

Pudiyador Times

Oct. 2014



Summer Camp



It is that time of the year again, where the sun meets fun for our kids at Pudiyaador!

Yup - it's time for our annual Summer Camp! And with it comes the annual planning! Over the last 3 years, coming up with the theme of the summer camp has grown into something of a sacred ritual- almost as important and stirring as the summer camp itself.

The past couples of years have seen our children take ownership of this and contribute to some very interesting summer camps. This year, it was the turn of our stable of homegrown teachers (who predominantly come from the very communities we operate in) to step up to the plate.

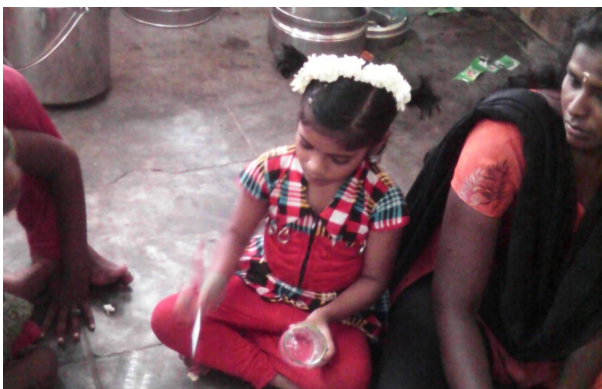
The teachers, who are each part of our different centers, have come together with a single goal in mind- to plan, organize and execute this year's summer camp. Ideas, thoughts, places and issues flow freely and are warmly debated. The theme grows spontaneously out of this organized chaos- and just like that we know exactly what we are doing this summer!

Somebody mentions Architecture as a possible idea. Another remarks that Chennai (the city we are based in), has been expanding. Someone else notes that the construction workers follow the work and often migrate to the city from surrounding villages while living fairly transient lives.

Summer Camp

A fourth person offers that it would be valuable for our children to understand how this work and this group of people contribute to the development of the city we live in. A lively discussion ensues on the merits of modern vs. older buildings and then on to the environment, pollution, and landfills. And *Voila!* We have a theme (Architecture and the Environment)!

Once our teachers zeroed in on our theme, they divided the summer camp into four large activity blocks. In the first block, the children learned about traditional vs. modern buildings and explored regional differences in building structures.



To a lot of our children who have never left the city, this was an especially fulfilling exercise. They learned about the people involved in construction. Several of our children come from “construction families”.



These activities provided meaningful glimpses into parts of their own lives. This was followed by a field trip to the art village of *Dakshinchitra* where the kids discovered an alternate world filled with the beautiful sculptures and handicrafts. While field trips are fun, this one was special and showcased a completely different angle on this topic for them.

Environmental consciousness is a daily part of *Pudiyador*. For the final block, the children were introduced to landfills and waste management. They also delved into waste disposal inside their own communities. The teachers led a community walk and helped the kids create a map of waste disposal pain-points and efforts in their own backyards. Another summer has drawn to a close.

Camp at Pudiyaador



A multitude of arts and crafts were done at the summer camp by the kids



The children also got a breath of fresh air by visiting various gardens and local parks

Camp at Pudiyaador



The children at Pudiyaador enjoyed many outside ventures in addition to their curriculum

Quarter Highlights (Apr. - June 2014)

It's that time of the year again when we organize our annual summer camp! Each of the centers adopted their own themes this year with many fun activities organized around that theme. A quick snapshot is included below.



PUK and PVA chose "Hygiene" as their theme. Many songs were sung and dances danced that stressed the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in their everyday lives!



Community Interface

Four of our core-team members participated in the Child Sexual Abuse workshop organized by Tulir.



PR2 chose "Construction" as their theme. They learnt about the design and architecture of traditional homes in Tamilnadu and visited Dakshinachitra, a cross-cultural heritage living museum of art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts and performing arts in South India.

PR1 chose "Food & Nutrition" and PSA chose "Urban Farming" as their respective themes. They visited a non-profit organic farm in Chennai and learned about various urban-farming practices. They even cooked a delicious meal with the various vegetables they harvested from the farm!

Teenager Program & Alumni Club Program

30 teens from our teenage program and alumni club participated in a 5-day sleepaway Ultimate Frisbee camp in Surat. They interacted with a group of diverse kids from other states and had a wonderful time.

