

Dear Friends and Sponsors of the Chennai kindergarten,



During the recent months, our kindergarten quietly pursued its daily routine without incident worth noting and to the satisfaction of all participants.

The highlight for this period was the coming of the whole Betrisay-Mollinet family who are hereafter relating their visit as seen through the eyes of Olivia (13) and Alexis (11) who spent a full day with the kids of the kindergarten.

When we arrived all the thirty kids were there and playing. The number of children has been reduced because the inflation has led to a considerable increase of the food prices and exploded the budget.

We unpacked the toys that we had brought (particularly trains, lego and garage) and Olivia and Alexis showed them how to play with these toys. In fact, in opposition to what one could think, one has to learn how to play with a model train or lego, it is not at all innate. And obviously the large number of children makes it difficult to show to every one of them how to properly stack up lego bricks or to install rails and engines.





As a result Olivia and Alexis were stormed by all kids, each one trying his best to get priority. They were all fighting to be the first to seize a railcar or a lego figure, all tricks were allowed.

At about ten in the morning, the children were separated in two groups: juniors and seniors. Juniors remained in the same room and seniors climbed two floors.

Each group then gets along with the ritual of spiruline taking at the same time as they play and sing ("Frère Jacques" in Tamil and "Knees and toes" in English). Then two hours are dedicated to the development of aptitudes corresponding to their age: for the older ones games helping stimulate the memory, logic, writing and English learning and for the younger ones motion coordination and balance exercises (passing under a stool on all four), learning to count till ten, the days of the week in English and drawing.

At 12h30 all the children get together again for the meal followed by a nap. In the afternoon they stay and play together and leave for home at 4 PM, each with his bowl of boiled chickpeas. Today two bits of chocolate are added (thanks to Olaya and Nathalie)

Olivia and Alexis were of the opinion that the day was rather long for such small darlings and that the teachers were stern. But it also meant that this year it was quieter than last year when they were all shrieking and being rather noisy. It was appreciated.

The children remain so cute and curious about us, our lap was not large enough to welcome them all.

As mentioned previously the running costs of the kindergarten increased a lot and we had to reduce its capacity. We are looking for more sponsors.

Happy Kids and the persons in charge in Chennai thank you for your continued support.

Till next year for further news and in the meantime we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.