

THE ORCHID SCHOOL



Community project with mobile crèche

Class VI



Introduction



As part of our Life Skills Orientation (LSO) program in class VI, we want to help our children look within and beyond themselves so that they develop the ability to respond to situations with sensitivity and maturity.

Tara Mobile Crèche is the organization we partnered with for this purpose. For the past many years, Tara Mobile Crèche has been running day-care centers at construction sites, for the children of construction workers. They have children ranging from 0 to 15 years.



Objectives



- To bring about awareness that there are children who live in realities, social situations very different from the one we know.
- To discover that there are similarities of childhood, irrespective of the differences in the background.
- To provide possibilities and a platform for children to examine and challenge assumptions and stereotypes they may have.
- Provide an environment for children to realize each child's right to a life with dignity and respect.
- To encourage our children to step beyond their comfort zone in terms of language and familiarity with people, spaces and situations.
- We hope this will have some effect on the way they will grow as citizens and influence the thinking of their families and the environment.
- Provide children with an opportunity to reach out in their own way and make a difference to the community that we belong to.

Methodology & Process



- In life skills, children had been exploring their ideas of self, gaining an insight into one's thoughts and feelings, seeing the connection, realizing their ability to regulate their emotions, the influence it has on relationships and more.
- To take this discussion into practice, this project was designed as an extension since it gave children an opportunity to experience their various perspectives that until now were mere discussions.
- The idea of this project was communicated to the children in class, where the objectives, challenges, expectations and opportunities were discussed at length with the children.
- The students were divided into three groups across classes. This in itself was their first challenge as they had to let go of their friends and groups they were comfortable with. Within this new group, they had to function as a team.



The Execution



In order to make this interaction meaningful, each group visited a Tara Mobile Crèche Centre over 4 days, interacted with the children, played and engaged in activities. The three centers each take a theme that everybody connects with; for example:

- 1.Our dreams
- 2.Diwali
- 3.Our world around us.



The Execution cont.



Children introduced themselves to one another, they spoke about where they were from, their routines and the world they see around them. The groups then discussed the topics, what their collage should display, how it should look. They then allocated responsibilities amongst themselves-some had to draw the outlines, some sat and drew the outlines children, some had to tear the papers into small bits. The collage is a complete representation of all the things that mattered to both groups of children!

Subsequent to this project, as a part of their de-brief, students discussed their experiences and takeaways. This gave the three groups an opportunity to understand the process and activities done by the other.





Day 1 – Ideating and preparing material for the collage work in groups





Day 3- The collage takes shape





**“Our city as we see it”
Example of the collaborative work**