

Early Literacy Programme

Chandigarh has implemented Early Literacy programme in classes I and II since 2009-2010 under the guidance and guidelines of department of elementary education, NCERT New Delhi. For carrying out this programme in these classes, all Govt. schools of Chandigarh have been provided with children literature procured from NCERT ('Barkha'-graded reading series) and other small story books.

Objectives of the programme are inculcation of reading habit among young learners, reading with understanding/comprehension, contextual reading and linkage of reading with writing.

For **Implementation** of the programme the following strategies and provisions have been ensured:

1. For classes I & II one period daily has been allocated in the time table for Early literacy programme in which these books ('Barkha' & other story books) are being used. Books have been kept in the reach of students. Teachers motivate them to take the books & read them individually or in groups. To create their interest, teacher sometimes reads/tells story from the books and encourage the students to create their own stories or to draw some pictures/characters which they found interesting in the books. Thereafter teacher motivates them to read the stories along with the pictures. While reading or telling the stories from 'Barkha' series teacher relates the stories/characters given in their text book 'Rimjhim'. She also tries to make students to recall some instances or characters from 'Rimjhim' to share with fellow learners.
2. Resource Material i.e. 'Padhne ki samajh' and 'Likhne ki shuruwat-ek samvad' is available in the schools for the reference of teachers.
3. Orientation of cluster resource centre co-coordinators on importance of the programme and on monitoring mechanism.
4. Cluster Resource centre co-coordinators are provided with check list for recording observations pertaining to the programme.
5. Small story booklets have also been procured in previous years from pratham books org. for giving more variety to the young learners.
6. During In-service/Induction training programmes, (conducted previous year & this year as well) teachers have been oriented on the concept & implementation of Early literacy programme. During training programmes teachers share best practices and challenges they are facing in the implementation of the programme.
7. Proper display of reading material & other related activities in the classrooms of classes I and II has been ensured in the form of Reading/Activity corners.
8. During observations of classroom processes, concerned teachers are motivated to make their students come out with their imaginations and put their ideas on paper in form of drawings/sketches and to make some stories based on their drawings.

9. Progress chart indicating weekly progress of the students pertaining to the programme, is available in the classrooms of classes I & II
10. For strengthening of this programme, story books from Pratham Organization have been procured & provided to all the schools for classes I & II.

Feed back about the Programme:

Students enjoy the period allocated for the programme. They like the story books (Barkha) very much as these books contain clear & big pictures which attract attention of young learners and give them ample scope for reading with comprehension & reading with guessing. Teachers too have found the programme very useful in a way that it helped to connect all four skills of language. They felt that the story books will prove helpful to retain children's interest in classroom processes, help in inculcation of reading habit among children and to bring out their imaginations & expressions.