

# WHAT A PRINCIPAL/ MANAGER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION IN THEIR SCHOOL?







### How can I adapt my school with the new trends in KG Education?

Today's Kindergartens focus on curriculum delivery that ensures Multiple Intelligence (MI) development. So academic planning should be done to accommodate wide range of activities catering to Multiple Intelligence and other related areas. Simple Hands on activities can also be included to enrich the learning experience of the child.

### .What exactly is the International level/standard in KG Education?

Providing quality KG Education which adheres to international standard will address SEVEN areas of development in general. It comprises of THREE core areas namely Physical Development, Social & Emotional Development and Language & Communication. The remaining FOUR primary areas consist of Literacy, Math, Environmental Science and Creative Skills.

Planning and Executing learning outcome in these areas matches with the international levels in KG Education. We should check whether we address these SEVEN areas and our resources are adequate to attain the desired output levels.

### How can I ensure Multiple intelligence development in children through classroom instruction?

The Lesson planning methods are to be redesigned in such a way that it caters to the eight areas of intelligences and corresponding learning resources should be created to bring in the proposed change.



## A sample Lesson Planning to foster Multiple Intelligence for introducing letter A

Intelligence	Activity
Bodily/Kinesthetic	Introduce Letter A with a game.
Linguistic	Introduce Letter A with a story.
Musical	Introduce Letter A with a Song/rhyme.
Naturalistic	Take children for a walk outdoors and ask them to look out for letter A on hoardings, number plates etc.
Intrapersonal	Provide books on letter A in the Book Corner.
Visual/ Spatial	Introduce Letter A with the help of a poster and pictures.
Logical	Introduce Letter A with the help of a jigsaw puzzle.
Interpersonal	Introduce Letter A through a group game.

### How can I ensure quality interaction between Teacher and Student inside the classroom? ( or ) How can I bring in more breathing time for the teachers so that they can freely interact with students?

Implementing a proper academic instructional flow (eg. Teaching Learning Process of 7 Rs – Receive, Register, Retention, Reproduce, Relate, Revise and Reflex) integrated with the application of apt technology can minimise the instructional hours resulting in free time.

### How can I reduce the level of Teacher attrition?

The stress level of teachers should be minimised in such a way that we adopt instructional technology to optimise their workload producing good results leading to job satisfaction.



One of the major challenges that the teachers face is to grab the attention of the child and make them focus on classroom instruction. This spoils the mood of the teacher which eventually leads to less job satisfaction and poor academic results.

Applying a systematic instructional flow can help to attain better results enhancing the goodwill of the teachers and the school.

### **How can I enhance the goodwill of KG department in my school?**

A perfect blending of Teaching Learning Materials and Teaching Learning Process will ensure consistency resulting in a Better Output, Better Standards, Better Image and Goodwill. Effective communication channel should exist between the school and the parents by means of social media updates, printed newsletters etc. Physical presentation of classrooms by proper display of art, craft and hands on materials can also enhance the goodwill of the school.

### **How can I use my present ICT infrastructure to upgrade the academics in KG education?**

Having a 3D TV at home without 3D movies is of no use literally. Likewise, a classroom with a projector and a smart board/TV/white board but without effective classroom friendly digital resources which are not integrated with the text books will eventually lead to zero results. So, an effective Teaching Learning System which is a perfect blend of conventional teaching methodology and digital resources should be introduced.

### **Is there a sequential flow in the academics of our present KG system?**

Every subject needs an instructional flow wherein a child is able to use her existing knowledge to gain a new knowledge through classroom instruction. This will result in a desired REFLEX and also develops the ability to use that knowledge and skill set inside classrooms. Proper lesson planning and academic auditing are integral parts of an effective teaching learning system with sequential academic flow.





## What are the activities we need to do to develop the Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills in each child?

Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills are part of Multiple Intelligences (MI) which are not usually addressed in many schools. These areas can be effectively developed through special activities suggested by a curriculum expert. The normal activities we follow in schools are Circle Time Activities, Assembly Activities, Group Games, Nature Exploration, Brain Gym, Yoga and Meditation etc.

## How can I enhance the speaking skill of my children, especially in English?

LSRW (Listening -Speaking -Reading -Writing ) is the natural way to gain proficiency in any language. Unfortunately, in our system we follow LWRS where WRITING gets more importance. This has to be changed. In addition, English in Action, Conversation Practice, Picture Talk, Usage of Puppet Speak, Listen and Answer, Story Telling & Related vocabulary activities etc can be made use of.

## Is development of creative skill an essential activity in KG classes?

Yes, of course.

Brain has two parts – Right and Left. The Left part of the brain caters to Language, Math – Logical and Cognitive Skills whereas the RIGHT part addresses CREATIVE and SOCIO- EMOTIONAL Skills.

The practical implementation of acquired knowledge happens through creativity. The simultaneous activation of left and right brain is required for a child to be an efficient learner along with being an efficient individual. And today, we count EQ than IQ. EQ stands for Emotional Quotient.

Nowadays, creative skills are gaining more importance worldwide. Globally STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) education system has changed to steAm where in A stands for ART, that comes under creativity.



### How can I inculcate the importance of protecting nature since early childhood days?

The recent flood in Kerala is an eye opener to the whole nation and it reinforces the importance of protecting nature to maintain the equilibrium of all ecosystems.

From the early days of learning itself, an inseparable bond should be created between children and mother earth. This can be inculcated through nature walks, planting and nurturing trees, having a mini garden at school maintained by kids and teachers etc. This practice should not be restricted to school premises but extended to home as well.

The kids can also be made aware of the havocs caused by polluting and destroying nature. Short videos, image slide shows, animations etc can be made use of in such a way that it have a positive impact on kids. Importance of having pure air, water and surroundings should also be highlighted in the curriculum.

### How can I influence Parents to create a conducive learning environment at home?

Today, many parents are addicted to gadgets and social media. Most of them indulge in providing their kids material benefits to compensate for their busy schedule. This tendency has to be changed as it will adversely affect the child's socio-emotional behaviour.

Parents should realize the importance of finding enough time for their kids at home thereby establishing a rapport with the kids along with their role as guardians. Special Parental Awareness Programmes handled by experts have to be organised at schools. Proper communication has to be initiated between the School and the Parent to update them on the progress level and areas to be improved. The EQ level of the child can be monitored without interruption only if there is a strong channel for communication between the school and the parent.



### What exactly is the benchmark expected by parents?

Based on our observation we feel that the following itineraries are some of the important expectations of the parents.

- ▶ Care and Concern from Teachers & Caretakers.
- ▶ Language and Communication Skills.
- ▶ Reading Skill
- ▶ Writing skill
- ▶ Social and emotional skills – Manners and Etiquettes
- ▶ Empathy to nature
- ▶ Hygiene and Healthy Food habits
- ▶ Physical Development

### How can I evaluate the progress level of my children?

Academic Audits and subsequent follow ups are the best methods. The audit has to be done based on the desired output levels in each stage of academic progress.

Eg. Audit can be performed by directly interacting with children and assessing their proficiency in the skill expected to acquire. Special care has to be taken to identify the areas in which they need more attention or guidance.

### What are the Parameters for evaluating the present academic books used in our school? Is it graded, content rich, deliverable leading to results and easy to follow?

- ▶ The content of the books should be less congested with information.
- ▶ Should be picture rich. Visuals speak more.





- ▶ The FONTS and LAY OUT should be child friendly which enables easy visual processing.
- ▶ There should be related activities and worksheets to support the concept taught.
- ▶ The content should have continuity from the immediate previous level of academic flow.
- ▶ The child should be able to use his existing knowledge to comprehend the next level lessons.
- ▶ If digital resources are used, it should be integrated with the curriculum. The content of the academic text books and digital resources should match which will prevent the child from getting confused.
- ▶ The content in the text book should have leads to hands on activities. It is the practical implementation of the concept which triggers Reflex.

### Whether we need a rich curriculum or lean curriculum in schools?

Rich curriculum enables the delivery of Multiple Intelligence Development. It fosters MI activities in the lesson planning and opens vast avenues of development. It also facilitates the usage of different types of resources and media inside classrooms.

Lean curriculum addresses the development of LIMITED SKILLS and does not cater to the holistic development of the child.

### How can we implement the desired output level/benchmarks in various terms: First Month, Second Month, Third month....half yearly...yearly?

A systematic LESSON PLANNING leading to DESIRED OUTCOMES which can be CLEARLY AUDITED with the help of an AUDIT PROCEDURE is essential for implementing this.



## How can I select Teachers and KG head? What should be the parameters to be considered while appointing them?

The Recruitment and Selection parameters for Teachers are as follows:

- ▶ Desired Academic Qualifications – Minimum: Graduation.
- ▶ Communication and Presentation Skill in English
- ▶ Love and Care for children.
- ▶ Passion for teaching and bringing transformation.
- ▶ Willingness to adapt to changes.
- ▶ Should be a Team Player

The KG Head should possess the above skills. In addition, she should have the following skill set as well:

- ▶ Better understanding of academic flow of KG classes.
- ▶ Leadership Skill – should be able to lead a team of minimum 20 teachers.
- ▶ Five years of Experience in teaching.
- ▶ Ability to delegate duties and responsibilities.
- ▶ Ability to execute the academic flow within stipulated time period.
- ▶ Should be able to handle the queries and concerns of parents.
- ▶ Should have a report creation skill to report to management.
- ▶ Performance Appraisal and Assessment skill.
- ▶ Ability to identify and uplift slow learners.



### How can I involve Parents creatively to enhance the quality of education in school resulting to quality improvement in children?

Organize events at school in which parents can also participate in activities with children. This will help the parents understand their child's inherent potential and act as a catalyst in his holistic development process.

Parent teacher meeting should be held at regular intervals to actively involve them in the teaching learning process. They should be aware of the world that their child explores at school and also the skill set he has acquired. Let the parents be a part of community assignments, serve on parent committees and school boards. Suggestions from parents can be invited for volunteering of school activities.

Example : Art Day participation, Curricular contests

### How can I counsel the parent during enquiry and convert to admission?

Have a short presentation which gives a clear understanding of the academic programme followed by the school. All the queries of the parents should be addressed by the end of the presentation. We should have ample visual proofs to support our claims and the presentation should justify our fee structure corresponding to the facilities offered. The necessity of adopting new era learning should be communicated properly.

Eg. If we follow LSRW teaching method, it has to be communicated to every parent. Otherwise, they may be bothered of WRITING SKILL development and spelling capture, as they normally do.

We should make the parents aware of the desired output levels in each term and the involvement expected from them to facilitate the same. Most important thing is that, the presenter or counsellor should be properly trained to perform the counselling.



## What can we do to increase quality with zero infrastructure cost?

There are umpteen methods available to enhance the quality with zero cost implication if we choose an ideal partner in education who can bring in big changes through subtle activities. For Example: A minor alteration in the academic flow can result in a remarkable output. In some textbooks, we could see BIGGER WORDS being introduced in the first phase of the instruction where the child cannot comprehend and relate to what is being taught. This is because they are unaware of the phonic flow of English Language. The kids simply try to mug up the words which makes the learning process mundane and tiring, eventually turning them into poor readers. This can only be corrected by introducing a systematic – step by step – sequential flow in the curriculum.

## How can I cultivate good and healthy food habits in children?

Traffic Light System in Food can be introduced in school.

For example, let the kids have a list of RED light Foods, Yellow Light Foods and GREEN Light Foods. Flash cards can be used for the purpose. This can help the kids learn how to make good food choices.

Teach them how to make simple healthy meals or snacks. Nothing arouses a child's interest in good food habits and nutrition like him allowed to be a chef. The timing of food, importance of having raw vegetables and fruits etc can be taught through FUN N LEARN manner. Portion control can be taught through sample exercises.

## How to tackle the challenge of English acquisition in early education?

The LSRW methodology integrated with conventional and digital resources gives a strong foundation for our children in English language. Usually schools focus on the development of writing skill and subsequent spelling capture. Learning the letter sounds and creating phonemic awareness are often ignored. This will in turn make them poor readers and slow learners adversely affecting their academic performance in higher grades.



A well defined process should exist to train children enhance communication and literacy skills in English language. Avoid stereotypical question-answer interaction and try to implement games and activities through which they learn the language by relating to their day to day activities. Both receptive and expressive skills should be given equal importance. English in action, situational interaction, group games, puppet speak, picture talk, listen and answer etc. can be incorporated in the program. Teachers with limited proficiency in English, lack of confidence and an unsupportive environment can affect a kid's linguistic efficiency.

A program like Smart Kindergarten can bring in substantial gain for children in English language acquisition by incorporating multiple language oriented activities for effective interaction.

### **Why a rich curriculum is essential for early years of training?**

The reason is that 50% of a child's intellectual growth is completed by age 4 and 80% growth is acquired by age 8. So when the child is 6 years old he has the capacity to develop numerous skills in ten major areas like listening, speaking, reading, writing, concentration, attention span, comprehension, comparison, observation, analysis etc

We cannot forcefully teach the child but he can learn through his experience from the environment and exposure to his inherent capabilities and immediate surroundings. To implement this rich curriculum is mandatory.

A child learns at his best pace when multisensory approach is adopted. Mostly in an ordinary classroom situation, kids get to learn mostly by triggering their auditory skill Visual and kinaesthetic skills are less initiated. We need a research based approach like Smart Kindergarten that gives maximum benefits to children ensuring their active participation in all areas of development which can only be made practical through a rich curriculum.



### **How do the teachers stay current on child development? What kind of professional development do they have to achieve?**

Teacher training is an integral part of an effective teaching learning process. In spite of having a rich curriculum, the teachers should be trained to deliver the lessons in a child friendly manner using multi sensory approach. In a technology oriented era they should be proficient enough to use digital resources which does not require an in depth knowledge in computer.

Training sessions should be held at regular intervals for teachers to promote activity based learning inside classrooms. They can collect articles on information from various organizations dedicated to early childhood and read it out in groups so that they will always be updated. Conduct workshops for hands on activities connected with the content of the academic books. The teachers should be equipped to prepare suitable lesson plans catering to the changing needs of the curriculum.

### **What is the Importance of childhood development and impact of kindergarten education in life success?**

The Importance of childhood development depends on the fact that Learning is continuous and cumulative, Learning begins at birth and continues over life. Children learn through senses and stimulations. So the early care and stimulation have a cumulative impact on their skill development.

Brain research proves that early learning matters for later outcomes. Increasingly, sophisticated neurobiological studies shows that brain connections set in the very early years of a child's life decides the ways children learn. A child's early experiences are crucial in determining how the brain is shaped up.

A good preschool program should address the different abilities and individual pace of development of children and ensures that all children develop physically, socially, emotionally, morally and intellectually to their full potential.





“ Education is not the learning of facts.  
But the training of the mind to think ”

Albert Einstein



“ Education is the kindling of a flame  
not the filling of a vessel ”

Socrates

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