

the children can physically follow and assimilate, Music, Dance, Art, Craft & Rangoli, One Act play and funny games

that can awaken the mind of the children along with friendly competitive spirit, the foundation for developing ethical and moral values.



*Group photograph of the participants at the Summer Camp, with Volunteers*

## HOME – THE FIRST SCHOOL OF VALUE EDUCATION

**Dr. Radha Kulkarni\***

It is quite obvious that children learn all basic things at home. According to our traditional saying “Home is the first school and mother is the first Guru”. It is true that the child learns how to walk, how to speak, how to eat and so on at home. Also a child learns the values of life from home itself. The personality of a child is groomed at home. It is very essential on the part of the parents to realise that their responsibility does not end by providing food and clothing and taking care of the children's health. It is important to nurture the child's fullest personality and prepare her/him for life.

Children learn every thing by imitation. Parents should realise that children are their reflections. In the mirror reflection if you find a black spot on your face, how much ever you wash the mirror the spot cannot

be wiped out. Only when you wash your face the spot can be cleaned. Hence it is the bounden duty of parents to be role models to their children.

Even if the child is 2 years or 3 year, if it commits a mistake like throwing the glass, tearing a paper, stealing a chocolate, etc., don't take it casually or just laugh away. From the root level itself the child should be corrected. But for correcting don't use the method of punishment. Better explain to the child the wrong it has done, softly. Make the child realise its mistake. Never think she/he is too small to teach proper values. In fact it is better to scribble the right values on the child's blank mind. If you overlook this, later it will be difficult to erase the wrong images and inscribe the right values there. Childhood is the right period to mould and

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shape the children's character, nurture their attitudes and refine their habits. To achieve this, the following methods can be adopted.

1. If a child does something wrong, explain what is the right thing to do, with love and affection.
2. Tell children moral stories, stressing and focusing upon the morals in the stories.
3. Keep them away from crime stories on T.V. Channels and crime movies too. Remember the first five years of a child is the formative period.
4. Punishment is not the right method to improve kids, but at the same time the other extremity, i.e. over fondling is equally harmful. Teach the children discipline – to keep their toys neatly, to keep their dresses neat, not to throw bits of papers or peels of fruit they eat, here and there.
5. Teach them sharing and caring from this initial stage. When they are given something to eat they should be taught to share with brothers and sisters and friends who are along with them.
6. They should be taught to respect elders.
7. Expose them to fine arts like music, dance, art and craft. Encourage their interest in these arts. Remember this will be the source of awakening their creativity and hidden talents.
8. Parents can impart simple knowledge to the children on nature – like Sun, Moon, Stars, flower, fruits, birds, animals, etc.
9. Let them sing, dance or draw some pictures on papers. With this you can make out their interests and such talents can be nurtured.

In conclusion it may be noted that the above formulas/methods can avoid degradation of human values, and imbibe simple ethical values and standards in the child's tender mind. We may call it POSITIVE, PROPER and CONSCIOUS PARENTING.



*Dr. Radha Kulkarni receiving Best Teacher Award from the President of India*