

A PEEK INTO THE CHILD'S WORLD

We wanted to make the Children's Day experience special for them so we decided to do a unique exercise of exploring their world with them for the week. Children have a 100 languages, a world of their own that we have to peek into to understand. It is not visible on the surface. It is not even visible in their actions many a times. If you observe closely you can make out they are trying to figure things out, they are really trying hard to make sense of the chaotic world around them and find their place in it. Let's see how the exploration unfolds.

DAY 1

How do you ask a child to invite you into their world? How do you ask them to reveal their thoughts and take you along on the journey? We started off by asking them a few questions.



We decided to pose a question in front of them, **“Do you know who children are?”** All of them jumped up with excitement and said, “We are children”.

“Who are adults/ grown-ups?”

There was silence for a moment, then

Nandana answered, “Aishu mam, Mumma and daddy are adults”

Aaryav and Shaurya nodded to it.

They seemed to agree on that point for sure!

Our curious Aaryav asked, “When

will we become an adult?” Shaurya replied, “after some days” Facilitator said, “It is not days, it is after few years” Aaryav very sincerely started counting the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017..... (Discussion to be continued)

When we looked at Shaurya he became sad, so we asked him what happened, he said, “Mam we can never become small again!”

“What are the different things that children can do and adults/ grown-ups cannot do?”

Each one of them started coming up with ideas, they were jumping up to share,

Nandana: I can play with my Barbie dolls, princess, I can read small books, I can jump around the room, play many games, I can hit people and complain.

Shaurya: We can write on the boards, get points, jump on the bouncy ball, we can do bad things like kicking anybody.

Aaryav: We can write on small boards, play in the play area, run fast, play in the ball pit/pool, we know lots of Rhymes and we listen to Rhymes CD's.

Visvesh: (he was agreeing to his friends, to all their ideas they were coming up with, had to ask him to share his thoughts) finally he added we can cook with toy stove and mumma cannot cook in toy stove.

Vedha: We play with Barbie's, toys, use make up sets for barbie

The children's energy level was high and they became super excited during the discussion.



Now tell me “**what do adults/ grown-ups do that children cannot do?**”

Started with Shaurya who was eager to share.

Shaurya: They can work in office, do lots of work, come late night home, play badminton, they cannot listen to stories at night when they go to sleep

Visvesh: They can cook food

Nandana: Mumma cooks food, adults can teach us many things, they cannot play with our toys, and they read only big books

Aaryav: They play with big things like badminton, football, they go to office and work, they watch movies and I go to sleep when they watch

Nandana added: I don't like horror movies, I too sleep when they watch movies

Shaurya: I sleep on my mumma when they enjoy watching movies....



(The children were a little shaken when they spoke about movies, the facilitator brought them back)

“Do you like being a child?” all of them were in a dilemma to what to say.

Nandana said, “Yes mam, I like being a child because I can write, play everything, come to school, take kid pictures for ring books and dance whenever I want too”. Slowly the children started responding.

Aaryav: I can do ring books and have lots of fun

Shaurya: I like to play so much and crawl like a baby

Vedha: I can watch cartoon – Chota bheem and Mr. Bean

Nandana: (all of a sudden) children can cry

Aaryav: Big boys don’t cry

Shaurya: Big girls don’t cry

Towards the end of the first discussion, Nandana said, “Mam, I want to become a Women police when I become an adult” and Aaryav had a question, “Mam, How to become papa?” the facilitator asked him why, he replied, “Because I want to take bath by myself like papa does and do everything else by myself”.

DAY 2

We recalled the previous day’s discussion.

Shaurya and Nandana were able to recall most of the things. Shaurya identified that Reyhan had missed the discussion yesterday and requested the facilitator to ask Reyhan’s thoughts and add it. Reyhan was thinking for a while and said, “We can jump, play on the slide, role, dance, come to school”.

“What are the things that make you happy? What do you like to do as a child?”



The children were mum for some time. Repeated the question again, slowly voices started coming from Nandana, Reyhan, Shaurya, Visvesh

Reyhan: Play treasure hunt games, clean the car and making lots of friends

Nandana: Jumping on the trampoline, watching cartoon, hopping

Shaurya: Going for Birthday parties

Visvesh: I like to fly and play with my toys

“Is there anything that you love to do

and nobody knows about it?”

There was complete silence in the class. All of them had thoughts running in their head.

“Would you like to show your world to others?”

The children were curious to know how to do it and showed a lot of interest and happiness.

Process of making their world:

(Took them to the Imagination Room where all the materials were kept for them like Chart paper, colours – crayons, sketches, paints, colour papers, straw, playdoh, toothpicks, ice cream sticks, twine, balloons, scissors, tape, beads, buttons, paper cups, paper plates, stamp pads, etc.)

Children were super excited and became very happy seeing the materials kept and each one of them wanted to explore. They picked up their materials and a chart paper.

(All of them wanted to explore the paints first)





Facilitator: What is this shaurya (pointing to the red patch)?

Shaurya: I'm making my world, it is red in colour because I like red colour.

Facilitator: What do you do in your world?

Shaurya: I do a lot of important things like making airplanes, sleeper buses.

Facilitator: Nandana, what are you making?

Nandana: I'm making my houses and my friends houses.

Vedha: Mam, I'm making teju, happy face and vedha

Facilitator: Good job Vedha! What are you doing Reyhan?



Reyhan: (completely focused, mixing paints and painting on the paper) It's my laptop, I'm going to make the keyboard

Facilitator: Awesome! Visvesh, what is that?

Visvesh: It's my world. I'm going to make an airplane now.

Facilitator: With what are you planning to make your airplane? Go have a look at the material.

Nandana: Mam, I'm drawing my family too, papa, mumma, anna and me.



Reyhan: I made a laptop

Nandana: Your laptop has a lot of buttons

Vedha: Mam, this is a tree, cupcake, lollipop

Shaurya: Mam, See I've made a passport for my papa and mumma



Nandana: It looks like a credit card.

Facilitator: What is a passport Shaurya?

Shaurya: We can keep some money in it

Visvesh: Look, I've made an airplane

Facilitator: What does an airplane have?

Visvesh: Windows, wings, smoke

(He started looking for material to make these things)



All of them were exploring the materials and were adding many things in their world.

Children imagined their world and created it beautifully. They kept their worlds to dry.

DAY 3

Next morning, children were very excited to see their world and were discussing with each other about what they have made.



“Do you want to share your world with everyone?”

The children were thrilled and we all sat down in a circle to present.

(Each one of them presented their worlds and the facilitator recorded their presentation)

We all gave victory claps for everyone after they presented.



(After the break)

The facilitator asked them, “You all know the whole process of how you created your world, but the others don’t know. Do you want to share it with them?”

Nandana, Shaurya and Reyhan responded, “How do we tell them?”

“Can we sing a song?”

All of them looked surprised. Nandana asked, “Which song Ma’m?”, the Facilitator replied, “Which room did we do?” In chorus all of them said, “IMAGINATION ROOM”.

With a lot of enthusiasm, children were looking at the various things they used and tried to edit the song, added their own lyrics. Nandana was very thrilled to add new lyrics and sing the song very confidently. The others slowly started participating and sang the song.

The class stood proudly holding their world and posed for a photograph.

And thus, they showed us what they see in their world as important and what is dear to them.

