

Updates: Child Friendly Spaces
January - March, 2011

Last two months at Child Friendly Spaces were very busy where all the students at the centre got exposure of different activities and enjoyed a lot.

Status of Child Friendly Spaces

Following table shows the status of Child Friendly Spaces

Centre	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total no. of Students	Age Group	Class Time	Note
Vasna	12	20	32	06-13	13:00-16:00	A total of 3 children have been sent back to school.
Behrampura	16	09	25	07-15	14:00-16:00	A total of 6 children are sent back to school
Juhapura	15	15	30	07-16	16:00 - 18:00	A total of 5 students are sent back to school.
Madhav Home, Vastral (Non-formal set up for children of construction worker)	23	22	45	04-07	12:30-15:00	The class has been started from February, 2011. The process of re-building is going on with games and parent's meetings.
Shubham Galaxy, Odhav (Non-formal set up for children of construction worker)	10	10	20	03-08	9:30-12:00	Children are taught alphabets and numbers. The teacher has started focusing on writing as well.

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Events & New Initiatives

Exposure Visits

Visit to Malav Talav

Children from Vasna centre went to the exposure visit of Malav Talav. Malav Talav is a beautiful garden with the lake near Vasna. Children visited the garden on 29th January, 2011. They played games and enjoyed snacks.

Visit to Temple

Children from Vasna centre went to visit the Shiv Temple on 12th February, 2011. The temple is near to Vasna. Children were told some stories of Lord Shiv.

Celebration of Festival

Children at the centres celebrated The Republic Day on 26th January, 2011. Children were told the importance of the day in a form of story. Flags and chocolates were distributed. Children played different games and celebrated the festival.

Distribution of Kit

All the children at Vasna and Behrampur centres were provided with a kit. The kit included a bag, notebooks, lunch box and pencil box. A token amount of Rs. 20 was collected from each child. Children were very happy when they were told about it.

"I am so happy today", said Roshni, a student from Vasna centre, "This is the first bag I have ever got. I will use it carefully and keep it for a long period of time."



Nutritional Supplements

The centres began providing nutrition supplements to the children at all the centres. A meeting was held of all the teachers and a schedule was worked out as to what would be given on which days. The schedule was planned in a way that would ensure all the various nutrients and variety in food – to keep the motivation of the children to eat what is served.

Jayshreeben, the teacher at Vasna says that the children don't like drinking milk. While discussing this with Devuben, Kiranben and Keren suggestions were given that a chocolate supplement like horlicks or complan could be added to the milk, or a fruit milk dish could be prepared, which would appeal to the children's tastes. She says she will suggest this to the others and try it out as well.

She says that the children enjoy the snacks, for some it keeps them coming back to the class. Gopalbhai who runs the Behrampur URC shares, *"They enjoy the dry snacks more. That is what I have observed. The number of children who come and their attendance is slowly being regularised. Earlier on I used to notice Urmilaben used to go house to house for most of the children to bring them to the class. Nowadays the children come directly to class."*

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Activities with French Students

In February, 2011, SAATH had visitors from Lycee International School, France. 15 high school students had come to Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad, as a part of student exchange programme. The students invited all the children of Child Friendly Spaces for two afternoons (17th & 18th February). It was a treasure of activities for the children of Child Friendly Spaces. A total of 65 students from Vasna and Juhapura centres participated in the activities. The activities planned for the children were, painting, making butterfly, making key-chain, instant photographs, magic show, songs, dance etc. Children enjoyed with the French students a lot.

"I now know how to make the key-chain and I loved it the most.", said Gulshan, a student from Juhapura centre. "In the beginning I felt shy but all 'didis' and 'bhaiyas' are so nice. I got to learn many things in these two days."



Story of Roshni

Roshni Vaghela is a 10 yrs old resident of Pravinnagar-Guptanagar. Roshni's family includes her parents, 2 younger sisters and 1 younger brother. The family migrated few years back from a small village of Gujarat. Roshni's parents are vegetable vendors. After the migration, Roshni was sent back to the village where she used to live with her grandparents. Roshni was enrolled in the school and passed std. 1st.



In order to help her mother with work and home, Roshni was sent to Ahmedabad.

Roshni started taking care of her siblings and helping her parents with their work. Roshni is one of the very few children who got enrolled when the centre was started in year 2009. She was punctual and good at studies. When the teacher approached her parents, they said that they didn't want to send her to the school and they wanted her not to go to the centre as well because she had to take care of her younger siblings. The teacher convinced her parents and allowed all her siblings, Nilam (9 yrs), Naina (6 yrs) and Yug (3 yrs) to come to the centre.

Roshni is good at studies. She comes to centre regularly. But she doesn't go to school. The other reason along with her responsibility is that the Municipal School is far from her home and her parents cannot afford to send her to a private school.

Nutritional Supplements

Date	Day	Snack
01-01-2011	Saturday	groundnuts and channa
02-01-2011	Sunday	
03-01-2011	Monday	Gathiya
04-01-2011	Tuesday	Parle-G (biscuits)
05-01-2011	Wednesday	Sev mixture
06-01-2011	Thursday	milk/milk product
07-01-2011	Friday	dates
08-01-2011	Saturday	dal mixture (dry)
09-01-2011	Sunday	
10-01-2011	Monday	Jaggery and coconut
11-01-2011	Tuesday	Fruit- Guava
12-01-2011	Wednesday	groundnuts and channa
13-01-2011	Thursday	Shakarpara
14-01-2011	Friday	Holiday for Uttarayan
15-01-2011	Saturday	Gathiya
16-01-2011	Sunday	
17-01-2011	Monday	Parle-G (biscuits)
18-01-2011	Tuesday	Sev mixture
19-01-2011	Wednesday	milk/milk product
20-01-2011	Thursday	Dates
21-01-2011	Friday	dal mixture (dry)
22-01-2011	Saturday	Fruit- Orange
23-01-2011	Sunday	
24-01-2011	Monday	groundnuts and channa
25-01-2011	Tuesday	Parle-G (biscuits)
26-01-2011	Wednesday	Republic Day holiday
27-01-2011	Thursday	Gathiya
28-01-2011	Friday	Sev mixture
29-01-2011	Saturday	Shakarpara
30-01-2011	Sunday	
31-01-2011	Monday	dal mixture (dry)

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The table on the left is for the month of January as planned by the teachers. It mentions – a mixture of rice puffs with peanuts and *channa dal*, milk, dates, jaggery and coconut, fruits, *shakarpara*, a snack made out of dal, parle-G (biscuits).