

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, utter 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 effective 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 forms 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 her 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 start a story and have your child finish it.



Nonverbal Communication Skills: Talk to children about nonverbal 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.

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

Electronic Communication: Teach your child how to communicate virtually once you think she is old enough for it. Discuss the importance of Internet safety and make sure she knows to avoid chatting or messaging with strangers. Have a younger child practice sending emails through your email account until he is old enough to have his own. Emphasize how communication can be misconstrued when communicating virtually and discuss 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 thank-you notes for gifts received. Purchase small postcards for your child to write 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.

Brick wall...



School of Dreams depicted through art by children during the Knowledge Bus project



"Brick-Beat"

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Dear Parents,

Once, six years old Abhi, told his teacher that he saw a man as tall as the Qutab Minar. The teacher did not argue with Abhi's perception. She was not in a hurry to point out that no man can be so big. She neither did interrupt the child's imagination by saying, "Stop lying, stop telling tall tales." Instead she acknowledged his perception with empathy and humor and she asked the following questions.

"You saw a tall man? A big man? Was he looking gigantic and tremendous?" To each of these, Abhi answered, "Yes." Her lesson was good in human relationship and in terms of the vocabulary that she used. To reach a child's mind the adult, must capture his heart. Only if a child feels right can he think right. What counts most in adult child communication is the quality of the process. Our statements affect the child's self esteem and self worth. Effective / congruent communication can transform education. It strikes not just at the trappings of teaching but at the heart of learning.

With immense joy, we would like to welcome Dr. Gargi Singh to our team, who has joined the Redbricks family as the Center Head, at Gulbaitakra Preschool. She has done her Doctorate in Human Development and Family Studies and has been actively involved in Early Childhood Care and Education over many years as a trainer, consultant and teacher.

This newsletter marks the culmination of an eventful Academic Year 2010-11, and the onset of new experiences and adventures in 2011-12 in the learning journey of our children. We wish all our parents and families a year full of happiness, togetherness and achievement.

Best Wishes,

The Principal

Introducing...

Redbricks Junior is happy to announce the completion of its first batch of **Redbricks Play - "Summer Play & Learn"** in May 2011. The program had children from various schools, age between 2-8 yrs. Four modules were arranged on four different themes, which focused on their communication skills, general knowledge, fun with Science and Math, self esteem, feelings, emotions and expressions, creative exploration and imagination, visual arts and crafts.

We are happy to announce the launch of Redbricks Teachers Institute, which offers a holistic and experiential One-year Full-time Post Graduate Certificate Program in Early Childhood and Care Education (ECCE) for female graduates.



redbricks Play
The Activity Centre

redbricks
TEACHERS INSTITUTE



redbricks | Junior

Play Group | Nursery | Junior KG | Senior KG

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Active Community Involvement: School of Dreams and Knowledge Bus initiativez

"It takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to build a school", has been the driving philosophy for the School of Dreams project, a unique initiative by Redbricks Education Foundation aimed at creating a truly democratic, child-centric and innovative school.



The Knowledge Bus activity at various identified locations was initiated under the School of Dreams project. Knowledge Bus is an extension of

the Redbricks philosophy of Multiple Intelligences and Experiential learning. This Education on Wheels initiative is an innovative platform for conducting activities on diverse subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Creative experiential activities for children and adults. Activities were conducted by Redbricks Team along with passionate and subject expert external volunteers. The Knowledge Bus activities were conducted at Karnavati Club, 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. The Knowledge Bus activities included games, puzzles, nuggets of information, experiments and activities which facilitate the learning process for children and make these subjects more interesting for them. Our objective was to generate an interest for these subjects amongst young children through fulfilled activities which will serve as a starting point for creating a curiosity in them to further explore and gain more knowledge in these domains.

Along with maths and science activities children and adults were also provided a platform to showcase their creativity through arts in the form of painting, drawing, sketching, clay modeling, etc. The arts corner had a special School of Dreams section which gained an enormous response from parents, grand parents, children of all ages, concerned citizens who came forward and posted their ideas, suggestions, feedback, wishes for their dream school on the Wish Tree of School of Dreams.



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 happens to be the birth anniversary of our founder; Mr. Aditya Handa. In 2010 the first Foundation Day celebration was organized 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 organized at the 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 DJ playing foot tapping popular numbers for the kids, parents and all the guests present.

This corner also 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. A puppet show and the Red Riding Hood board game at the linguistic corner had the kids attention completely while the logical corner was brimming with kids learning through Montessori tools. Redbricks currency was being given out at the entrance for the kids to purchase their own candy floss and pop corn.

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 idea of their School of Dreams. The response was overwhelming with people appreciating this initiative and coming forward to share their ideas and volunteer for the different projects to be undertaken as a part of the School of Dreams initiative. A large wall of the new temporary campus of Redbricks School was provided as a platform for everyone present to come forward and showcase their creativity in the form of art and painting which represented their 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 activities were a mixture 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 being little chefs and exploring their culinary skills, dressing up as story characters like Cinderella, Snow white, The Clever Rabbit and enacting roles, Science is Fun session involving simple science experiments and playing a real maze as a problem solving task using indigenous material. The Play group children GBT had a pool party and water play to beat the heat. Screening of children's favorite movies like UP, Jungle Book, Enchanted added to the festive mood.



First week of the new 2011-12 academic session

Children returned to school in June after along a vacation. The first few days were all about reuniting with friends and welcoming new friends. Activities were planned in a manner which gave the teachers and the children the opportunity to know each other better. The first week witnessed a lot of fun and frolic with ice breaking activities like treasure hunt, guess my name game, etc. to introduce each other, a tour of school campus, movie screenings and puppet shows. The new class , its décor , smell of new books and toys 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

Redbricks Education Foundation along with Yuva Unstoppable, an NGO helping kids in municipal schools / slums, teamed up to send the kids from different municipal schools and slums on educational and fun field trips. More than 150 kids got a chance to go outside their world and experience something new and exciting with their fellow mates. Educational trips for the kids were organized to places like Science City, Sundervan, Traffic Park, Indroda Park, Havmor Icecreams.



Redbricks School- Santej campus event for parents

A visit for all current parents and children was organized to the new upcoming school campus at Santej. The Projects and School team talked about the design philosophy and details 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 Redbricks student to be a carbon neutral citizen. The campus buildings will be contemporary in feel yet will be constructed using eco-friendly materials like bamboo, fly-ash bricks and mud. The visit ended with all the parents and children planting a tree at the campus to join the school's mission of building an environment friendly school campus towards a more sustainable society.

