



"Brick-Beat"

Vol.9 No.2 January 2018

Dear Parents,

Greetings! Wish you and your families a very happy New Year. With this newsletter, we share glimpses of pre-school activities over August-December months.

These months have brought a lot of excitement, joy and stimulation to all of us at Redbricks. We celebrated some of the most memorable events – Children's Work Exhibition at Kanoria Gallery, Sports Day and Read to Lead literature festival during this period. During all these events, the hard work and skills of our children and teachers were clearly visible, and highly appreciated by the parent community and other visitors. It is always a moment of pride to see our inputs being translated into truly reflective and innovative work by children and teachers.



I had a joyous opportunity to interact with parents of newly admitted pre-school children at an academic orientation in September. Through my interactions with the parent participants, I was happy to see the alignment between our philosophies and a common vision for nurturing children. We hope that you have seen transformations in your child in regards to his/her overall development this year.

In the primary to senior school, our children have been excelling in many inter-school activities related to sports, literature, visual and performing arts, and many areas. Recently we learnt that nine of our students from Class 5 and Class 6 gained very high percentiles in their ASSET English, Maths and Science exams and they have been qualified to participate in a program for talented children at Northwestern University, Center for Talent Development, USA.

As we enter the last leg of our academic year, we look forward to the Annual day and some more exciting learning experiences. Another moment of pride came for us in the form of one more year of recognition as the #1 pre-school in Ahmedabad, by the Education World Magazine under their Annual Pre-school rankings 2017.

We are truly grateful to our parent community in supporting us to achieve such heights. Looking forward to our continued partnership.

Best wishes,

Renita Handa

Founder and Director-Academics
Redbricks Education Foundation

JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

Classroom Insights

EYP 1

A blend of group and individual activities is an essential consideration of early years education. Post Diwali vacation, there were visible changes in the development of the EYP stage 1 children who now follow one level instructions, sit in a group for a longer duration. Group activities are always helpful for the children to enhance their learning skills. They learn to sit together, listen to each other and work in a team. During the 'clothes' theme, children sat in a circle and explored different types of clothes kept in the pretend play corner during the indoor free play session. Children touched and explored different kinds of clothes like shirt, sari, T-shirt etc. and by this learnt the concept of rough and smooth. To further enhance their experiences of textures, they were provided with cloth swatches of different kind of fabrics which they touched and later pasted them on a white sheet to create their own table cloth.



It is said that colours is one of the most noticeable attribute of the world around us and children as young as two also observe and categorize things what they see through colours and shapes. It is not enough to know the names of colours but also what to do with it and hence exploring colours with its hues, intensity and value was an interesting topic for the project of EYP Stage 1 children. Children learn through exploration and some sense table activities were a wonderful experience for children to explore the shades of colour.

Children got an opportunity to see and explore how different shades emerge when black is mixed with any colour. Similarly, they also saw how tints are created when white is added to different colours. Children were amazed to see the changes in the colours while doing this activity. They also saw different colours dispersing from a prism when the sunlight passes through it. These activities enhance their creative and cognitive development.

EYP 2

Sometimes the simplest activities are actually the strongest learning Experiences. Exploring the outdoors activates many of our senses and exposes us to many learning possibilities. A child learns best by seeing, feeling, hearing, exploring, smelling, interacting and and keeping this in mind teachers gave children the opportunity to explore different textures by creating a texture walk activity. Texture is not only felt with hands but also with other parts of the body like feet, so trays with different textured materials like green grass, leaves, pebbles, cloth pieces, cold water, wet sand were placed in the outdoors. Children were encouraged to walk on these materials to feel with their feet and identify the textures. They were encouraged to express their feelings.



Music and movement session is full of excitement and enthusiasm for both teachers and children. This session also focuses on creative, language and physical development of a child. Teachers planned an activity where they enacted and made sounds of different animals like galloping and neighing like a horse, jumping and croaking like a frog, swaying and trumpeting like an elephant where children had to recognize them and imitate their teachers.



In the group discussion session of milk products as part of the 'Milk and Milk products' theme, it was seen that children were aware of the different milk products from their experiences of daily life. So to give children more exposure to milk products they were given hands on experience by demonstrating the process of making curd and paneer. Children observed the whole process with interest and few shared "Mari mummy bhi banati hai eyshe ghar per" (My Mother too make it like this at home). Children were given the opportunity to taste curd and paneer by placing them on the sense table the next day. They learnt about sequencing as well as new vocabulary like boiling, squeezing, straining, curdling, mixing etc.

Junior KG

Junior KG children did an in-depth inquiry and exploration with the topic 'Paper' for their second project. Children just knew paper but after the project they gained immense knowledge about different types of papers, process of making hand-made paper, various uses of paper and last but not the least they came to know the importance of paper and its implications if not saved and reused. Children used different techniques to create their models out of paper like coiling, paper clay and paper mâché and one section decided to use all these techniques to create their model.



During the group discussion of 'Vehicles' theme children were asked to bring toy vehicles from home. All the vehicles were kept in a tray where each child was given a chance to do sorting according to land, air and water vehicles, this activity enhanced their cognitive development. Language development was also seen when the children spoke few lines about those vehicles. What other better way to learn movements of body, than practicing Yoga! To give maximum exposure to the body movements during the theme of 'Movement of things and bodies' a Yoga session was planned for children in the garden area by a Yoga teacher. Children not only explored

different body movements with yoga but also learned the benefits of it. After the yoga session children followed their own shadow and tried to chase it. They also used their fingers and hands to form shadow art images.

During the theme of 'Seasons' children talked about the ongoing 'Winter' season and related all the woolen clothes they wear to school during this season like sweater, jacket, cap, gloves. They were fascinated with snowman as they related snow and cold weather with it. So during the art session they created snowflakes on the paper with the paper tape. Later on they painted the entire sheet with different shades of colours and later removed the tapes to see the image of snowflakes. They also shared their feelings and experiences of playing in the snow. This opportunity to express their emotions helps children to name their emotion which in turn goes a long way to help them manage their emotions.



Senior KG

Bringing the traditional craft and exploring different techniques of weaving was a joyous experience for the children. The basics of weaving like, warp and weft explained and demonstrated by the teachers, and well planned activities for children to have hands on experience of it was seen in their models. They were given opportunities to first learn to weave on different surfaces like cardboard frame, paper, glass before they moved to weaving frames. Weaving helped children in the development of fine motor skills, firm pincer grip, good eye-hand co-ordination, concentration and creativity.



The flight of birds and the tiny crawling insects are always a source of fascination for the young children hence exploring the theme of 'Birds and Insects' opened up a whole new world of wonder to them. A school walk itself made them better observers of the winged and crawling living creatures in their immediate environment. There were numerous questions asked by children about their habitat, food, nests. To extend their learning children were encouraged to find out some interesting facts about birds and insects from home and the next day it was an exciting and interesting session of sharing their findings. School and home are the two most influential contexts in which young children's learning and development occur and such opportunities to extend learning at home is related to their academic achievement.



"In the right light, at the right time, everything is extraordinary."- Aaron Rose. Experiments with Light and shadows are simply magical to children. During this theme children enjoyed creating shadows using natural light as well as artificial light (torchlight). Creating shadows in a dark room using the projector screen, experimenting using their fingers to create shadows of different birds and animals captured children's attention and also sparked their imagination. They were also introduced to the concept of opaque and transparent by showing them different kinds of bottles. They were curious to see the effect of light passing through a prism and making

a rainbow. Such experiments encourages children to explore further and make their own discoveries which was evident when they were found on their own creating shadows and rainbow using prism and torch in the indoor free play time.

JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

Field Trips- Learning Outside Classrooms

EYP 1

During the 'Colours' project, children of EYP Stage 1 were taken for a field trip to Sky Blue Activity center. Children saw colourful 3D paper craft hangings above and different textured art and craft things placed in the room. They were given different designed cardboard stencils, hand- made sheets and colours along with sponge rollers for the activity. Children were given opportunity to touch and feel different textured art made from various materials. Later they were also encouraged to touch and explore different colour materials, tools, bases used in any art activity.



EYP 2



Field trip to a tile shop was arranged to further explore on our project topic 'Textures' where they had a sensorial experience. Children saw different tiles and stones like embossed, designer, anti-skid, rough etc. They explored different textures with hands and feet. Children were able to differentiate between different textures like smooth, rough and bumpy and associated it with similar things they had seen in the environment. They also explored a tile which showed movement of colour inside when jumped on it.

During the theme 'Milk and Milk Products' children explored various milk products and to give further knowledge, field trip to Flourish dairy parlour was arranged. They watched a video on cow milking process and care of farm animals. They recognized and named various dairy products displayed in the store like milk, curd, butter, cheese, butter milk, paneer and flavored milk. Children interacted with the people working in the dairy and asked few questions.



To give children more exposure to various sports played with different kinds of balls they were taken to Decathlon sports accessories shop. Children were more than excited to visit the place where the resource person introduced different types of balls and the game in which its used. He also demonstrated the process of inflating the ball by pumping air inside it. Children were given an opportunity to touch and feel those balls. Teachers also did a size seriation activity with the balls by arranging them from big to small, and gave children chance to play with them later.

Junior KG

Children were taken to visit the factory of Kalamkhush, where they saw the process of making paper. In Kalamkhush, papers are made with fabric pieces. As children were unaware that making of paper is also done with fabric, they were amused and tried to relate it with the process of making paper they saw in the school done by their teacher. They also saw the products which were made out of paper like vases, envelopes and cards. It was a learning experience for all of us.



Senior KG



We had visited NID a design institute as a part of our project 'Weaving'. There children saw the process of weaving a cloth on the loom. Children were amazed to see how a thread is woven into fabric. Children also got the opportunity to do weaving on the loom. They saw some colorful piece of cloths which were previously woven by them. Apart from this they also saw Terracotta clay. It was very exciting for them to see that a basket was woven from it too.

The visit to Kankaria Zoo was fruitful and did justice to the theme of 'Birds and Insects'. The children saw different species of birds which live around us and few which are not seen in our immediate surroundings like white peacock, emu, crown pigeon etc.



Visits by Resource People

EYP 1

Some times it is interesting to see how children interact with a new face other than familiar faces around. EYP 1 children got an opportunity to meet an artist Ms. Priyadarshini Gandhi (Mother of Prisha Gandhi - Sr kg.) who was invited as a resource person during the 'Colours' project. She introduced children with different tools (natural brushes made from leaves, flowers and twigs), techniques and bases used for making the paintings, like she painted Mickey mouse on the canvas, butterfly and flowers on the fabric and also painted little hearts on waste plastic bottles and left a message of reusing the plastic waste.



EYP 2

Mr. Athar Talati (Father of Ekaksh Talati - EYP 2C), an architect by profession took initiative to make a texture wall for children during their 'Textures' project. He arranged for a person who created texture wall in front of children and later children touched and felt the wall.



During the theme of 'Flowers and leaves' a gardener was invited to give children knowledge of flowers and leaves. The Gardner had brought few plants like Hibiscus, rose and Mimosa pudica (touch me not) of which the most interesting children found was the Mimosa pudica (touch me not) leaves when touched just close itself and had brought gardening tools to with him. He also explained the process of plantation and care of plants in detail through a live demonstration and asked children to water the plant he planted.



Junior KG



Mr. Hardik Brahmabhatt, who is an environmentalist was invited to help our young children understand their responsibility towards the environment. The children got to know the importance of not cutting down the trees and were also made aware of how to reduce and reuse paper in everyday life. The children also got an opportunity to touch and feel different types of paper brought by him like tracing paper, fabric paper, carbon paper etc.

Ms. Vinita Nahar an artist was invited to guide children through their project of 'Paper'. She taught children how to make hand-made papers by using old newspapers and waste papers. The children made cards using these recycled papers. She also showed them the process of making paper clay which the children used to create different utensils during the project.



Senior KG



Dilip bhai and Kanti bhai basket weavers by profession visited the school campus during the 'Weaving' project. They demonstrated the process of making a bamboo basket. Along with this they also explained how bamboo comes to Ahmedabad from different places. Some children also tried their hands on making a weft of the basket.

Miss Rachael showed the children the importance of weaving in our country and also talked about the cultural heritage through a Power point presentation. Ms. Vinita Nahar, an artist, demonstrated and helped the children to learn the weaving technique.



Redbricks - #1 Pre-School in Ahmedabad !

The Education World India Pre-School Rankings 2017-18 are out, and respondents including parents with Pre-school children, teachers and principals, have once again ranked Redbricks #1 in the Proprietary Preschools Category.

Redbricks has also received top ratings on the parameters of teacher competence, infrastructure, individual attention to students, innovative teaching and parental involvement.



JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

Celebrations

Teachers Day

Teachers day was celebrated on 5th September where teachers spoke about Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and the importance of this day. Children did art activity, wrote messages for teachers, made card and frames for their teachers with great zeal.



My Favourite Toy Day

My favourite toy day was celebrated on 14th September 2107 by the students of EYP. Children were asked to bring their favourite toy from home and talk about it. They were really excited to show their toy to the teachers and their peers.



Navratri

Navratri is a multi-day Hindu festival celebrated every year. The outdoor area was decorated with colourful ribbons, colourful sarees, flowers etc. All the teachers and children dressed in traditional wear and did Aarti. Children of all classes did garba with their respective teachers.

Hindi Diwas

Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 14th September Thursday. It is celebrated to honor our national language-Hindi. Junior Kg. students sang Hindi rhymes and poems in their class and teachers narrated a Hindi story to them. All sections of Senior Kg. children gathered and sang Hindi rhymes and song.

Joy of Giving

Joy of giving is celebrated in India between 2nd to 8th October. It is a time of generosity, unity and above all happiness. Teachers explained the concept of Joy of Giving week to the students with the help of a story. We took this opportunity to thank the Security persons and Support staff by giving them a Thank you card.



Diwali Celebration

Diwali is celebrated to show the victory of good on evil. Children were overjoyed making diyas with the help of a potter. Later they painted and decorated their Diyas and also made colourful rangoli on the floor.



Story Day

During Story day celebration children were dressed up as their favourite story character and narrated the story to their friends.

Children's Day

Puppet show was arranged for the children as a part of the Children's day celebration. They enjoyed watching the colourful puppets dancing and jumping. It was very exciting for them when animals like crocodile and snake popped out of the curtain and came near them.



Grandparent's Day

"Grandparents day" was celebrated in the school. Few Grandparents shared their fond memories and favorite past times with their grand children. They also narrated few stories, played family games and sang some action songs which children followed. We concluded the event by thanking them for taking their time out and gracing the event with their presence.

Safety Day

The safety day was celebrated to spread awareness about road safety measures. This was done by creating a traffic park having zebra crossing along with the traffic lights arranged in the school campus. The children enjoyed using the toy vehicles and followed the traffic rules. Not only this the children were also made aware of the good touch and bad touch through a story as a part of the celebration.





School Picnic

The purpose of this picnic is sheer enjoyment for the students. Children of Jr Kg. were taken for a picnic to a garden at Sugamvilla where they enjoyed playing and dancing on music with their peers. At the end of the picnic they were really tired but with a big smile on their face. EYP children enjoyed their picnic at Karnavati Club.

Sr Kg. children spent a day at the Santej Campus. A day away from the classrooms was spent playing different outdoor games and dancing on their favourite tunes.

Sports Day

The sports day started with a drill by Sr Kg. children, followed by various races organized for children of different age groups. All the children were given participation certificates and EYP stage 1 children were given medals along with the certificates in honour of their first sports day. Miss Ayushree Bildhaiya a young tennis player of Gujarat was the chief guest.



Art Week

Parents were invited to be a part of their child's memory doing art activities together, which definitely took them down to their memory lane. This was a showcase of the art activities done in the school using different techniques, tools, mediums and bases to enhance physical, cognitive, social and creative development of a child. Three stations were installed with one art activity on each.



Christmas Celebration

Children celebrated Christmas to celebrate Lord Jesus Christ's birthday with zeal and enthusiasm. Children came in colourful dresses and did various art activities. They enjoyed the celebration and also danced over the tunes of Jingle bell song with Santa Claus wearing the red costume who was the center of attraction for the children.

Workshops at Redbricks Pre school

As educators and as parents, we need to continuously expand our knowledge and strengthen our practice to keep pace with changing times. Keeping this in mind we organized different workshops for parents and educators.

Parent Workshops

Our Founder **Mrs. Renita Handa** conducted an **Academic Orientation** for all the parents who joined the Redbricks family in this session. This helped parents to align with our philosophy and also discuss approaches in early childhood education.

EYP Stage 2 and Sr kg. parents attended a **workshop on Math Readiness** conducted by the teachers to orient parents about our approach to teaching math in early years. Parents learnt about how to incorporate Math in day to day activities at home.

Jr kg. teachers conducted a **workshop on Language Readiness** which helped parents to understand our approach to language development. They were oriented about phonemic awareness and whole language approach we follow in school.



Teachers' Workshops

Mrs. Renita Handa conducted a **workshop on Compassionate Communication**, this being the part of the series of **Core Value** training for the entire team.

Mrs. Dipali Bhachech conducted a **workshop on Story telling** which helped teachers to enhance their skill of story telling and know more about the different techniques used to make the story telling sessions more effective.

Mrs. Priti Dharpale conducted a **workshop on music and movement** and story telling strategies to be used in a pre- school set up.

Art is a wonderful stress buster and this was well perceived in the workshop conducted by **Mrs. Disha Trivedi, an Art Therapist.**

Teachers attended a workshop on how to conduct effective Group Discussions and about the techniques of asking questions conducted by **Mrs. Ankita Sharma.**

The whole school underwent a training on Fire Safety and First Aid.

The support staff underwent an orientation about safety of children including Good Touch and Bad Touch.

REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Diwali Celebration

“Diwali is a day filled with joy, happiness, prosperity and light of goodness in everyone’s heart.” The day started with Class 5 students performing a skit on Prince Rama and his wife Sita returning back to Ayodhya. Rangoli and diya making were a few of the organized activities where students took part and thoroughly enjoyed showing a true collaborative spirit.



Children’s Day



Children’s day celebration at Redbricks School witnessed a day mixed with fun and participation of our students engaged in various activities. The assembly was an enactment by teachers representing the children’s way of conducting the assembly. The teachers dedicated a special song for the students. The day ended with some sweet reflections and students asking their teachers to share some anecdotes or memories of their childhood days.

Outdoor Camp

Class 1 and 2, had their camp site at Santej School campus, where they stayed for one night and visited Science City on the first day and the Thol Bird Sanctuary on the second day.



Class 3 and 4 had been to the Little Rann of Kutch, experiencing the flora and fauna of the Rann and becoming responsible citizens by understanding and conserving heritage sites and the environment.



Class 5 and 6 had been to the wild sanctuary at Gir and a visit to Somnath temple. This program was specially designed for them to create more awareness towards the animals, habitats and environment.



Class 7 to 10 students had their camp site at Dhauj situated in “The Aravali Hills”. This program was designed to encourage personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility towards themselves and service to their community.

Sports Day

The Annual Sports meet at Redbricks school held on 25th November saw energetic participation of the students in various forms of physical activities and athletic events.



Mr. Todd Clark, Tennis Director, Ahmedabad Racquet Academy graced the event to encourage and appreciate the spirit and enthusiasm shown by every participant.

The event also witnessed the demonstrations like human pyramid, martial- arts, self defence skills and yoga. A variety of races were designed to showcase the physical and athletic abilities by the students.



Teachers Professional Development Workshops at Class 1- Class 10

We believe in learning as a lifelong continuous process and hence at Redbricks, we have many workshops for teachers' continual growth and professional development. Along with training on "Implementing Core Values of the School into real life" by Ms. Renita Handa, we also had pedagogical workshops conducted by Ms. Pearl Lobo for enhancement of teaching learning process in the school. Also, the frequent Math and English workshops conducted by our respective mentors Ms. Veena Das & Ms. Roopa Shah has helped in developing the best practices by teachers.

A 'Thinking dispositions and culture' workshop was conducted by Ms. Minakshi Balkrishna to learn tools and techniques of promoting thinking in children.

An outbound training program was also organized for teachers to celebrate Teachers day. Such programs help them improving their team spirit, collaborate and prepare them to face challenges and move forward.



Parent Workshops

We also organized various workshops for parents of Class 1 to Class 10 covering a variety of topics. New Parents were oriented towards the EVS curriculum and pedagogy in primary years by the Principal Ms. Sutapa Mishra and the academic coordinator Ms. Pearl Lobo. Our Maths mentor, Ms. Veena Das, conducted Maths workshops for parents across various grades to orient them about the process-oriented approach of teaching and learning Maths. Our English mentor, Ms. Rupa Shah, conducted English curriculum and pedagogy workshop for Class 1 parents to understand how children learn language and literature skills in a holistic manner. Ms. Minakshi Balkrishna, a consultant and an advisor at RBS, conducted 'Thinking Skills' workshop with Class 2 to Class 6 parents.



Student Achievements



Priyanshu Vanani, Class 5 (left) 1st position in District Level 50 Mt Race Khel Mahakumbh, along with **Aryan Shah**, Class 10 (Middle) 3rd in Khel Mahakumbh and **Suryansh Raghuvansh**, Class 8 (Right) 3rd position in 200 Mt. Race Khel Mahakumbh

Pari Gulabani, Class 4B, 3rd position in Inter-school Elocution Competition in Calorx Olive International School



Aanshi Mistry (Class 5A), **Abhimanyu Raina** (Class 5B), **Kairah Singh** (Class 5A), **Pari Oza** (Class 5A), **Priyanshu Vanani** (Class 5A), **Vani Shah** (Class 5B), **Arya Patel** (Class 6), **Shivangi Raghuvansh** (Class 6) and **Mitra Dave** (Class 6) have qualified for ASSET Talent Scholar Programme through their exceptional scores in the ASSET exams conducted for English, Maths and Science.

REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Work Exhibition at Kanoria Art Gallery

We organized an exhibition of children's project work from pre-school to Class 4 at Kanoria Art Gallery on 4th, 5th and 6th November 2017. The exhibition displayed pre-school children's ideas and project work related to Art: Colours, Textures, Paper, and Weaving. Class 1 and class 2 worked on the lippan art where they prepared the artifacts by mixing of cow dung and mud.

Class 3 and class 4 displayed their autobiographies which they prepared based on their experiences from birth till date.

The exhibition also had a book corner where visitors could sit and listen to the autobiographies directly from the students who had written it.

Such exhibitions and events help children to enhance their multiple intelligences as well as to develop effective habits and life skills. Hundreds of visitors of all ages and background visited the event and appreciated the extensive thinking and work of our children and teachers.



Read to Lead Young Readers' Conclave (2nd Edition)

Read to Lead is a mega community event organized by Redbricks School to celebrate the love for books and reading in children. This is the second year in a row where Redbricks school organized a platform for readers, authors, students, parents and anyone interested in Books and Reading.

This two day event started with the interschool competition held on 16th of December. Participation of more than 15 schools was a motivational factor for us which also reinforced our belief that this generation will pass on the legacy of book reading to the next generation.

The day kick started with many competitions like twist in a rhyme, touch and feel book making, poetry writing, collage story making and booker's quiz. The event received an overwhelming response from around 300 participants.

Next day, 17th December, was a day dedicated for authors' workshops where the eminent authors, illustrators, story tellers, artists and other experts such as Ms. Shobha Vishwanath, Mr. Ranjit Lal, Ms. Natasha Sharma, Ms. Roopa Pai, Ms. Richa Jha, Mr. Ajaydas Gupta and many more from all over the India came together to address readers of various ages about the world of books.

Students of Class 3 to 6 also performed a drama each the original literary work of eminent authors like Roald Dahl and Natasha Sharma.

The mega event ended with the Live performance by Neeraj Arya's Kabir Cafe- a band that brings alive the poetic works of Kabir infused with rock, pop, reggae and fusion. A curated bookstore with a handpicked selection of Indian and International literature for children was also set-up.



Helping Kids Become Tenacious Problem Solvers

Few skills will serve our children better than the ability to solve problems creatively. As education specialist Tony Wagner says “Today, because knowledge is available on every Internet-connected device, what you know matters far less than what you can do with what you know.” One of the most important skills, he continues, is “the capacity to innovate — the ability to solve problems creatively or bring new possibilities to life.”

The challenges that loom large to kids might seem small to adults: How do I put on my shoes by myself? Reach the cookie jar on the counter? Build a tower? Carry all my dinosaurs at once? Solve this math puzzle? Make a book? Build a fort? Join a group at recess? Ask a teacher for help? Keep my brother out of my room? Convince my parents to get a dog?

But these early challenges are the source of future innovation. When kids practice problem-solving skills at an early age — including the tenacity to keep trying when their first solution falls flat — they will be better equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Four Ways to Nurture Your Child’s Problem-Solving Skills

Encourage Curiosity. All children go through a “Why?” stage. While that can tax our patience, we should be more concerned about children outgrowing their desire to understand why the world works the way it does. Problem solving often involves targeted research to find the information we need to develop innovative solutions. Use kids’ innate curiosity to teach them research skills. In fact, one of the best responses we can give to a “Why?” question is simply: “Let’s find out.” These three words tell children that you honor their curiosity and take their questions and interests seriously. It also shows that there are ways to find answers.

Don’t Rescue, Reframe. When your elementary-age child comes to you with a problem — from a school science fair project to a social concern — resist the urge to step in and solve it for them. Instead, help them clarify the problem and brainstorm ways that they can solve it. Phrases such as these can help kids reframe challenges into opportunities:

- Tell me more about the situation.
- What have you already tried? What happened? What did you learn from that?
- What’s one thing you can try that you haven’t tried already? Let’s brainstorm a list of possibilities.
- How would so-and-so (a teacher, a classmate) describe the problem?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you do to change the situation?
- What information or skills do you need that you don’t have yet?

Honor Tenacity. Tenacity is the ability to stick with a problem and approach a task with determination. It’s what gives us the strength to try, try again.

Recently, my three-year-old wanted to climb onto a piece of playground equipment — a dinosaur rocker — that was a bit too high for his frame. He approached it from multiple angles, trying to boost himself again and again. Finally, he spotted a big rock nearby, lugged it over, and used it as a stepping-stone. While it was fun to ride on the T-Rex, that was nothing compared to his delighted cry of, “I did it, Mommy!”

We honor our kids’ tenacity when we acknowledge the hard work they put into a project, when we give them time and space to experiment and when we don’t do for them what we know they can do for themselves. We encourage tenacity when we honor the effort they put into solving a problem. This might sound like, “You put a lot of hours into learning that song on the piano!” or “That was a challenging puzzle, but you stuck with it!”

Look for Cues and Clues. Kids who are good problem solvers are also great observers. They take stock of the situation. They look for materials they need. They pay attention to the clues and cues around them. If your child is struggling with something, encourage them to press pause and take another look at the situation. What do they notice? Do they need to read the math problem again and look for key words? Is their block structure missing a support beam? Do they have a friend who can collaborate with them who might have new ideas to offer?

Spending time in nature is one way to strengthen kids’ observation skills. Take a nature walk and encourage them to use their five senses. What do they see? What do they hear? What do they smell? What textures are around them? What clues can they find about they types of creatures who live in the area — what they eat, where they live? What “Why?” questions you can generate together.

CREATIVE CORNER



Arhaan Shah | EYP 1 A



Dhyana Vaishyak | EYP 1 B



Jayantika Afuwale | EYP 2 A



Vansh Nahata | EYP 2 C



Hridiya Acharya | EYP 2 D



Ball Painting | EYP 2 B



Monsoon Collage | Junior Kg. A



Prisha Shah | Junior Kg. B



Fiona Huang | Junior Kg. C



Avani Gupta | Senior Kg. A



Chahel Goswami | Senior Kg. B



Krishita Khamar | Senior Kg. C

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