Auroville Rainbow Child (2016-17)

Introduction

The aim of the Auroville Rainbow Child program is to offer to Auroville children opportunities to discover themselves and acquire new skills additional to a formal school education. Gala facilitates the program, which offers classes of Yoga, Energetic games, and arts and crafts for children.

Description of project

Rainbow Child classes were held at Pitanga Cultural Centre regularly on Saturdays. Around 30 children aged 5 to 12 from different schools, and especially kids who are considered as ‘no school’ kids, participated regularly.

This year, as with last year, the Yoga classes were over-full and sometimes there were more kids than could fit into the yoga room at Pitanga.

With Energetic games we have slightly changed the focus of activities because the children who have been coming year after year have grown up and have requested something new. So we decided to implement new games and activities connected with the emotional being. For example we worked with different feelings such as sadness, happiness and anger, to be able to know ourselves better and understand and control our feelings. These activities were also interesting for the new children who joined our ‘family’ of the class.

Outcomes

The result we aim at with this program is that children of different ages, from different schools or home-schooled, and with different health specifics (such as asthmatic or hearing and speech difficulty) improve their ability to integrate in this life – better able to communicate and socialize with other people. Children develop new skills and develop the ability to understand their inner being and life.

Reflections

We have seen with our work with emotions that if children understand how to direct an emotion into the right path, then they are able to take it under control. When a child understands a specific situation consciously, we are able to help them analyze the situation. Then they manage to take the right direction in their behavior with the situation.

Future direction

Next year, at the wish of the children we will focus more on arts and crafts and will try various artistic techniques. We will work with different materials such as different paints, silicon loom bands, and 3D modeling with origami and a 3D pen (which is a new technology in arts and crafts). We will continue to play with different Energetic games from our collection, and through experience see what direction to take in the coming years.

We now have 6 children who want more classes throughout the week, and also parents who have requested that their kids have more than one class a week. So we have decided in collaboration with the parents to start two more classes. This will let us work on a much deeper level and help more children in a bigger space to develop their skills. We understand that this will be more for the ‘no school’ kids, as the other kids will have their regular Auroville school. But we will continue our Saturday classes for the regular school kids.