

A Letter to Teachers

Dear teachers,

From Shriram Foundation, we wish you all a wonderful Ugadi! May the year be filled with joy and prosperity and may all your dreams come true this year.

As the days get hotter, and red-green mango blossoms ripen to fruit, we look forward to a month in the coolness of our houses, a month of quietness and relaxation when pickle making takes over from lesson preparation and vacations from answer sheet correction. Our newsletter too will take a break in May but we will be back with you in June.

Our April issue brings you an article from Andhra Mahila Sabha, whose sensitive Early Childhood Education initiatives have made a large impact all over South India. They are our partners in pre-primary education and we hope under their care and nurturing the little ones in Mission Hundred schools will learn, grow and enjoy in a stress-free and age-appropriate environment.

As always we look forward to hearing from you. Please do write in to us at m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com with your suggestions, comments and feedback.

Warm regards
Editor

Early Childhood Care and Education

Introducing a monthly column by State Resource Centre for Early Childhood Education, Andhra Mahila Sabha

The first few years are forever

- » What happens or does not happen to children in the earliest years of their lives is of critical importance both to their immediate well being and to their future. Responsive care, early stimulation and active learning opportunities in the first few years are critical for promoting brain development and enhanced life-long learning capacity.
- » Children's early experiences – the bonds they form with their parents and their first learning experiences – deeply affect their future physical, cognitive, emotional and social development. Babies begin to learn about the world around them from a very early age – including during the prenatal, perinatal (immediately before and after birth) and postnatal period.
- » Early experiences get built into the body in two ways: adverse experiences can affect the brain during critical periods of development; and cumulative damage is caused by recurring experiences such as abuse, chronic neglect or exposure to violence.
- » Neurological research shows that the early years play a key role in children's brain development. Early childhood care and education/intervention programmes have been shown to significantly enhance children's prospects for academic success by reducing the probability of referral to special education, grade retention, and leaving school prior to high school graduation, especially for children at risk for academic under achievement.
- » Research in south Asian region particularly in India shows the impact of ECE on the academic and social preparedness of children for formal schooling. 15-20 percent higher retention and achievement levels and improved quality of learning of mathematics in the primary grades have been reported. Studies in Brazil and USA have also reported substantial savings in total schooling costs for children who attended Early Childhood Development programs.
- » Hence the positive early years experiences lay the foundation for later life and in turn build human capital.



Puzzles

Copy this on a sheet of paper and make copies for your students. This could be a fun holiday homework that could keep them in touch with their subjects. The following are the names of famous freedom fighters and kings of India. Each coloured box in the following puzzle corresponds to a particular letter. The black boxes represent an empty space. Only some of the boxes are coloured. To help you start with the puzzle, a few of the letters have been given.

1 s B H R

2 A I U

3 J

4 T N

5 M D

6

7

8 K

9 J 1

10 F

Addition

Fill in the numbers 1 to 9 so that every row, column and diagonal adds up to 15. You can use each number only once.

8		

	3	

Crossword Puzzle

Our Universe

Across

- 3. star around which earth revolves
- 6. number of planets in solar system
- 7. blue planet
- 9. galaxy to which solar system belongs
- 10. planet with rings
- 11. vast expanse of space
- 12. earth's natural satellite

Down

- 1. biggest planet
- 2. the path traveled by a planet around the sun
- 3. sun's family
- 4. big rocks that orbit the sun
- 5. planet closest to sun
- 8. celestial body that revolves around a star
- 9. light seen in earth when meteorites enter the atmosphere

The crossword puzzle grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbered starting points are:

- 1: Down, top right
- 2: Down, top middle
- 3: Across, top right
- 4: Down, middle left
- 5: Down, middle right
- 6: Across, middle left
- 7: Across, middle right
- 8: Down, bottom right
- 9: Across, bottom middle
- 10: Across, bottom left
- 11: Across, bottom middle
- 12: Down, bottom left

The Tree Huggers of Rajasthan

The Bishnois are a community of nature worshippers. They live in the western regions of Rajasthan, near the Thar Desert. In the fifteenth century, their guru, Jamboji, taught them the value of taking care of the environment. He laid down 29 rules for his community to follow. The Bishnois derive their name from these 29 rules (bees+ nau in Hindi means twenty and nine) and their part of the world, although arid and dry, has been yielding them a good harvest of plants and animals for their use.

One of the most popular legends of the Bishnois is the story of Amrita Devi, a villager who hugged a tree to save it from woodcutters. It is said that in the eighteenth century, the Maharaja of Jodhpur wanted to build a new palace for himself for which he needed wood. He sent his men to the region near the village of Jalnadi to cut down some trees. When they reached the village and began chopping trees, a woman named Amrita Devi came running out of her house.

Horrified at what she saw, she ran up to the closest tree and hugged it tightly. "A chopped head is cheaper than a felled tree" she shouted, demanding that they stop the chopping. Unfortunately the woodcutter's axe hit her, killing her. But her shouting had done its job. By then many other villagers had gathered there. They took the cue from Amrita Devi and hugged the trees, refusing to allow the king's men free access to them. It is believed that over 350 people died that day, trying to protect the trees. When the message reached the Maharaja, he felt remorseful. He immediately ordered his men to stop the activity. He personally came to the village to apologise to the villagers. He promised the villagers that plants and animals in Bishnoi villages would be protected.

Quiz

Let us observe World Book Day on April 23 with a quiz on some of the world's most famous books and authors.

1. Which Indian epic is known as the 'adikavya' or the world's oldest literary work?
2. Who wrote 'Frankenstein'?
3. Who is the author of the book 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'?
4. R.K. Narayan is known for the popular child character.....
5. Who authored 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy?
6. Who wrote the Count of Monte Christo?
7. Who wrote the popular 'Harry Potter' series?
8. Who wrote 'A Brief History of Time'?
9. Who wrote 'Treasure Island'?
10. Name one of Leo Tolstoy's famous novels.
11. For which literary work did Rabindranath Tagore win the Nobel Prize for Literature?
12. Who is the author of 'Origin of Species'?
13. Who wrote 'A Tale of Two Cities'?
14. Who wrote 'Little Women'?
15. Which author created the famous detective character Sherlock Holmes?

Wise Words

"The frog does not drink up the pond he lives within."

- Native American proverb

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there."

- African Proverb

Math Puzzle

Which polynomial expression suits the diagram below

X^2	x	x	x	X^2	x	X^2	x	X^2	x	X^2	x	1
x	X^2	1	X^2	x	X^2	x	x	x	X^2	x	X^2	x

- a) $(2x+2)(5x+1)$ b) $(10x+1)(x+2)$ c) $(2x+1)(5x+2)$ d) $(10x+2)(x+1)$

Teacher Tip

Although schools do not usually give holiday homework for the summer and no student will enjoy spending the one fun month in the year working with pen and paper, here are a few ideas or suggestions for student summer activity that your students will enjoy doing. Please ask students to submit their work and make presentations based on their work once school reopens.

1. Select two or three beautiful spots in your village, visit them and draw them in your sketch note book. Colour them. Give your drawings a title that identifies the location and describe the spot you have drawn in one sentence.
2. Learn a traditional/folk song from a family member.
3. Listen to stories told by your elderly family members/neighbours. Write one or two of the stories you like the best, illustrate them and pin them together to make your own booklet of traditional stories.
4. Talk to any elderly family member and find out about their childhood : in what kind of house they lived, members of their family, what they studied and where, other childhood activities etc. Write a paragraph on Life Long Ago, identifying the person whose story you are narrating and the location of the story. Stick a photo of the person you have interviewed. Every student's paragraph can be compiled into a classroom book of Life Long Ago, once school re-opens.
5. Draw a map of your street, identifying your house on it. Mark other landmarks on your street.
6. Draw the layout of your house.
7. Draw the temple, church or mosque in your village.
8. Make a survey of five streets including yours and find out how many houses are there in all, how many of them have tiled roofs, how many are big bungalows, how many are very old, traditional houses, how many are modern and new, how many grocery/vegetable shops are there, how many doctors/clinics/hospitals are there etc.
9. Identify old photographs in your family album, find out more about the people in them. Stick the oldest photograph on a sheet of paper, write a few lines about the people in them and the occasion on which the photo was taken.
10. Visit a large public water body in or around your village and spend half a day around it. Observe how people use it, is it clean or dirty, what activities happen in and around it, how many people use it etc. Talk to some of the people to find out whether they were local people or outsiders. Write a report on the water body.



Answers

Quiz

1. Ramayana
2. Mary Shelley
3. Lewis Carroll
4. Swamy, the little boy in Malgudi Days
5. J. R. R. Tolkien
6. Alexandre Dumas
7. J. K. Rowling
8. Stephen Hawking
9. Robert Louis Stevenson
10. War and Peace and Anna Karenina
11. Geethanjali, a collection of poetry.
12. Charles Darwin
13. Charles Dickens
14. Louisa May Alcott
15. Arthur Conan Doyle

Math puzzle

Looking at the boxes we see that there are $10x^2$, $14x$ and two 1 s.
Hence, we can write this as $10x^2+14x+2$
Now by solving the options, we can find out that option 'C' is the right choice.

Puzzle

The Names of famous Indians

1. Subhash Chandra Bose
2. Sarojini Naidu
3. Shivaji
4. Bhagat Singh
5. Mahatma Gandhi
6. Jawahar Lal Nehru
7. Ashoka
8. Akbar
9. Raja Raja Chola 1
10. Bahadur Shah Zafar

Addition

8	1	6	8	3	4
3	5	7	1	5	9
4	9	2	6	7	2

Crossword Puzzle

