

Summer Activity with Children at the Centre

May-June '99, Facilitated by Yogita and Aditi

A series of 14 sessions, over the summer vacations, took the children (between the ages of 4 and 14) on a discovery of their hidden treasures - their creative potential and certain innate qualities. At the end, the children put up a 'living exhibition' where they became the teachers to their parents for handmade paper making, wax painting, coil pottery, marbling, geru painting, paper craft, jewellery making. Here are a few glimpses.....



Making handmade paper

As the children enthusiastically involved themselves in exploring and learning the various arts and crafts, a conscious effort was made by the facilitators to deepen this learning by linking it with the attitudes one learns and works with. Through stories and simple quotations on the value of perseverance, patience, endurance, good-temper, generosity, cheerfulness, the children were encouraged to examine their own inner stance as they worked and interacted with each other.

*Om
Anandamayee
Chaitanyamayee
Satyamayee
Parame*



Learning 'shlokas'



Yet another important focus was to tune into silence and calm... this was done mainly through the chanting of shlokas, in which a few special sessions were held. The serene environment of the Centre helped to bring in a mood of quiet joy and channelised energy in the children's sessions.

Paper craft and making folders & note pads



Wood crafting African Chimes

Each session ended with a beautiful creation which the children treasured and carried back home with them. Attention was also paid to winding up together after work, and keeping everything back where it belonged.



Preparations for the Exhibition



Teaching Paper Craft



Managing the Crayon painting corner

The most enriching moments came on the final day when the children and parents came together in a joyful reversal of roles - sharing their treasures with each other.