” button.

**Writing Skills:** Have your child spend time creating free drawings and writing letters with a purpose. A great place to start is to have her send short notes to family members who live in other cities. Young children can be just asked to represent through drawings what they would like to convey in the letter. You can then label their drawings based on what they want to convey.
Active Community Involvement: School of Dreams and Knowledge Bus initiatives

The School of Dreams and Knowledge Bus initiative is an innovative platform for conducting activities on diverse subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Creative experiential activities for expert external volunteers. The Knowledge Bus Redbricks Team along with passionate and subject experts from Rajpath Club, Prahladnagar garden, Sports Club and La Habitat. Through the Knowledge Bus initiative we wanted to address the general phobia that exists in the minds of children and also parents about Maths and Science. Our objective was to generate an interest for these funfilled activities which will serve as a starting point for creating a curiosity in them to further explore and gain more knowledge in these domains.

Redbricks Foundation Day- Kids Mela

14th March marks the Foundation Day of Redbricks since it was on this day in 2009 that the first Junior of Redbricks was enrolled and it also happened to be the birth anniversary of our founder; Mr. Aditya Handa. In 2010 the Foundation Day celebration was organised at the Redbricks campus in Satellite. This year we continued with the tradition and celebrated the Redbricks Foundation Day with pride and pomp. A Kids Mela was organised on the theme of Multiple Intelligences.

Eight corners were arranged based on the eight intelligences. The Musical corner had a live music counter with a D.J playing foot tapping music. The Language corner was brimming with kids learning through Montessori tools. Red Riding Hood board game at the linguistic corner had the kids attention completely while the logical Intelligences corner had something unique, entertaining and special to offer. A puppet show and the screening of children's favorite movies like UP, Jungle Book, Harry Potter, etc., added to the excitement of the children. The musical corner had a live music counter with a D.J playing foot tapping music. The Language corner was brimming with kids learning through Montessori tools. Red Riding Hood board game at the linguistic corner had the kids attention completely while the logical Intelligences corner had something unique, entertaining and special to offer. A puppet show and the screening of children's favorite movies like UP, Jungle Book, Harry Potter, etc., added to the excitement of the children.

Musical Intelligences corner had a ramp for the kiddos to sing and dance which was a major attraction for everyone present to see the kids dancing and enjoying themselves to the fullest. Similarly each of the 8 Multiple Intelligences corner had something unique, entertaining and special to offer. The highlight of the evening was the launch of the Redbricks School of Dreams project, a unique initiative by Redbricks Education Foundation aimed at creating a truly democratic, child-centric and innovative school. Through this launch we invited all the parents, guests, kids and team members from our group companies present in the Kids Mela to come forward and share their ideas of their School of Dreams. The new campus will be constructed using eco-friendly materials like bamboo, fly-ash bricks and mud. The visit to the campus culminated with a special thanks to all the parents, children, teachers and team members.

Redbricks School- Santej campus event for parents

Redbricks Education Foundation along with Yuva Unstoppable, an NGO helping kids in municipal schools / slums, teamed up to send educational and fun field trips. More than 150 kids got a chance to go outside their world and experience something new and different. A Kids Mela was organized to bring together kids of all ages to have fun playing, learning and socialising. A small temporary campus was built to house the activities. An area for the kids to purchase their own candy floss and pop corn was provided. The Music corner had a live music counter with a D.J playing foot tapping music. The Language corner was brimming with kids learning through Montessori tools. Red Riding Hood board game at the linguistic corner had the kids attention completely while the logical Intelligences corner had something unique, entertaining and special to offer. A puppet show and the screening of children's favorite movies like UP, Jungle Book, Harry Potter, etc., added to the excitement of the children.

The highlight of the evening was the launch of the Redbricks School of Dreams project, a unique initiative by Redbricks Education Foundation aimed at creating a truly democratic, child-centric and innovative school. Through this launch we invited all the parents, guests, kids and team members from our group companies present in the Redbricks School of Dreams event for parents. The activities were a mixture of fun and learning. Children of all ages, parents and teachers and the children got a chance to share their ideas and volunteer for the different projects to be undertaken as a part of the School of Dreams. A large wall of the new temporary campus of Redbricks School was provided as a platform to show the children's creativity through art, the form of painting, drawing, sketching, clay modeling, etc. The art corner had a special School of Dreams section which garnered an enormous response from parents, grandparents, children of all ages, concerned citizens who came forward and shared their ideas, artwork, and their ideas about the School of Dreams. Foundation day was truly a memorable evening that culminated with a special thanks to all the parents, children, teachers and team members.

Snippets

Activities for Juniors at the closure of the 2010-11 academic session

The final activities of the year were full of fun and learning. Children of GBT and Sundervan visited each other’s campus. Every child from Kindergarten to Class 1 took part in various activities like burning incense sticks and making their culinary skills, gearing up for every character they were assigned. Science was fun session involving simple science experiments and making a real race car in a probe enticing the tiny investigators ever more. The flag was unfurled by the principal of the school. Redbricks had a pool party and water play to beat the heat with fun and frolic. The children were also treated under the ‘Mr. Jungle book’ Enchanted added to the festive mood.

First week of the new 2011-12 academic session

Children returned to school in June after a long vacation. The first week days were special as everyone was at school with friends and meeting new faces. Activities were planned in a manner which gave the children and the children had the chance to enjoy the school better. The first week witnessed a lot of fun and frolic with ice cream being handed out to every student. A guess my name game, etc., to introduce each other, a tour of admiring the campus, and puppet shows like ‘Red Riding Hood’ were added. More of new toys and books added to the excitement of the children. They had loads to share with their parents about their new school experiences.

Knowledge on Wheels for underprivileged school children

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Redbricks School- Santej campus event for parents

A visit for all current parents and children was organized to the new upcoming campus at Santej. The Projects and School Facilities were opened about the design philosophy and purpose of the upcoming campus. The campus is projected to be unique where 17 acres of land out of the total 25 acres will be used for landscaping and the remaining 8 acres will house the school buildings and facilities. The landscape will comprise of a vegetable garden with seasonal vegetables and 52 different types of trees. As per our calculations, the new friends. Activities were planned in a manner which gave the children and the children had the chance to enjoy the school better. The first week witnessed a lot of fun and frolic with ice cream being handed out to every student. A guess my name game, etc., to introduce each other, a tour of admiring the campus, and puppet shows like ‘Red Riding Hood’ were added. More of new toys and books added to the excitement of the children. They had loads to share with their parents about their new school experiences.