

THE ARTSPARKS ANGLE



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Welcome Message

We are happy to present the third edition of **The ArtSparks Angle**, Professional Learning Program Newsletter. In this edition, we are excited to announce the launch of the book 'Art Sparks: Ideas. Methods. Process.', one-of-a-kind in Indian Art Education context. We also have one of our EdSparks Collective cohort member, sharing some of his experiences conducting art based interventions with children, who are mostly first generation learners.

Art Sparks: Ideas. Methods. Process.



We are excited to announce the launch of the book '**Art Sparks: Ideas. Methods. Process.**' written by Nisha Nair, the Founder & Executive Director of ArtSparks Foundation. Nisha's work in art education spans over 15 years in varied settings in the US and in India. Here's a little bit about the book in the author's own words:

"I have long been a champion of the arts. And my fervent support for art has been rooted in a belief, backed by evidence-based research, that visual art is essential to the growth and development of all children. My work in education, both in the US and India, over the past 15+ years has been dedicated to exploring how meaningful art experiences can propel individual and social transformation, and how teachers can promote such experiences for diverse learners.

This book chronicles the journey of a group of students in a rural school in a small village in the Kolar district as they participated in an art program offered by ArtSparks Foundation, the Bangalore-based NGO that I lead. The puppet-making project featured in this book serves as an illustrative example of a process of art making followed with the children that, if consistently adopted, can nurture children's creative, cognitive, social, and emotional development, through the development of a number of valuable skills and attitudes. The book dismisses the idea that only a few can and should participate in art making. The art making process outlined in the book is flexible and can be adapted to any art project beyond the puppet-making project featured in the book.

My hope through this book is to reveal to parents, teachers, education administrators and more the value of art in children's education. My hope is to also deepen understandings of how to implement an enriching art program that helps develop valuable skills and attitudes in children. And finally, my hope is to widen acceptance in India of art as a critically important part of children's education."

To grab your copy of the book, please visit Tara books website: <https://tarabooks.com/shop/art-sparks/>

Spotlight: Story from the Field

It gives us great pleasure to showcase Aswini Kumar in this section. Aswini is the Founder & Director of Gramothhan, and he is a past EdSparks Collective (2019-20) participant. This excerpt is pulled from Aswini's Action Learning Project (ALP) case study submitted as part of his participation in EdSparks Collective. Part of this excerpt also highlights interventions conducted by Gramothhan during the lockdown, inspired by Aswini's learnings from EdSparks Collective.

On day 1 of the Action Learning Project, the children were very shy and didn't know how to draw simple lines and shapes. To break the ice, we started with simple drawings using lines and shapes. Once they got comfortable with drawing, we gave them images of animals to closely observe and draw. The children created hybrid animals using their imagination and gave names to it.

Another activity that we did with children was using collage medium. This medium was challenging to the children as they were new to it. They were less confident and doubted if they can do the activity. Some of the children struggled to get textures, but we noticed that they collaborated and helped each other. "As the workshop progressed, the children seemed more confident, took more risks, and realized that anyone and everyone can draw! "

Through the project, I realized that learning through

"As the project progressed, the children seemed more confident, took more risks, and started to believe that anyone and everyone can draw! "

art is effective in developing cognitive, exploratory and motor skills in children. They used collaboration, communication, problem solving and creative risk taking. As days passed by, I observed that the children were extremely energetic and was enthusiastic about the activities. The initial inhibition they had towards art was completely gone. I believe that art can also be integrated with any school subject, as it will definitely help students to easily understand the concepts, improve their cognitive skills, concentration and flexible thinking.

During this lockdown, we designed multiple art based projects at our organisation to provide joyful learning opportunities to children while they are at their homes. One of the projects that we conducted was to explore clay. This was the first time that we introduced clay to the tribal children that we work with. Even though they were familiar with the medium, they never explored it. They were very enthusiastic to explore and investigate clay. Children used 5 different types of clay from their surroundings and created various models. One of my biggest learnings is that, whenever children create any art, their culture and identity is part of it and there is a strong connection between art and culture.



Upcoming Events

ArtSpeaks Session #4



In Conversation with Dragica Mikavica
Art & Transformation: A Child Rights Perspective
29th Oct. 2020
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm IST

Join us for an interactive discussion on child rights and the transformative power of the visual arts.

Speaker details: Dragica Mikavica is a Senior Advocacy Adviser at Save the Children's United Nations Advocacy Office, New York, leading the global campaign work to protect children in conflict, girls, and ensure their participation. She is a dedicated child rights advocate who grew up during Bosnia's civil war, an experience that directly shaped her life's path and career track. Her work focuses on advancing child rights, creating impact for normative change and improved practice on the ground, including through direct advocacy with children. Dragica holds a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.A. from The New School.

To register for the program, please click here: <https://forms.gle/aGjJTKCHRS7M8bzs7>

"The arts, it has been said, cannot change the world, but they may change human beings who might change the world. "

- Maxine Greene