

# DREAM *News*

## GUIDE TO SCHOOL READINESS

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Run Kerala Run (2015) Supported by Dreampark

### THE DREAMPARK MONTESSORI PRE SCHOOL

***Our Mission - "A comfortable, clean, pleasant and energy efficient learning environment for the students, staff and parents."***

**DREAMPARK** is a unique educational environment. It is a place where we have committed ourselves to the vision of raising achievement, raising aspirations and enriching partnerships. It is through this that we create a focus on student success. The school has built a reputation for the quality of its work, from developing teaching and learning to the extra-curricular opportunities.

There is no doubt that the achievement of our students is built upon the partnership between students, parents and staff. Through the quality of the teaching and learning, the student support and commitment to extra-curricular activities we create the building blocks of success.

The school has chosen to place itself at the forefront of educational development, the focus on developing learning environments and a commitment for Kindergarten Starters to be inclusive, with unique ways to help all students continue their learning. We want to continue to create the opportunities for all to succeed. The school prides itself on its innovative and rich curriculum. We place a strong emphasis on working with parents and the community, enabling all students to maximize their abilities, ambitions, and academic potential in everything they do.

Young people are at the very heart of the school and although we value academic performance, we believe that students should enjoy their time at school and achieve across a whole range of areas. The school provide a happy and safe environment within which students can experience opportunities beyond the classroom so that they can become independent learners and responsible and confident adults. School foster values of courtesy, consideration and individual responsibility and offer a high level of challenge accompanied by equally high levels of support.

## Inside school

A report for a child in the kindergarten is a recording of the teacher's observation of the child within a sensible framework. It is also an attempt to describe the unfolding nature of the child.

In the process of evaluation the teacher has to be very alert and has to work with extreme care to avoid any slip into the conventional world of categorizing or classifying children according to a set of criteria. It is most important as teachers that we capture the subtle yet unique aspects of the young children's dynamic selves as evident in the time spent in the school environment, and communicate the essence of their nature. In this context, let us look at some of the intentions in writing a report and the role of the report as a communication to parents.

Firstly, the report would help parents get a sense of their child in an environment very different from the home. The early years in school form the first formal learning environment for the child. It is also the first time the child is part of a large group of similar-age children. Secondly, through the report the parents receive an objective account of their child's activities and engagements in school. Implicit in the report is the description of the 'right environment' for a young learning mind. Thirdly, it is hoped that the parents may get a view of what are the expectations of children of this particular age group, and they also may understand how they could actively work towards making the environment at home compatible with the school. Lastly, the parents would acquire help from the teacher in the form of recommendations and suggestions which serve to guide them through the growth of their child.

With these intentions the report needs to be descriptive. It must be a comprehensive report based on observation of the child in different environments and engaging in different activities. Care needs to be taken not to be comparative or judgmental in the reading of the child. The comments need to be tentative and not conclusive as one cannot be too certain while making inferences based on children's behavior. Keeping in mind that a child is in a dynamic state, the attempt must be to write about him/her as a changing, flowing entity.

The kindergarten child, in terms of Piaget's theory of cognitive development, is at the sensor motor stage the stage when sensory and motor exploration help him to learn about the world. Key elements of this exploration would necessarily require a study of the child's observation ability, alertness, awareness of surroundings, sense of wonder and curiosity, listening and ability to work practically through situations. It is also a time when the child is coming to understand and acquire a sense of identity and this is a period of immense social and emotional growth. The child is grappling in his journey from the world of the self to that of a social being.







## CELEBRATION

**C**elebrations in Dreampark have become an integral part of joyful learning, community building and thought provoking processes. Religious festivals from across religions, national festivals and festivals related to our environment are celebrated with great enthusiasm, fervor and pride. Children are exposed to the essence of the festivals through stories, music, dance, food, discussions and a variety of hands-on activities and projects.

The festivals are not only connected to our social and environmental context but to ones inner world too. During Deepawali it was the burning of the Ravana with a difference, we tried to challenge that part in us which is undesirable. While Christmas brought out the joy of giving and spreading joy amongst ourselves. The fasting month of Ramzan helped us get in touch with our inner discipline and Independence Day was about questioning and revisiting the true meaning of freedom and its relevance in today's context. Along with the enthusiasm, fun and activities of celebrations, the qualities of sensitivity, simplicity and creativity is highlighted

Every year on 14<sup>th</sup> November we celebrate our **First Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's birthday** and **Children's Day**. He was a great lover of Children. Children called him Chacha out of love and affection. This year also it was celebrated in Dreampark School with great pomp and show. Teachers organized a special assembly in Upperkindergarten class room and invited our CI of Attingal Police Station. Children presented programmes like Dance, Songs and Rhymes. Children celebrated the day joyfully for their beloved Chachaji and distributed chocolates and picture card of Chachaji.

To imbibe the values of Truth & Honesty in our tiny tots, organised a function in independence day. 15 August is the most important day in the history of India. On this fortunate day our country became free after many centuries. So we celebrate this day with great zeal every year. A patriotic song "India Ente Rajyam, Ente Swantham Rajyam" was sung by students of L.K.G. instigating feelings of patriotism in our hearts. It was followed by patriotic speeches by students in UKG. The function followed by the poems presented by U.K.G. students. The girls wore

full expressions while reciting the poems. The students enacted the various incidents of the life of Mahatma Gandhi. It enabled all the students to understand the values and principles in which Mahatma Gandhi always believed. The event was a great success. Thus we celebrated Independence Day in our school. This day always reminds us of the untold sacrifices of the freedom fighters. We should worship those patriots who shed their blood for achieving freedom.



**D**reampark wore a festive look and celebrated **Christmas Week and NEW YEAR** as a joyous affair from 21<sup>st</sup> of December to 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015. To spread the Christmas cheer, x-mas carol were organised for students LKG & UKG. It was followed by an enactment, depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. The school was filled by students in a party mood. It was a colourful spectacle to see students dancing with their teachers. Just

when kids were infused with the enthralling festive spirit, Santa made the grand entry with sweets and presents. Students received gifts from Santa and got lots of pictures clicked with him. The uncontained delight of students on meeting their favourite hero, Santa Claus, was a treat for the eyes. DREAMPARK organized a function in the nearby anganvadi where our students and teachers together went and celebrated Christmas with the children in the anganvadi by distributing chocolates, cutting of x-mas cakes, giving greeting cards and x-mas stars to the friends.

### Inaguration of Annual day - Dream Utsav 2014

**Sri. G.S. Sajikumar** (Chairman, Dreampark educational trust), **Sri. Vijayanand IPS**, **Sri. Attingal Unni** (Prasident Save a child), **Sri. Kumarakam Reghunath** (Cine Serial artict), **Smt. Adv. S.Kumari** (Chairperson Attingal Municipality), **Sri. M.Pradeep** (Vice chairman Attingal Municipality), **Sri. Vijayakumar** (Councillor), **Sri. C.J.Rajeshkumar** (Former chaiman Attingal Municipality), **Bindusajikumar** (Principal Dreampark)





# Grade-by-Grade Learning: Preschool What Kids Learn in Preschool

## Language & Literacy

Children spend most of the preschool day working together with classmates. Each conversation, whether talking about the class pet or deciding which color block to put on top of their tower, helps children develop their thoughts and language. Preschool teachers read aloud simple stories like “once there was a crow, “The hare and the tortoise” to show children that text runs from left to right, expose them to new vocabulary, point out letter sounds and rhyming words, and help children talk about what they read.

Writing often appears as scribbles in the preschool classroom, but letters or shapes that resemble letters soon pop up as children try to write their own names in creative ways. Teachers model writing for preschoolers throughout the day. Many children will not be able to write words conventionally. However, every scribble shows that a child understands that the printed word carries messages, and that she is excited to be able to create these messages.

## Math

Preschoolers use numbers every day when they count water bottles for lunch or figure out how many children are at a table. They work with geometric shapes such as triangles, rectangles, and squares in the block center, and through art projects. They measure at the water table when they compare the size of their hands and feet. Preschool

teachers invite children to arrange items in a series or pattern when they make collages and other art projects. Teachers also use simple graphs to present concepts, for example, determining how many children wear bangles to school and how many wear shirts etc.

## Science

Preschoolers are scientists. They learn about the world by observing and experimenting. Natural things fascinate them, from rocks, to animals, to their baby brothers and sisters. They also notice the many ways that they can influence the natural world. Preschoolers may plant seeds, or watch what happens to an ice cube in a warm room. They'll test what sinks and what floats at the water table, and which blowers make the biggest bubbles. They'll find non-fiction books about animals and nature in the classroom library.

## Social Studies

Preschool social studies is where children learn about their place in the world. Understanding how to get along with others can often take up the biggest part of a preschooler's day. Children learn how to resolve conflicts and practice skills like sharing, taking turns and cleaning up. They figure out how to express their feelings using words. The class may also explore its community and the people in it by taking short field trips around the neighborhood.

## How Kids Learn in Preschool

### Becoming Learners

In preschool, children first learn “how to learn.” They begin to form their attitudes toward school and to see themselves as learners. Strong preschool experiences will help a child think, “I am a good learner. I can find problems to solve. I can master a difficult task.” These experiences show preschool children the power that learning holds.

### Learning through Play

If you want to know how your preschooler learns at school, just think about the way she learns at home. When your child helps you measure ingredients for her favorite cookie recipe, she's getting a math lesson. When he makes sand castles at the beach and then watches the wave wash them away, he's learning earth science - although he's probably not ready to understand the term “erosion.”

In school, preschoolers learn through play in the same ways, with the guidance of their teachers. They experiment with the properties of matter at the sand and water tables. They learn phonics when they sing songs together. They master important physics concepts like balance and stability as they build blocks at the block center.

### One Skill at a Time

Most preschoolers are not developmentally ready to keep more than one concept in their heads at a time. Take counting, for example. At first, numbers that a child counts in a sing-song manner are just a sequence of words. Then all of a sudden the words become useful as the child learns to match them to an amount by counting fingers. The numbers have now been matched to a meaning.

### Forming Pictures in their Heads

“Preschoolers also learn about their world by forming visual pictures - or little movies in their heads,” notes Diane Levin, Ph.D. “Each thought they're thinking is like a frame of the movie. They construct these visual movies in their minds as they play. One movie could be about how to make the blocks fit together, another about how to make the blocks into something else. More movies might be about how to work with other kids to create what they want to do and how to solve the problems that can arise. These mental movies help them get familiar with a process and figure out a situation.”







ANNUAL DAY AND CONVOCATION CEREMONY



Onam Celebrations



BIRTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

## SPECIAL FOCUS

Dreampark's Speech And Language Program

Speech and language development is a very important part of intellectual, social and environmental development in children. Problems with communication development in preschool children are surprisingly common. One out of every term preschool children experiences some type of speech or language delay. The main goal of the preschool speech and language programme is to ensure that every child in dreampark achieves their optimal communication development.



## Save a Child

dream park child education and welfare programme

SPONSORED BY DREAM PARK EDUCATIONAL TRUST

1. The Dreampark Educational trust has taken a philanthropic decision to propose and execute an Educational and Humanitarian Program for the welfare of children (under fifteen years of age) according to the fund raised.
2. The service of this programme is available to a needy child without any regional considerations.

### THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. The poor children studying in Govt. schools.
2. The poor children who are unable to undergo treatment due to penury.
3. The children of impoverished and destitute parents who are unable to work due to physical disability.

### THE CONCESSIONS RECEIVABLE FROM THE PROGRAMME AND THE ELIGIBLE WOULD BE BENEFICIARIES

1. Financial aid may grant to poor children who are unable to carry on their studies due to economic distress.
2. The children who are handicapped by birth, the children who suffer from cancer, pediatric cardiac disorders, HIV, MDRTB, renal and liver affections, rheumatic complaints the diabetics requiring insulin injection, partial paralysis, psychic disorders, audio –visual diseases, genetic disorders and those children who cannot afford to purchase medicines due to financial constraints are the main eligible beneficiaries of the welfare programme. Financial Assistance may be granted to children who are weak also. Kids who are orphan may also be given aid considering the nature of their diseases and the ambience in which they exist.

### ABOUT THE FUND, ITS MOBILIZATION AND UTILIZATION

A joint bank account will be opened in the name of the President, the Secretary and the Treasure of the executive committee. The donations contributed by generous and liberal philanthropists and parents will be credited to this joint account. The financial assistance and concessions may be delivered from this money

#### The Executive Members Are :

- Chairman : **Mr. G.S.Sajikumar**, Dreampark Educational Trust.
- President : **Mr. N.Krishnan Pillai** (Unni Attingal), Chairman FARA
- Secretary : **Mr. Jose Kumar S.**, Asst. Director, Social Justice Dept. Govt. Of Kerala
- Treasurer : **Mrs. Seena G.S.**, Administrator Dreampark Montessori Preschool
- Director Public Relations : **Adv. C.J. Rajeshkumar** (Ex. Municipal Chairman, Attingal)
- Directors : **Mr. Vijayakumar** Councillar, Attingal Municipality  
**Mrs. Bindhusajikumar**, Principal, Dreampark Montessori Pre School  
**Mrs. Pramodhini**, Social Justice Dept. Govt. of Kerala  
**Adv. Pradeepkumar G.K.**, Attingal Bar Council  
**Mrs. Jeenu G.Nath**, Head Teacher, Dreampark Montessori Preschool.

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Dreampark is a dream school! It is trying to translate a dream and an ideal into reality. DREAMPARK has already achieved high standards in academics and we are proud of it and are thankful to God Almighty. We are aiming at much more to achieve – totality of all round education. We realise India's future is being molded in India's classrooms. And we are trying to create excellence in our classrooms. I recently saw a quote that said "from tiny seeds, grow mighty trees." When I read it, it struck me as one of the most profound things I have ever reflected on. Within these children we plant tiny seeds each day. We plants seeds that we trust will help our children grow into strong adults.

In order for them to grow into strong adults they will need deep roots... roots that are sunk in the soil of self confidence and strong values and beliefs. Each day we must water them with hope, kindness, and love. We must feed the plants with the nutrients of knowledge, character, and dedication. We must care for them so they can bloom with creativity, curiosity, intelligence, citizenship, and leadership. It is my hope that we have been diligent caretakers of these little ones this year. It is my promise that we will continue to nurture these little ones as they grow here at DREAMPARK. Thank you for sharing your most precious children with us this year.

## CHAIRMAN' DESK

Let me first congratulate DREAMPARK on its 10 years of successful development and deeply acknowledge and thank former and current teachers, aunties, drivers, office staffs students, and parents who have generously put in all those efforts. Your outstanding contribution has made the DRAMPARK what it is today. When DREAMPARK began its Montessori kindergarten program 10 years ago, the infrastructure of the school was very poor, with only 3 teachers and 2 aunties. However, today, the DREAMPARK has grown to be a full-fledged school of international standards with more than 300 students. I am very proud to recognize that our DREAMPARK has become the most comprehensive preschool of international studies.

As its name implies, the DREAMPARK has been the pioneer in preschool education. Basically, all classes are delivered in English, with a few exceptions being those that use local languages for area studies programs.

At this point in the 10-year history of the DREAMPARK, I see 2012 as the springboard for the school's "second take-off." I have no doubt whatsoever that, under the fine leadership of Dreampark's outstanding faculty members and excellent students will do their utmost to establish Dreampark as one of the most prestigious institutions for preschools in Trivandrum district and, eventually, in the south India

I would also like to ask everyone here for continued support for and interest in the DREAMPARK. Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the DREAMPARK on all of the outstanding achievements that it has made in a rather short period. I really look forward to seeing another excellent performance of the DREAMPARK in the next decade. Thank you very much.