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April - July 2016

## We at Snehadhara

Change is inevitable and at Snehadhara we welcome it with open arms and often initiate it in our endeavors. So this year has started for us with a deeper closer look at ourselves and our space, the theme being renewal, rejuvenation and renaissance.



We Create





#### To paint the canvas

A new Beginning



## **Uhuru: The Direct Care Programme**

With a fresh look at **Uhuru**, our Arts Based Therapy program, we have started with a specific focus on the students' skills and goals for the year. The curriculum has been designed in a way that their goals are being looked at minutely and focused attention is being provided to the enhancement of their skills. There are five groups and all have the benefits of structured group sessions as well as one on one sessions. The areas which we are working under are.

- Motor skills Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Oro Motor, Physical Agility and Alertness
- Attention skills
- Cognitive skills
- Group interaction Cooperation, Assertion, Self-control
- Narrative Capability Vocalization and Expressive Capability

A typical day, at Snehadhara Direct Care this year, opens for the children with songs and warm up. This is followed by group and one on one session that lead straight into lunch. At lunch the children and adults are eating together. Each child buddies with an adult so that the child can observe the adult and vice-versa. Though it takes time, slowly the children are gaining independence in eating. The change in snack routines has ensured that a hearty lunch is being consumed. The naptime that follows leads into the second session which is a structured group session, indoors or outdoors depending on the goals for the children in the group. The afternoon snack is made for the children at Snehadhara, a wholesome snack that everyone shares. The children have adapted to the

new schedules beautifully lending credence to the fact that when challenged our children are ready to rise to the occasion. The meditative closure allows the children and the adults to centre their energies for the day.









Uhuru Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pluybAOQT2U

## Trainings

The team has been part of a series of training sessions early in the term, this time with special emphasis on creative inputs in drumming, storytelling and sign language. The silent retreat at Navadarshanam brought about unique insights into the dynamics of the team, always a learning experience. There is an ongoing Facilitators session on Tuesdays where we share our special talents with one another and increase our repertory of experiences and exposures. Each team member looks forward to the opportunity to facilitate a session.



Session on Storytelling



Session on Drumming



Session on Sign Language

# Summer Camp: Inside Out

The new term began with another first for Snehadhara, the Inside Out Summer Camp. Along with *Outlife*, an outdoor adventure based organisation, a space was created where some children from Snehadhara spent 3 nights and 4 days with children from other schools at Gunina Farms. And new meaning was crafted for independence skills and inclusion. All children were able to bend their patterns, create new ones and forge diverse relationships.

"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, trees to climb, brooks to wade, water lilies, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, rocks to roll, sand, snakes ; and any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of education." — Luther Burbank

#### inside Out

4 day residential camp brought to you by Snehadhara Foundation & Outlife

• Knots and Lashing, • Tent Pitching and Trenching, • Outdoor Skills - Fire, water, Shelter, Food,• Star Gazing,• Rappelling,• Rock Climbing,• Low and High Ropes Course, • Outdoor Cooking,• Map Reading and Navigation,• Treasure Hunt,• Team Games

Age group: 8-13 yrs Date : 27<sup>th</sup> Apr -30<sup>th</sup> Apr No. of Seats: 30 only Venue : Gunina Farms, Begehalli Village,Jigani Road

For information & registration : insideout@snehadharafoundation.org







## Facilitation

With a diverse team of carefully selected facilitators we are set out to achieve new milestones for the children this year too. Our facilitators and co facilitators have all brought in new ideas, new energies and new capability to the space. Interns from across the globe have been visiting us and working with the children, sharing their expertise and enriching the team.

There are regular sessions with expert ABT practitioners who work towards achieving therapeutic goals for the children across domains. Our parent volunteer Vani Joshi, is working with the group with loco motor needs by exposing them to various visual arts. media to achieve sensory goals.



## Overnighters

The overnighter this year is an innovative endeavor to address independence, adaptability and responsibility in our children. The challenge levels for the children have been increased and the children have risen admirably to it. The overnighters this year are on two Wednesday nights . The children stay over till Thursday evening and go back to their homes after having spent almost 2 days with us. This attempt is well supported by our parent community by way of extending help with transport and breakfast for the

team. Our parent volunteer Shobhita is a part of this each month. She is our kitchen in charge at Gunina Farms. The Wednesday night meal is prepared at the centre in our Oota Thota program supported by Priya. She and her team of girls at the centre cook the dinner for the children who stay over. The process has enabled the children towards independence in managing culinary skills in an organic way where they can see the fruits of their labour serving a purpose at the centre.









## Oota Thota

This year in Oota Thota we are looking at engagements within community spaces, fostering social skills as well as creating opportunities leading to livelihoods. The learning that ensues in this process sustains in all spaces and leads to a definite sense of accomplishment. Oota Thota is our big support during the overnighters with the invaluable dinner service that Priya and her team provide. The process gives them a medium to develop basic independent functioning skills, to develop fine and gross motor skills, to explore learning language and math sorting and categorizing, learning step by step and first-next-last concepts. Add to this, two new spaces we have found for our children, The Millet Cafe and Zhang's restaurant. Thanks to them our children now provide kitchen support and customer support at both places thus encouraging socialization and communication.





## Ishanya

We have collaborated with Ishanya in a technology related (computer, apps, video modeling and other hand-held devices) intervention to improve communication i.e. communication related to daily living and communication in different scenarios. Four children from the centre are a part of this co-location. It is heartening to have Swati Ballal and her team walk this journey with us and the children. The responses from the children have been positive and this gives us the confidence to keep enhancing the exposures they command.

# Pipilika

We are relentless in our efforts to provide children with new experiences. This year the Pipilika program invites children from Snehadhara and outside to share a space together and partake of the feast of art experiences like drumming, visual arts, clay modeling, theatre and storytelling by external faculty, experts in their fields. The sessions so far have proven how fortunate we are in being able to invite Vani Joshi, Ashirwad, Sowmya, Ratnakar and Vikram Sridhar and see the joy our children experienced in the process.









Pipilika video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9vu5NNYWes

## Parent interactions

'Spotlight- The stage is yours'. Yes, a novel look at the parent engagements too this year. Here, we invite parents to be a part of learning together, share their thoughts and ideas, interact with the team, and interact with the parent group. These sessions are designed to examine our beliefs, conditionings, strengths and limitations through creative means. We have calendarised 5 sessions for the year where we meet as a group. Each parent will be given a 30 minute slot called ' Spot Light'. They will use this time to facilitate a creative session with the larger group. Our first such meet was full of madness, fun and excitement. Looking forward to many such exchanges









## Animal Farm

The play Animal Farm was staged successfully again, this time at a new place, Jagriti Theatre. Working alongside their mainstream peers, were three children from Snehadhara Foundation. Subject to the same creative routines and demands as the other actors, keeping up to the schedule of 6 shows in three days, our children demonstrated with uncanny grit the intuitive nature of a shared human experience – the ability to superbly perform a universal story and be at it.



Animal Farm video link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUZ6J\_t8mDU</u>

All our programs have been possible through the generous support of our donors and friends, who have and continue to walk this journey with us. Thank You!

#### About us

**Snehadhara Foundation (SF)** is a registered non-profit organization based in Bangalore that works with children and adults who are differently abled, their caregivers and their families. We are the first and only Centre in India that uses Arts Based Therapy as the primary methodology to work with children and adults with disabilities

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All donations made to the Snehadhara Foundation are tax exempted. It is registered under Section 12A and 80G of Income Tax Act 1961 and also registered under FCRA, 2010.

Registered u/s. 51, 52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act, 1995.

A registered society/trust under Karnataka Trust Registration Act