

# **Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust (Regd.)**

**115 P.S.Sivaswamy Salai ♦ Mylapore ♦ Chennai 600 004**

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## **The Early Intervention Program for Primary School on Spoken English**

A meeting was held on, 14.06.04 at 85 Luz Avenue to discuss the format, procedures and actual inputs of the program. It was decided to hold the classes for an hour after school, everyday of the week.

A group of four volunteers worked on a common approach, to inculcate in the young students the habit of active listening, essential for Speaking Skills & classes were begun from:21.06.04

Focus: The focus was on Listening as a life skill.

- ✓ Active Listening to promote understanding
- ✓ Corrective Listening to unlearn incorrect patterns
- ✓ Interactive Listening to empower students to respond

Levels: Class I. It was decided to merely familiarise them to 'sounds' & objects to start with.

Classes II & III were clubbed into Level I.

Classes IV & V were clubbed into Level II.

Both levels included the same parameters, with a mere addition of words, and a marginally broader base, as it were. A conscious effort was made to include actual needs of students as against their 'perceived' needs. The selection of words, songs and rhymes was based on both practicality as well as sensitivity to the social background to which the students belonged.

The enthusiasm of the children was indeed high, despite the apparent lack of 'discipline'. Certain cohesive methods had to be introduced to improve the rather boisterous, and on some occasions, the 'disruptive' behavior of a few children in every class. It was decided to include a few more volunteers to reduce the workload on the volunteers in terms of class strength as well as to give the students the benefit of an improved student teacher ratio. Four volunteers, students of Psychology from The SIET College for Women were inducted into the team from 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

The services of Dr.Muthazhagan, a psychiatrist was of great help in giving the other volunteers a better insight into behavioral tendencies of children from specific backgrounds. Volunteers were enlightened on the need for higher levels of care & commitment, not withstanding the voluntary nature of the endeavor, as it were.

Observations: It was decided to appoint a single teacher to replace the large group of volunteers for several reasons, the principal ones enumerated below:

- Regular teachers were found wanting & students were losing the slim advantage gained during the evening sessions by being subjected to incorrect methods of teaching and above all incorrect usage of the language.
- Lack of consistency in the participation of the student volunteers.
- Visible differences in the levels of enthusiasm, range & reach, on part of some of the volunteers.
- Extended hours meant reduced attentiveness & higher energy levels in students & less enthusiasm and lower energy levels in the regular teachers, who were required to manage the classes 'physically'.
- Furthermore, the presence of a teacher, with a competent command of the language in terms of Vocabulary, Syntax & Diction, it was felt would empower the regular teachers, who would improve with constant & sustained exposure to the language.

It was decided to appoint a single teacher to handle the syllabus oriented classes, along with an emphasis on speaking, subsequent to the puja holidays.

The classes were to have re-commenced from the first week of October, but the search for an appropriate teacher bore fruit only towards the end of the month. Moreover, the organizers were keen on hiring a person, who was competent, committed & caring.

This has been made possible by the induction of Ms. Shanthi, whose impressive work experience, we are sure, will give the cause a better focus and visibility in terms of transference of learning. Further more her appointment is seen to have the added advantage of inculcating training through observation to other volunteers / teachers too, to carry on her work.

Her resume is attached for your perusal.

Organizer

Ms. Subhashree

Ms. Sivakambika

Co-ordinators

Ms. Sundari Sankar

Ms. Radhika Sasankh