

CHIRADDIKULAM THEATRE WORKSHOP III: July 28, 2012

Location: Chiraddikulam Community Centre

Key Contact: Major Lalith Edirisinghe

Age group: 9-11

7 girls

Thibadharshini, Vanoja, Thihalnila, Loheswari, Yalini, Nirmala, Pavithra

8 boys

Sarmeehan, Thushyanthan, Thihalvannan, Kumanadas, Sadhurjan, Vinodh, Mayuran

Programme:

Outdoor game: Ball Relay

Drama/improvisation game: Name Pose

Reading out good essay: Thushyanthan

Writing Exercise: Write about a time you felt happy/sad/angry/etc

Outdoor game: Ball Relay

This session, I introduced the relay race I taught at Kakkaiyankulam. Even though the children are sometimes confused by clockwise/anticlockwise movement, they appeared to enjoy the game very much. They pass the ball quite slowly, however!

We moved indoors to play the name pose game – say your name and create a small action. The next person repeats the previous person's action and then creates a new one of their own. The children couldn't think of any freestyle movement – they tended to “dance”, that is make a movement from Bharatha Natyam. Because the point of the game (spontaneity) was being lost, I paused the game to get the children to engage in some freestyle movement. After seeing me make some ridiculous movements, they began to unbend. Thibadharshini thinks of good movements when she thinks I am not watching, but becomes incredibly shy when asked to show them to the group. We then resumed the game, which, while more successful, worked less successfully than the freestyle session.

Most children found it difficult to write a story – but Thushyanthan was the most successful, relating an incident when his father had banned him from going to school, his mother had asked him to go anyway, and his fear when a ‘sir’ stood outside to reprimand him. His story was read out and he was given a sticker-sheet as an incentive to keep writing well.

The children were asked to repeat the exercise, and the translator (Irfadha, a friend of mine from Colombo who also translated the previous week's essays) told me that they seemed to be handling the exercise much better this week, adding more detail to their writing. They certainly produced more writing at the end of the workshop!

The children wanted to play the relay game again, so we ended the session with more outdoor activity, before ending with Irfadha giving out some small chocolates and jellies from her uncle.

See pg 2 for photos



Group photo with the kids and Irfadha (translator)



Writing exercises