



# #galtisudhar

## #vatsgyan

Dear educators and parents,

I have been sharing #galtisudhar posts on social media and have also conducted a course on [www.edbank.in](http://www.edbank.in) I have compiled some Pointers to keep in mind while designing curriculum and curriculum related material like lesson plans, worksheets, teaching aids etc. for early childhood education.

**1 Do not use food for art or frivolous purposes.** Food used for cooking activities is fine but not otherwise. It confuses children. At an age at which we tell them to finish everything on their plate and not waste food, we are then confusing them when we use food for art activities and then waste and throw it. Grains you say? Why not feed birds with it instead? Salt you say? Don't you remember how important the right to salt is in our country? (salt satyagraha) Also, in a country like ours where lack of food is killing so many children, is it fair to teach children in affluent schools to waste food for art? Aren't we going against the very 'grain' of empathy? All food is food...teach children the right habits and values.

**6 Ensure that anything that children have to read is not in all capital letters.** Reading does not support all caps!

**8 Ensure that you move from-**

- a. Known to unknown
- b. Simple to complex
- c. Concrete to abstract

**2 Always look into proportion of pictures and objects.**

**3 Be alert about capitalization-** only proper nouns have to be capitalized, so always check google if any word should be capitalized.

**4 Leaves, flowers and twigs also should not be used for art or frivolous activities.** We are again confusing children. On one hand we say take care of nature, protect it, nurture it and on the other hand we are asking them to use leaves for such purposes? Fallen leaves are the compost of nature, so don't give the excuse that we used fallen leaves!

**5 Do not use hygiene products like ear buds, toothpicks, toothbrushes, combs etc. for painting purposes!** They are hygiene products, and should be used only for that, don't confuse children!

**7 Never give children outline of letters and numbers for art activities.** Letters and numbers are for writing not art! When you give an outline, children may move in any direction in the outline and it defeats the purpose of teaching them the correct formation of writing letters and numbers.





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- 9 **When asking children to cross and tick- the cross should be for items or objects or odd one, tick for things that are right.** Instruction like- cross out the objects you will use for bathing- this is incorrect, because if something is needed then it should be tick and not cross.
- 10 **The concept of weight, sound, texture is practical and should not be done in worksheets** or can be done with physical inputs like listening to the sound or weighing the objects and then recording the answers on the worksheet.
- 11 **Avoid handprint, footprint, thumbprint, fingerprint crafts in which the teacher does more than the child.** If child is making the footprint and teacher is adding the eyes and nose and creating something out of that print, then how is it helping the child's creativity?
- 12 **Avoid 'senselessly' picking up activities and ideas from Pinterest or google** etc.- think, are they related to ECE? will they help children developmentally? Or are they just some frivolous-candy floss activities that will help you decorate your classroom but not benefit in any way to the child!
- 13 **Don't glorify pirates in your activities-** read the meaning of a pirate, it's a sea terrorist!
- 14 **You cannot and should not have a pyjama party in school,** in the day time! It is confusing for children at so many levels- pyjamas to school? party wear pyjama? Pyjama in day time?
- 15 **Read up on Piaget's stages of cognitive development. Don't confuse children by teaching two concepts together- green square block!** If you are teaching the shape then no need to mention the colour, if you are teaching the colour then no need to mention to shape. Only after they know both, you can mention both attributes.
- 16 **Many people think, 'join the dot' activities should have the dots only in clockwise direction. Well, anti clockwise is good too as there are many letters in which children have to use anti clockwise movements like the formation of small letter 'e'. so, it is important to give children practice of clockwise and anticlockwise movements.**
- 17 **Change rhymes and stories** if they are not age, culture, gender and developmentally appropriate.

*Let us remember that early childhood education is an important stage of learning and development, our mistakes and errors can damage a child's foundation of learning!*

Love,  
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