



Lake Art by Aparajita, 7 years old

## CREATIVE : A SCHOOL HOME

To educate ourselves and our children has a greater significance - to be able to draw out from within ourselves the knowing already present.

Jayashree Ashok

*Creative* is a new holistic school for children, parents and teachers located in North Bangalore. Our vision is to inspire and encourage children to become abundant and conscious creators of their own lives – each following their own unique path, empowered by their soul. True education empowers us to live our lives fully by bringing in awareness of all aspects of our life. It helps us develop the ability to handle all our many needs – spiritual, material, and emotional. It makes us aware of all aspects of our being while helping us navigate successfully in this physical and material world.

Spirituality is the core of education that can empower our every day lives – helping us to overcome barriers within ourselves in life's overall journey. *Creative* provides a space for holistic education with a strong soul based foundation. Our programs have been developed under the loving guidance of Dr Newton Kondaveti. *Creative* is also deeply inspired by the educational philosophy of the masters Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, Rudolph Steiner and Maria Montessori.



Education comes from the Latin word, “educare”, which means “to draw out”. The true meaning is to draw out what is already there inside. Not just dump content into a child! To educate ourselves and our children has a greater significance - to be able to draw out from within ourselves the knowing already present. This requires very conscious and sensitive parenting and teaching - spiritual teaching and parenting. To truly attempt this, we adults need to unlearn the old ways and begin anew! Healing oneself is the core of this unlearning and relearning. Without healing, it becomes difficult to practically implement these principles on a daily basis while parenting or educating our children. Through healing, we become aware of our own inner barriers, transform them and then function effortlessly.

Keeping this in mind, Creative is as much of an educational space for teachers and parents as it is for children. Children learn best through personal example from the adults in their lives. It is extremely important for teachers and parents to be conscious role models for their children. Under Dr Newton’s guidance, processes have been created for such a conscious transformation for adults and children. Pragma – Living Wisdom Centre the heart of Creative is open to families and teachers for their own healing, learning and inner growth.

### Unconditional Love is the Foundation

The foundation of our school is unconditional love. Before any lessons begin, the teacher makes an attempt to harmonize the heart connection between the children and himself/herself. When this flow exists in the classroom, learning automatically happens easily.

A teacher’s inner journey greatly affects the class flow. Most of our teachers are consciously growing

themselves spiritually through workshops and sessions. The teachers reflect on their own inner reactions towards children. We have regular time set up in the school time table for teachers to support each other with this. They go within themselves to release natural frustrations and unblock themselves. To ensure that the challenges they face in the teaching learning process does not shut off their heart connection with the child. We are co-creating a space of non-judgment, understanding and increasing awareness. Sufficient time is set aside for our own personal nourishment. Teacher “self” work and reflection happens as part of the curriculum in the school.

### Classroom Learning Approaches

Traditionally, most schooling has been achieved through accumulation of facts. Often schools just dump information into a child and in the process kill the wisdom that already exists! Rarely is the child’s inherent wisdom and capability acknowledged. It is vitally important for learning to switch from being fact oriented to creative and exploratory processes that completely engage the child. Learning must be hands on and accommodate various learning styles enabling every child to develop to her innate and fullest







potential. Child centered learning, which involves the child in the entire process of learning, is absorbing and effective. It draws out creativity. In such an environment, a child's natural talents begin to emerge.

Creative's classroom pedagogy and practices are guided by the educational philosophy of the masters Dr Newton Kondaveti, Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, Rudolph Steiner and Maria Montessori. Our learning methods are very joyful and hands on and have been learnt from various sources in India and abroad. Our teachers teach what they themselves are passionate about – this passion carries through to the child. We have created a curriculum that is age appropriate for the child rather than just content oriented. Age appropriate needs of the child are always kept in mind while designing our curriculum. We have a well rounded curriculum with activities that develop a healthy sense of physical fitness with sports and other activities. Arts, Crafts, Music, Gardening and Theatre are integral to our school.

Even many of the traditional subjects are explored through a joyful and expansive process that greatly contributes to the overall development of the child and all involved. We are able to retain a child's natural curiosity and interest. We emphasize inter-connected learning that is project based. One can utilize the arts to learn even Science and Mathematics. Mathematics and Science are explored as something that exists in nature - dynamic, subjective, creative, and natural. Children are encouraged to experience the beauty of languages by reading, writing, and sharing their understandings, feelings and work. Social Studies is approached in a manner exploring various perspectives in History, Civics and Geography. We make a conscious attempt to integrate the learning from India's vast and rich heritage through storytelling, field trips and learning activities.

Our children are encouraged to take responsibility of their own learning. They do an amazing job of it! They actively engage in the class. A teacher acts as a facilitator rather than a dictator in our class. Children's interests, imagination, and performance influence the direction of pursuit. We strive for a balance between choice time and mandatory lesson time for the students. Lessons are designed





“In every department of life – one needs the right set of tools. An astronomer needs a well maintained telescope; a farmer needs the right tools for farming, a carpenter the right type of materials and instruments. And yet, so little attention is spent on recognizing the human body and mind as the right tools for living and learning! Can we simply pump in subject skills into a body and mind that is unprepared?”

J. Donald Waters “Education for Life”

### School as a Community – as a home

One of the striking aspects of our school is the sense of community. The whole environment is like a home – a large family. Many of our teachers are also parents. So the children have a sense of continuation between home and school. The school itself is a *sangha* of children and adults – staff, teachers and parents. We work together to evolve and grow. We really support each other in covering for daily needs and spiritual growth. Community involvement and connections are emphasized. This environment has truly helped children – especially young children adjust easily. School is not seen as a large intimidating space but as a comfortable space to explore. Our children are growing leaps and bounds in confidence! ◆

by the teacher keeping the child’s aptitude and learning levels in mind.

Spiritual Sciences are explored through storytelling and activities that is child friendly. Simple meditations through nature and arts are practiced. Affirmations, gratitude practice and intention setting are part of all classes. Depending upon the age of the child they are encouraged to be aware of their feelings and body sensations. We have various awareness exercises where the children reflect on their own inner-answers. Our children are very honest and authentic. They communicate honestly to each other and to the teachers. Sometimes too honestly! They are truly fearless. This free expression helps the child unburden any inner conflict and experience unconditional acceptance from adults. The whole atmosphere in the school is very open. The children journal their feelings and anything they want on a daily basis.

