

OFF TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FARM

FIELD VISIT OF CHILDREN FROM NURSERY,
SANTA MARIA INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A report by Parijata, mother of Kanishka Nursery A

On the pleasant morning of 15th September 2022, as the cool breeze kept the heat away, the children from Nursery A and B gathered to head to the neighbourhood farm.

During circle time, Sangeeta Ma'am and Meghna Ma'am, informed kids that they would be visiting the neighbourhood farm. A few 'Do's and Don'ts' were discussed. Everyone agreed that they would not run, or pluck things from plants and be kind to everyone. Interestingly, most of the rules came from the kids, who after two outdoor visits have become experts themselves.

By 9:30 AM, all the kids were ready and formed neat lines with hands behind their backs and marched out of school. The farm was in the adjacent building to the school, so it wasn't a long walk.

However, on their way the kids came upon the 'Road Safety reflective mirror' and enjoyed seeing their reflections.

There were giggles and even a few poses as they passed the mirror.



As soon as they entered the Farm, the children were delighted to see the cow shed. Their eyes immediately went to the calf who was quietly munching on the feed.

Sangeeta Ma'am asked the kids, what is the cow eating? One of kids said he is eating because he is hungry. The kids then learnt that the feed of the cow is called *Bhoosa* in Hindi. Meghna Ma'am informed them that it is dried grass. Soon one of the kids saw the cow dung in the shed and shouted "Potty!" and as expected laughter ensued.

The kids were then asked what is the baby of the cow called. To which someone shouted "Chotti!". The teachers then told them that the young one of the cows is called the calf.

The teachers gradually asked the kids if they wanted to touch the calf. Some children were scared and some wanted to touch. But the children soon learnt that the calf was more scared of them. So,

guided by their teachers they gave some space to calf and calmly approached it to give it a little pat on the head.

Then the children were asked what do they get from cows. And many shouted "Milk or Doodh".

Once the children and the calf were comfortable, Sangeeta Ma'am asked the kids to count how many legs the calf had. There was a chorus of 1,2,3 and 4



and then they raised 4 fingers in their hand. Similarly, they were shown the ears, eyes, nose and even tail of the calf. Then everyone said bye to the cows and walked further inside.

Inside was a nice big patch of lady finger or Bhindi. The kids were divided into groups of 5 and each group went with Didi near the patch. At the patch Meghna Ma'am showed the bright yellow flower of the plant and some tall Bhindis which were sticking from the plant. The children calmly waited as one group completed their turn and the other went. Bhindi was after all many children's favourite so



many were keen to see it. As a surprise Meghna Ma'am found a Mosambi or sweet lime tree near the Bhindi patch.

While the kids waited, they saw an uncle picking some bricks which were lined, but as he was picking them some bricks toppled and fell one on top of another with THUD!

Sangeeta Ma'am used this opportunity to teach the kids the importance of doing things carefully. She also praised the kids for not jumping or running near the bricks and being safe.

The kids were then asked where do we get vegetables from. One child confidently said "Farmer", and one said, "Papa sabji laate hain". They were then asked where do papa and farmer get the vegetables and then slowly, they realized it was from plants.



They were taught that plants give us fruits, vegetables and even medicines. The teacher showed them Neem leaves. She told them next time they go to a grocer; they should see how many Neem products there are. And most important

plants give us fresh air. When asked if we should plant more trees? The kids all agreed.

The kids then walked further in and saw a tree with big leaves and fruits on top. When asked which tree it was? Someone commented coconut but then was corrected and told that it was a Papaya. But they were also quick to point that the Papaya was not yet ripe to eat.



While the kids were seeing the plants, they kept hearing someone impatiently shouting “Cock a doodle Dooo”. Meghna Ma’am went exploring and found several roosters in one corner and the kids joined her. Soon the Roosters had company and everyone joined in with shouts of “*Kukudo kooo*”.

After the fun trip the kids again formed two lines and said bye to the bhaiya who had opened the farm for them and marched back to school. On the way the mirror again induced some giggles and poses. By the time they reached

school it was time for food and all children diligently went with Didi to wash their hands and sat down for food.

The children had a fun trip which was exciting and informative. It was also nice to see that through these trips children also learnt basic safety lessons like one should not run on the roads and one should walk on the side of the road. The teachers, didi and all the support staff ensured that while the children enjoyed the trip, they learnt new things and were respectful and kind to everyone including the plants and animals. I am sure we as parents will get several inputs on which fruits and vegetables to buy the next time.

Further, with the weather remaining cool and pleasant, it was as if Mother Nature herself was keen to make this visit a success, which it was.

