

## Hyderabad Prarthana Class Overnight trip to Deccan Trails

- Reported by Vinati Udiyavar

Hyderabad Prarthana children had a unique class on the last weekend of January 2010. The children along with their parents and teacher, took a trip to Deccan Trails, a nature resort about 80 kms from the city.

The participants left for the resort on the 30<sup>th</sup> evening and had an interesting journey. The kids enjoyed being outdoors and were enthralled by the greenery all around them. Kids were told about the different trees that they saw on the way. We took a break for tea where kids enjoyed swinging on the Banayan tree, which indeed was fun as kids in the city are usually used to a plastic swing.



Hyderabad Prarthana Children  
with parents and teacher

On reaching the resort, everyone had a snack and then tried out some of the activities like tyre swings and cycling. Dinner was a simple fare which was served around a bonfire. In anticipation of a tiring day ahead, everyone decided to sleep early, but the kids had fun flitting in and out of each others tents.



Prarthana children ready for the trek

The next morning everyone was up early and we set off for a **trek in the nearby forest** with our guide. During the trek we saw various kinds of trees, flowers, fruits and other interesting flora. We also saw some interesting birds in their nests and also caught sight of some spotted-deer.

After breakfast, everyone tried out some form of adventure sport like **Burma Bridge** and swinging steps. Kids thoroughly enjoyed watching their parents and teacher doing adventure on the ropes.

Thanks to Nagarkatti Smitapachchi of Prarthana -Santacruz Sabha who had suggested some games to be played taking the advantage of natural surroundings. The theme for the day was **Care for mother Nature.**



Crossing the Burma bridge

The first activity was **Nature bank**, where in the children had to collect anything connected to nature in paper bags which were specially made by one of the parents. An important part of the game was not to harm the plants and trees, but collect whatever they found lying around (leaves, flowers, feathers, etc). The kids were paired with the parent other than their own. The kids were excited to see each other's collection which included the **nest, peacock feathers, various flowers, bark of a tree etc.** After the game, children climbed the wall with the help of a harness and when they reached the top, they could see beautiful scenery. This was followed by a memory game where objects made out of natural things like jute, coconut husk etc along with few of the objects collected during the nature walk were kept. Then it was time for lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. After lunch, we had a discussion on what the kids had learnt from these surroundings and nature in general. Lastly, the children were told to make a **collage** with the objects they had gathered and bring it to the next class. After these activities, everyone present tried their hand at rappelling.



*Collage Activity*



*Creativity at its best!*

This was followed by tea and snacks, after which we headed home a tired but happy lot with a promise to come back again to be amidst nature.

