

The magic of stripes!

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This learning portrait explains how one child's curiosity in a kindergarten class can be used as an opportunity to promote children's collaborative inquiry, logical reasoning and social development.

This incident happened in the sandpit when Arjun observed that the Zebra in the sandpit was chocking!

Arjun: Miss, there is something stuck in the zebra! I want to remove it.

Then Arjun goes to his buddy Kairav and tells him about this, Kairav is busy in his own game and he does not listen to him.

Arjun: Miss Kairav is not listening to me

Teacher: so, what can you do Arjun?

Arjun: I will get the stop sign.

Arjun runs up to class and gets the stop sign. Kairav now patiently listens to him. Arjun explains that there is something stuck inside the pipe. Kairav gets curious and is interested to see it.

Kairav, Arjun and Prisha take turns to see what is stuck inside.

Prisha: It is something pink.

Prisha calls Laelia to look. Laelia sees it and says "It's nothing Arjun, it's a connection of the pipe, that's all"

Arjun is insistent that something is stuck inside.

Arjun: "Look properly Laelia, I can feel it. Miss can we have a torch, we just need a torch, please"

This shows how Arjun can think of solutions to small problems. And also he is not hesitant to ask for help when needed.

Laelia now accepts this without further question and goes with the teacher to get a torch and they all investigate what is inside. Laelia observes the 'pink thing' stuck in and she is determined to get it out.



Guys, come on, we need to get it out

Laelia: Let's get a big stick and push it out

Arjun: No, let's dig and dig till we make a tunnel and get the pipe out. If we dig, it will come out by itself.

Laelia: That's a good idea!

This shows Laelia's willingness to reconsider and amend her initial ideas when encountering the ideas and viewpoints of her peers. This was also a confidence booster for Arjun, as he felt proud that his idea was accepted.



Hiya, Laelia, Himari, Shalini and Arjun start digging the sand around the pipe. The excitement in their voices gets all their friends to join in too!



Together they all collaborate and manage to get the pipe out of the sandpit!

But, Arjun was not happy to stop here, he insisted on getting the 'pink thing' out of the pipe.

Now that a part of the zebra was out, half the group's objective was to get the other part of the zebra out, since they were not aware that Arjun wanted the throat to be cleared.



The other half of the class was involved in getting the pink thing out.



It was observed that every child had an idea on how to remove the toy that was stuck inside.



While all the others were talking and discussing with each other, Arav VK was not budging from the task at hand. He said "leave, leave everyone, lift it up, everything will fall down" This shows Arav's determination in getting things done whether in a team or alone.

Laelia: that will not come out

Aneeka: I have done it once, I know

Everybody tries removing the joint. Half of them hold on one side and the other half on the other.



Arjun: Miss we can get a stick to remove it
Aneeka: ya, ya that will work

So everyone run around the sandpit looking for sticks, they find a dry tree and pluck out twigs from it.



They use it to remove the connection of the pipe. But soon they realized that that is not working.

They then divide themselves into 2 groups. Each group pulls the opposite ends.



Finally they remove the connection. They all celebrate the success by dancing around the sandpit!



Then they get the toy out, only to realize there is a whole treasure of toys inside the pipe.

They start shaking the whole pipe and remove all the toys which were stuck. They are overjoyed of their success. And this was a pleasant surprise to them, since no one expected anything to fall out.



And finally, they remove the 'pink thing' and clear the zebra's throat.



Children celebrated their success by congratulating each other, hugging and clapping hands.

Teacher: now that you all have got the toys out, it's time to put back the zebra.



They continued to collaborate and put the zebra back to where it belonged.

Laelia: Miss we had so much fun because of Arjun!

Laelia runs and hugs Arjun



This made us realize that the best successes arise FROM the children and BY the children. It was wonderful to watch these 5 year olds talking, negotiating, and thinking things through together.

It was amazing to see the sight of enduring friendships specially with Arjun since he had missed 1 month of school and conflict resolution was an area he was finding challenging.

This one incident or rather an opportunity, has made Arjun a classroom hero! He has now built the confidence to share his unique ideas with his peers, who also are making an effort to give that warmth that Arjun needs!

During dispersal time the classroom began to fill with animated discussions on the experience in the sandpit.



We look forward to provide the children with more opportunities to work and grow as a learning community.