

# Let's have a conversation!

Monthly dialogue with parents of Bal Bhartians on student-centric issues



**Bal Bharati**  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Every month, we seek views, ideas and suggestions from you, on various topics that are important for the progress and well-being of your child. Parents' inputs are invaluable in helping us shape the school's policies and practices to better serve the needs of our students.

Here we are featuring some of the thought-provoking responses to the topic of the month.

TOPIC

## To encourage creativity and innovation in children, what kind of activities can we engage them in, at home and school?



**Henna Chawla**

Mother of Heyan, Class Pre-Primary  
BBPS Rohini



Creativity is basically thinking 'outside the box', something which is different from what we see. Always giving our opinion or continuous correction hampers the child's imagination. At school as well as at home, a child should be asked about his/ her ideas and opinions, and must be appreciated in order to boost confidence. This will encourage the ability to think big and be innovative. Less of judging and comparing, and more of motivating, appreciating, listening to the child will help in enhancing creativity. Some activities which can contribute in this process include clay modelling, interactive sessions (where the child speaks on an assigned topic and the mentor listens), creative storytelling, paper cutting and pasting, painting with colours etc.

**Rahul Mehta**

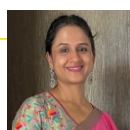
Father of Dhriti, Class VII  
BBPS Manesar



Today's children spend too much time in front of a TV or with a screen in their hands, leaving them very limited time for creative hobbies, whereas engaging in something like reading can help them promote creativity. Reading helps children understand and express themselves better. Visiting a library or discussing your favourite books with them, or sitting and reading together can increase their interest in reading. Teachers can include a variety of activities in their teaching in the classroom like fishbone concept map, revising the content through word games, painting the walls, puzzles, open-ended questions which use their higher order thinking skills. The school should invite guests from different fields from time to time, to motivate students.

**Renu Tiwari**

Mother of Richa, Class XII  
BBPS Navi Mumbai



Encouraging creativity and innovation in kids aged 15-18 can be done by organising independent research projects on topics they are passionate about (documentary making or designing a website showcasing their artwork), a Shark Tank style entrepreneurship challenge, or a 'Maker Fair' where teens showcase their DIY projects and inventions (these could be anything - gadgets, sustainable fashion, new recipes etc.). Or it could be a design thinking workshop where students identify real-world problems and collaborate to test creative solutions (e.g. they could redesign a section of the school lobby for better space utilisation, or create a mobile app to support some aspect of the school's functioning). If parents and educators provide support, resources, and a platform to young minds, it will foster creativity, innovation, and a growth mindset.

**Gaurav Sachan**

Father of Girisha, Class VII  
BBPS Noida



Nudging our children to think outside the box, explore new ideas, and express themselves creatively can have a profound impact on their overall development. As parents, we could encourage them to engage in activities where they have to create something from scratch. It could be building a working model, writing a thoughtful article on a relevant topic, creating a piece of art, delivering a speech, or undertaking a science or IT project. These activities promote critical thinking, problem solving skills, and self-expression. By allowing children to explore their imagination and bring their ideas to life, we empower them to become confident and independent learners. They could also be encouraged to hone their problem solving skills to fix a mechanical, electrical, or computer programming issue, or engage in scenario-based role play to simulate challenging situations.

**Sneha Gupta**

Mother of Saanvi, Class IV  
BBPS Brij Vihar



Children are full of ideas, but some kids are very shy and less confident in expressing themselves. We should engage them in some games or quizzes wherein they are given the opportunity to speak on topics that interest them, e.g. cartoons like Dora, Peppa Pig, Avengers, etc. Let us also recognise the power of music in shaping character, and consider introducing it into teaching. All kids love music, so we must teach our children to play at least one instrument (like piano, guitar, drums etc.), which will also help in improving their focus and attention span.

**Dr Deepika**

Mother of Abhijishya, Class Pre-Primary  
BBPS Solan



Here are some activities we can engage in at home and school. Yoga and meditation, which can help children to improve focus, memory, attention span, mental resilience, self-esteem, academic performance and classroom behaviour. It will also help them in recognising how they are feeling and in communicating their feelings. Coding is another activity that should be introduced to them through age-appropriate coding platforms and tools, allowing them to explore coding concepts and create their own simple programmes or interactive projects. Outdoor exploration should be encouraged, providing children with opportunities to observe and interact with the environment. They can then document their observations through drawings, photographs, or journals.

**Nalin Garg**

Father of Paavni, Class Mont. II  
BBPS Nabinagar

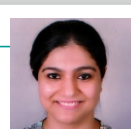


Encouraging creativity and innovation in children is essential for their overall development. Here are some activities which could help in fostering these qualities:

- Random and free mind-art projects: We can give children various art items and ask them to experiment, create their own designs, and express themselves freely through art.
- Role-playing and storytelling: They can be given props, costumes, and toys that allow them to create their own narratives. This would help in developing their creativity, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities. Also, role play/ skit workshops can be organised for children.
- Field trips and community engagement: Outings to nearby areas, villages, temples could be organised, exposing children to lifestyles of people leading lives that are different from their own.

**Mansi Nanda Jain**

Mother of Ruhaan, Class V  
BBPS Pitampura



I believe that podcasts can be used in the classroom as well as at home to increase children's engagement and build their listening skills. Teaching kids to listen to podcasts from a young age will not only give them countless hours of entertainment (without screen) but will also steer their imagination, curiosity, knowledge and develop communication skills. It will help to develop reflective thinking, which can be assessed through comprehension questions (in the form of formal or informal discussions/ write-ups/ journaling etc.). Who knows, once the kids start appreciating good podcasts like Brains On, Big Life Journal, Wow in the World etc., they might want to start one of their own.

**Vinika & Ravikant Tulshyan**

Parents of Kashvi, Class IV  
BBPS Sipat



- 1.Reduce ready-made inputs: When children get things easy, they stop thinking, even to find a simple solution, they search on Google.
- 2.Interact with surroundings: Interacting with other people and nature leads to exploration and discovery, which can be quite motivating.
- 3.Avoid being judgmental: Labelling children as creative/ uncreative, smart/ dull is counter-productive. Instead, we should encourage them for their unique qualities.
- 4.Encourage self-expression: By enabling children to showcase their art and craft, cook a dish, decorate the drawing room, make a bouquet, describe their dream profession, speak extempore about stories, games, travel plans.
- 5.Provide small rewards and feedback: Creativity can be ignited with words of praise and feedback instead of always correcting them.

**Chudamani and Ramakrishna**

Parents of Hari Kruthi, Class VII  
BBPS Khargone



AT HOME:

Even though the solutions may not be optimum, we should encourage children to solve some of their problems on their own, giving them time and general guidance. Letting them fail sometimes and learning from their failures is important. Providing them books related to riddles, puzzling stories can promote out of box thinking. Engaging children in daily chores and manual activities like gardening will keep them rooted in real life.

AT SCHOOL:

There should be fixed slots in timetables where teaching is imparted informally. Such teaching will trigger fresh thoughts, spur creativity and innovation, allowing children to express themselves without being judged. Sometimes, they could be encouraged to present their unpolished work, which may not necessarily be the best version. One-to-one mentoring could be provided to children to identify and hone their talent and interests.

NEXT TOPIC  
for SEPTEMBER  
2023

How can the school and parents work together to promote mental health and self-care among students?

Share with us your frank views about the topic. There is no correct or incorrect answer. All responses will help us in making the journey of our students more productive and joyful.