

Summer Zoo at Sundarvan



Reptile session at the zoo

Sundarvan organizes month long summer special activities to rekindle the connection with nature and engage children with wildlife. The nature appreciation events were arranged for children of 4-15 years in the month of May. Two batches of “Mom and Me Exploring the Zoo” for the toddlers age 4-7 years were scheduled on Sundays. The programme was designed to be participated by a parent and the child, so there will be comfort zone for the participants to open up. Apart from that, the duo can spend some quality time exploring, learning and making memories at the zoo. The programme was planned for three hours with icebreaker, nature trail and art activity session. The ice breaker activity was “Tingle your Senses” where children would use their perceptive senses to identify few objects. Children were blindfolded to guess the name of the substance by smelling, tasting or touching. The nature trail at Sundarvan is most popular among children, who interact closely with range of domestic birds and feed them. The art sessions bring out the colour for the day. Guardians team up with their toddler pasting their handprints on the canvas bags provided for them. To customize it uniquely, one of the handprint is of the parent’s and another is of the child.

Two batches of “Zoo Keeper for a Day”, a programme for 10-15 years were arranged. This programme included an entire day filled with learning and fun. Along with close interaction of animals, the participants cleaned cages, chopped vegetables as well as fed birds and animals, such as geese, ducks, bantam hens, turkeys, guinea pigs, tortoises and more. They closely observed birds and animals such as cockatiel, love birds, hedgehog, rat

snakes etc., while they were being fed by the zoo keepers. Participants got a chance to interview animal keepers of Sundarvan who have more than 30 years of experience in handling and caring for animals. A presentation on zoos introduced students to history of zoos, who is who in a zoo – different staff and their role, basics of zoo management, etc. An art and science related hands-on activity of creating animal footprint casts using ‘Plaster of Paris’ was also taught during the workshop.



The activity of tingle your senses

The curious young zoo keepers asked number of questions and shown complete involvement in all the activities.

The Young Naturalist- 4 days of fun with one overnight stay at the zoo was arranged for the age group 8-12 years. Two batches of the programme were carried out in the month of May which involved understanding of animal groups such as reptiles, birds and mammals.



Mom and me celebrating a day at the zoo

Touch table materials consisting of different artefacts were used to enhance the learning. A session on trees was also carried out involving activity of “Touch-Smell-Taste” where the participants were told to feel, smell and taste different parts of a tree to identify them. Two art activities were carried out, where the participants made a funny tortoise and painting animal footprints/leaves on t-shirts. During the night stay the children observed nocturnal activity of various animals at

the zoo and maintained a checklist of spiders. To reminisce the old days and properly mark the end of a night stay at a reptile dominated zoo, “Jurassic Park” was screened at the open air theatre. The thrill continued with the morning bird watching session, the young birders spotted and identified the birds at the zoo campus. Through such exposure, the children develop a strong bond on this green space and its biodiversity.

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