

Celebrating Nature at Sundarvan



Understanding Echolocation through games

Sundarvan organised a two hour programme for children aged 4-7 years along with their parents on 10 March 2018, “Mom and Me exploring the Zoo”. The activity concentrated on offering exposure to the young children to their backyard wildlife and experiential learning exposure using different senses such as touch, smell and taste. Every kid had a parent accompanying which help them open up and learn in their comfort zone. Moreover, the parent could spend some quality time with their kids exploring the zoo. The participants were welcomed with an icebreaker activity “Tingle your Senses” letting them to use their perceptive senses. Sensory activities help children to organise, connect with the surrounding and in many cases it is calming and engaging for their active mind. Children were blindfolded to guess the name of the substance by smelling, tasting or touching. The activity was thoroughly enjoyed by children as well as the parents.

The group was taken for a guided zoo trail where the ducks and the geese were fed healthy portion of greens. Facts and information on the birds was shared. The animal interaction with the guinea pig and rabbits was encouraged, as the contact experience with animals is proved to bring positive attitude towards animals. A programme can never be complete without colours and canvas! The art activity was designed to pour out the emotions in a child’s mind. Each participant was provided with a canvas bag where they could put handprints of the colours they want. The parents assisted in scribbling

their name on individual bags which later they took back as a memento. The session came to an end with certificate distribution and a photo session.

A Bat Awareness Programme was organised on 16th February for wildlife enthusiasts. The programme was to spark an interest about importance of lesser charismatic animals and their role. Around 35 participants - children, adults and teens took part in the bat show. The session covered an interactive ice breaker where the Sundarvan Team briefed about the exceptionality of the bats - the only flying mammals. A collective game was played to help children understand the basic idea of echolocation. The enthusiast participants experience in wonder the natural roost sites at Sundarvan and observed with wide open eyes bats feeding on ripe banana. The interactive presentation and informative video kept the attention of the audience intact.



Participants enjoying art activity

Green Birthday was celebrated during February-March at the Zoo four times. Children of age 4-8 years celebrated their special day amidst the green jungle with animals. Activities like age old puppetry, thumbprinting on hand-made cards, face painting were arranged for the children. Snake awareness, guided trail and feeding of ducks and geese were offered as a part of the birthday programme. Children bid good bye with a happy face and content heart.

Submitted by S. Sivakumar, Park Manager, Saymanti Bandyopadhyay, Education Officer, Meena Nareshwar, Senior Programme Co-ordinator, CEE. Email: s.sivakumar@ceeindia.org