

### **Our advocacy projects at PODAR HAPPY KIDS**

- 1. Replacing traditional rhymes that harm with new age versions**
  - Piggy on railway
  - Ringa ringa roses
  - Humpty dumpty
  - One little Indian
- 2. Why should we influence children with fairy tales that breed violence, cause bias or create gender bias?**
  - Hansel and Gretel, Snow white, Cinderella- causes bias towards step mother
  - Red Riding Hood, 3 Little Pigs- teaches children that wolves are bad and should be killed
  - Snow white, Cinderella teach girls to always wait for prince charming
  - Goldilocks teaches them to ransack other peoples home s and then run away
  - The Ugly Duckling, 3 Little Pigs (the ugly troll), teach that ugliness is dirty and bad.
- 3. Let's not waste food in painting-** so many children in the world do not get food and so many do not get enough food. We that do, have so much that we waste it in activities like pasta collage, ladyfinger printing, potato printing etc. Required? Absolutely NO. Let's say no to it today
- 4. No leaf painting-** we want kids to nurture nature, then why have such a senseless activity of leaf printing, let's not teach kids to pluck leaves. I am sure our collective creativity can come up with better substitutes for this creative idea.
- 5. Let's say NO to zoos-** why should we torture animals at dirty zoos? Why teach children to visit zoos, lets substitute them for national parks or safaris
- 6. Same with circus-** is it necessary to make a lion sit? Why not let the lion be in its true glory in the jungle. Let's not glorify circus
- 7. No junk food for kids-** the world health organization has distributed a circular that is having alarming statistics of obesity and health related problems in children, all linked to junk food, let's not allow junk food in jumbo kids and let's educate kids and parents about it.
- 8. No interviews for kids-** interviewing children before giving them admission in a school is against child rights and the new right to education bill, so let's educate parents and students about it and help abolish it from our country
- 9. Lets replace 4 lines with 3 lines and let's say no to cursive in preschool-** why stick to age old useless traditions in a world where tape recorders are replaced with an iPod, why are we still sticking to red and blue lines and cursive writing for preschoolers? Let's turn to joined handwriting (Marion Richardson font) and the 3 line method which is so much more easier for children
- 10. Drive against child sexual abuse-** good touch bad touch is an education that all preschoolers should be exposed to as they are at maximum risk of sexual abuse, we have developed c.d's on GTBT and it is available for free on all our websites
- 11. Let's nurture with nature-** lets teach kids to love nature, be in nature, as it is important for all round growth. All our activities at jumbo kids helps bring back nature in the lives of kids and their families
- 12. Let's work towards no stress preschool curriculum-** is the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic the only goal of preschool? Should not the whole child development be the goal? At jumbo kids we support DAP (developmentally appropriate practice) and so we aim for a stress free curriculum and practices both in the classroom and in the achievement book. No comparisons and no first or second, no races as we believe that the only race a child needs to be in is the human race
- 13. Support inclusive classrooms-** we support inclusion of every kind, all children are welcome in our classrooms.
- 14. No adult songs for kids let children be children-** we are against vulgar bollywood songs that are inappropriate for kids. The tune may be catchy but the lyrics may be unsuitable for kids. We are against it and also educate parents about it. Exposing children to such songs only creates 'adulthood' in them, it is akin to stealing their childhood.
- 15. No corporal punishment for kids –** we support zero tolerance to any kind of child abuse. So it is not tolerated in our schools
- 16. Hygiene, safety and security at all times is the right of every child-** let our schools be clean at all times, including the toilets. Keeping kids safe with security rules like smart cards, no entry for visitors without id etc will ensure that our kids are always safe in our schools and buses

**AS HEADS OF CENTRES IT IS YOUR DUTY TO UPHOLD THE ABOVE AT YOUR CENTRE IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. ALL THE BEST.**

**SWATI POPAT VATS**  
**DIRECTOR /PRESIDENT**