

Make Each Child SMART !

Counselling psychologist & teacher educator Salony Priya introduced teachers of The Heritage School to the Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory as a classical model by which to understand and teach many aspects of human intelligence, learning style, personality and behaviour. How teachers could identify each child as SMART may be 'Word Smart, Maths Smart, Body Smart, Art Smart or Language Smart –what is important is to give each child a chance.

Give each child a chance, create a possibility in your classrooms for each child to SHINE –this message was put across very effectively to teachers with the use of clippings from the movie *Tare Zammen pe*. Salony Priya made teachers experience through simulation exercises how an average learner struggles to learn and most important role of teacher is to ensure she/he provides the child all possibilities to succeed in learning. Character of Ishaan was used to highlight the impact of failure...it kills our desire to try ! So let us ensure success to the young learners....

Virtually everyone has the capacity to develop all eight intelligences to a reasonably high level of performance if given the appropriate encouragement, enrichment, and instruction. So the role of a teacher is to imbibe encouragement, variety of exposure and correct instruction in her teaching style in a progressive school.

The teachers of the junior section of The Heritage school attended a series of such workshops on **Multiple Intelligences** and '**Understanding Underachievement**' during the term break in April 08. These workshops highlighted the early learning stages of the Big Four skills –reading, writing, spelling and number work. Common problems faced by children in reading and spellings, various stages in which these skills are acquired, what assistance could help the child to gain competence were all discussed in the session.

This workshop also help us to understand the importance to create a positive learning environment for children who are differently abled with specific needs. It is an eye-opener where one is more sensitized as a teacher towards children's problems and enabled to understand them better. It was very informative and educative. –Supriya Rudra-Teacher Mentor Ankuran

Salony Priya, counseling psychologist opines 'The early years of learning should enable a child to develop confidence in these four skills as they are the prerequisites for achievement in the later years. If teachers focus on making a child ready to learn at this level the child will develop good study skills, would not have to depend on rote learning and conceptual understanding would be much better, hence more success to the child. With their focus on incorporating more skill based teaching the teachers spent a day with Salony Priya to experiment on these innovative methods, through various activities, games and introspective tools and they discovered a path to follow.

Understanding their attitudes and not only focus on their abilities-was the most critical learning from this session. Workshop helped us to recognize different types of

underachievers, how to identify them and further how to help and encourage them. This was an informative and useful session as we have felt helpless when faced with an underachiever and were not able to go beyond a point. Today we enter our class with more information, BETTER EQUIPPED.-Sushmita Ganguly Class teacher V THS.

Teachers also were explained early stages of memory and reasoning development in children and how as a teacher they could incorporate certain methods in their lesson plans to cater to all kinds of learners. Session also created opportunity for teachers to understand through role play how to give instructions that would be age appropriate.

The session made me think and rethink, how important it was for me to teach the underachiever. I hope I will always be able to teach the way all my students could learn and I would fill in any gaps that do form in the process. Mrs. Salony's session gave us scope to evolve, reinvent and discover ourselves as teachers .Thanks to such a enlightening session we have learnt to accept underachievement as a challenge and feel competent to deal with it effectively. –Ushashi Ghosh-Teacher Coordinator THS.