

The Three Musketeers in Anuradha Ma'am's class

This is a story about three grade 1 students at DPS who attend *Patang* class and about how they have grown both academically and behaviourally, over the past year.



This is Manav, a cute fun loving boy in Grade 1. When *Patang* started, it was impossible to keep him sitting in one place. He was completely disinterested in what was being taught and was a challenging student. Anuradha ma'am, his grade 1 teacher claimed that he had an extremely short attention span, which was the reason for his distracted nature and lack of interest.

A team member, who substituted in the class once said,

“Manav would just not sit in one place. As soon as I started teaching, he jumped out of the classroom window! I didn't know what to do!” –
Unnattee

Over the year, Anuradha ma'am realized that Manav is a very bright boy and works well with positive reinforcement. She started appreciating him for small things such as, sitting in his place and listening to the teacher, completing all of his work, and finishing his lunch on time. This helped develop a relationship of love and trust between Anuradha ma'am and Manav. Over the year, Manav has shown immense growth in academics. His school teachers feel the same.

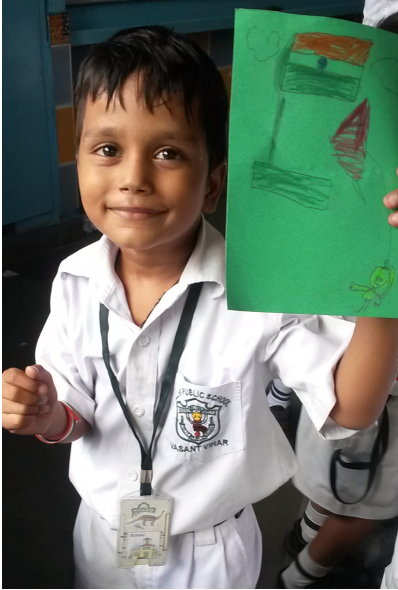
This is Devika, a quiet shy girl in Grade 1 at DPS. She is strong in Maths, however she struggled with English. Due to this, initially she was hesitant and never tried to answer questions in class. Another reason for her quiet nature was the fact that she was always compared to her best friend, Ritika, who generally performed well in English.

Anuradha ma'am realized this, and, in personal conversations with Devika, made her understand that she should only compete with herself. Instead of giving Devika ten new words to learn, Anuradha ma'am would make her learn three words. This really helped build Devika's confidence.

Now, Devika tries to answer questions in class and she has also started writing simple sentences in English. She exemplifies a child who needed some individual attention from the teacher to achieve her potential.



Meet Shubham, one of the most energetic children in Anuradha ma'am's class. Whenever you walk into the class, you will see him either sliding on the floor or jumping on a chair. At the beginning of the year, he was academically weak and behaviourally a teacher's "nightmare".



Anuradha ma'am realized that the only way to make Shubham listen to her was to build a relationship with him and keep him busy all the time.

"I gave Shubham a lot of practice work to do. This helped him revise what was going on and also helped keep him busy." Anuradha Ma'am

She also realized, through individual conversations with Shubham, that another reason for him "acting out," was the fact that his elder brother (17 years old) hit him at home. This was a big problem and needed immediate attention. With the help of Manyata, the Community Engagement Associate, she explained to Shubham's brother and mother that violence at home was causing more harm than good. It took many conversations with the mother to make her realize that she needed to make sure her elder son would not use violence as means for obedience.

Now Shubham is one of the most invested students in the class. While he still loves to run around and jump on chairs, his work is always complete and his academic growth is commendable.

The stories of these three students are proof that each and every child has tremendous potential. All we need to do is realize that and guide our students to realize it as well.