

REPORT ON FUNCTIONING OF BALVATIKA – III

Balvatika programme is designed as a preparatory class for children before Grade 1 with a focus on developing cognitive, affective and psychomotor abilities through learning by fun classes.

At our vidyalaya Balvatika classroom has been equipped with an attractive and colourful environment for the children. For this age-appropriate colourful furniture with hexagonal tables and chairs is provided for the classroom. It has been ensured that these are safe for the usage by children. The classroom is also equipped with age-appropriate learning tools like alphabet cards, number blocks, toys, story books, puppets, puzzles, building blocks, alphabet and number charts etc. For this purpose, sometimes we are also utilising the online as well as offline Jaadui Pitara suggested by NCF for foundational stage learning. Children are also being provided to have hands on experience during various day to day activities to develop life skills and moral values.

Our Balvatika – III comprises of 31 children facilitated by 2 teachers and 1 caregiver as per the norms of KVS.

To attain the goals of making learning Holistic, Integrated, Enjoyable, and Engaging various joyful, creative and play based activities have been conducting at our school under the following five domains:

Physical development:

Physical activities can help children enhance their gross motor skills and allow for better movements, coordination, balance, and physical strength.

In our Balvatika class, for physical development we involve children in activities like dancing, yoga, balancing, outdoor games, action songs etc. A primary health check up is also conducted time to time to monitor the physical growth of children.

Socio-emotional and ethical development:

The five main components of socio-emotional development are - Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision Making.

To develop such skills in our children we facilitate them with moral story telling through attractive story books, animated videos, games and activities comprising group work, opportunities to speak up on stage and express their emotions, role play, emotional understanding etc.

Cognitive development:

The development of cognitive skills in children is crucial as it helps to organise and process information and it helps them respond accordingly.

For cognitive development we conduct activities like playing board games (ludo & snake and ladder), card games, telling jokes and riddles, encouraging stacking and building games or playing with cardboard boxes, craft, drawing, puzzles, flameless cooking, shapes sorting, colours sorting, games of matching etc. Other than these we also cater them with rhymes, stories and sing-alongs, flashcards to learn letters and numbers.

Language and literacy development:

The early years of a child's life are critical for developing key literacy and language skills.

For this we have created a literacy rich environment at our Vidyalaya using building as an aid. The class room is also equipped with reading charts and display material. Activities like read aloud with teacher, puppet storytelling, direction games and drawings, clay letter formation, alphabet sorting, writing your name using alphabet cards, picture reading, letter tracing on paper/sand, speak about yourself/ favourite animal/ bird/ family member/ festival, worksheet solving etc. are being conducted to develop language skills.

Aesthetic and cultural development:

Aesthetic awareness, or the ability to observe, process, react to, and value nature and artistic expression, plays an important role in early development.

Activities like sounds of animals and birds, sensitivities towards music, clay modelling, creative drawings and paintings, thumb printing, dancing, drama and role play, appreciating the beauty around them are being conducted to develop aesthetic skills among children. For the cultural development we have been celebrating various special days and festivals at our Vidyalaya and make children aware about the importance of those days and festivals.

These are the few efforts we are taking to enrich and enhance the learning-teaching environment and to make it more joyful and purposeful for children at our Vidyalaya.

Further, we are looking forward to make it more equipped with teaching learning tools and more attractive play and activity areas. We are also planning to create our own offline Jaadui Pitaras covering all the lively concepts of early childhood for overall holistic development of our children.

Some of the glimpse of activities conducted under above five domains are as follows:

