



eureka SuperKidz

An AID INDIA Education Initiative

Issue 3: Mar 2011



Greetings from Eureka Superkidz!

Ensuring parents' involvement in children's education is a key component of our Eureka program. Last month, we gave Eureka Progress Cards for children & shared with parents what children had learnt. Each child's progress card mentioned the skills acquired by him/her in Tamil, Math and English. Parents were extremely happy to see how much children had improved. In several villages, parents and community volunteers even conducted events and melas to showcase what their children had learnt.

10 Districts

55 Blocks

626 villages



Family relocates so that children can enroll in a Eureka center!

Kumaravel & Mahalakshmi, work as agricultural laborers in Nandeswaramangalam village of Keerapalayam block in Cuddalore District. They have 2 children - Satish (Std.6) and Ramya (Std. 4).

They heard about our Eureka Superkidz centers from their relatives living in neighboring Nangudikuppam village. Immediately, Kumaravel got interested and found out more about the Eureka center. Once they saw the center, they decided to take up a house in Nangudikuppam village itself so that the Satish & Ramya could attend the Eureka center everyday. Their parents still travel everyday to the previous village they were living in for their work.



Mahalakshmi says that they want to live in Nangudikuppam so that the children can attend the Eureka center and study well. "My husband and I did not get good education. We want to make sure that our children do not miss out on the opportunity that we did." Ramya and Satish have been attending the Eureka center regularly and making steady improvements.

Progressing leaps & bounds ...



Ezhilarasi (Std.2) of Ammayarkuppam hardly knew letters or numbers when she joined the Eureka center in July. Her father is an alcoholic and her mother's daily wage income has to take care of the family's needs.

Ezhilarasi's mother was thrilled to receive the Eureka progress card which showed that Ezhilarasi could now read sentences as well as do subtraction and addition.

Kumaresan (Std. 4) lives with his grandmother in Melpadi village of Sholinghur block. 5 months ago, he knew to read a few Tamil words and to identify some numbers.



Now he reads Tamil fluently, has started doing division problems and knows some English words too. Great going Kumerasan!

District	Blocks	Villages
Coimbatore	4	45
Cuddalore	4	47
Dharmapuri	4	40
Kanchipuram	6	61
Krishnagiri	6	48
Sivagangai	6	60
Tiruvallur	4	60
Tiruvannamalai	7	68
Trichy	6	71
Vellore	8	126
Total	55	626

Learning to read long words using Vijayalakshmi's flipchart



Vijayalakshmi, Eureka Tamil Content Coordinator, had a problem to solve. In many villages, children were able to read words but were not progressing to reading sentences.

What exactly is the problem?

Vijayalakshmi and her team started observing these children closely. She found that children were able to 2-3 letter Tamil words, but stopped reading when they encountered 'long words' that frequently occur in sentences. Every time they came across a 6 or 7 letter word, they lost confidence and fell silent.

How to solve the problem?

Vijayalakshmi took up the challenge of getting children to read long words. As a first step she wrote long words on the board. Children were able to read each one though slowly. Next she wrote words that were modification of the same verb with different tenses. The children began reading connected words like 'vilaiyaadinen', 'vilaiyaadigiren' and 'vilayaadapogiren' (played, playing, going to play).



Visible excitement in class

Children loved this game! There was visible excitement in the class and children asked Vijayalakshmi to write longer and longer words on the board. She tried this everyday for a week with different words. At the end of the week, she was confident that long words did not intimidate children anymore!



Replicating the solution...

This brought her to the next step of the problem – How to transform this activity so that every Eureka Teacher in every village is able to use it effectively? Vijayalakshmi and her team made a word flipchart with around 100 'long' words. On the left side they had a set of commonly used verbs. On the right were a set of word-ending cards. As children flipped each card, the verb got a new ending to form a different long word. Children could select any verb and read a new set of long words. They could do this in small groups so that every child gets a turn.

This activity was a huge hit! Children fought for their turn to read long words on their flipchart. Eureka Teachers from several villages said that this was one of the most popular activities in their class. Vijayalakshmi is now confident that children will start reading sentences and stories very soon.

Eureka Content

- Innovative, well-researched, and replicable in large scale
- Field-tested & modified iteratively based on feedback
- Regular tweaks in activity and material design to improve effectiveness

Vijayalakshmi joined the Eureka team in 2005 at the age of 19, as a village volunteer running reading classes for children in Sithathur village in Vembakkam block. In 2007, she became a Eureka Master Trainer and trained around 1000 Govt. schoolteachers in the 'Padippum Inikkum' learning to read program. Today, she leads the Eureka Tamil Content team, and is responsible for goal-setting, curriculum development and generating materials in Tamil for all Eureka villages.

