

E-BLOCKS – THE INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

SUCH IS THE RESONANCE CREATED BY E-BLOCKS. THE CHANGE IN INDIA'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE HAS INTENSIFIED THE NEED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. THIS IS DUE TO PEOPLE'S INCREASING AWARENESS OF EDUCATION AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE WISH TO ADD A TOUCH OF QUALITY TO A PRIMARY EDUCATION THAT IS SANS CREATIVITY.

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Creativity and meaning in education are brought about by Integrated Communications Technology (ICT), and renewed focus on long-term learning rather than rote (memorisation by repetition).

The E-Blocks learning software is based on the multi-sensory approach to English Learning and thus addresses various concerns in education. The entire system of education depends on language acquisition, since language runs through all disciplines as a medium of instruction. When this edifice of language was on shaky ground with emphasis on rote, or with stilted focus on writing by disrupting the linearity of listening, speaking, reading and writing (LSRW), the results were there for all to see. Fragmented learning and poor retention led to lethargy towards education in the minds of both teachers and students. This fragmentation also led to a yawning gap between learning and earning. But E-Blocks bridges this gap. It has helped to build

children's knowledge, skills and attitude and has exposed them to the infinite power of education using a bottom-up approach. Covering areas that are often missed in the overall scope of schooling, it has proved to be the most effective language learning tool.

Of all those to have benefited from the programme, the parents are the happiest. Megha Kamtikar explains, "My four-and-a-half-year-old daughter was not aware of phonics. While working on E-Blocks, she has picked up most of the sounds, and, to my surprise, has started reading three-letter words. I wasn't too sure if kids of this age would be able to understand how to apply logic when it comes to reading. This method of linking the sounds while speaking words really works. I am impressed by the way things are taught."

The opinion of one parent becomes the voice of parents across India, where E-Blocks is promoted through schools and learning centres called "The EB Clubs".

The children are made aware of the acoustics of sound through phonemes. Thus the ear leads the eye. Their language skills are sharpened through phoneme isolation, identification, categorisation, blending, addition, deletion, segmentation, and substitution. Well, it extends beyond this... to build reading comprehension through the harmonisation of vocabulary acquisition. Like cooked spaghetti, the children learn the language in chunks through context so that linguistic content is presented in an exciting way. Thus, language precedes and a cross-disciplinary approach follows. At advanced levels, particular stress is laid on building speaking and creative writing skills.

Comfort with language also translates into increased visibility in rhetorical platforms. Gurvansh's mother

noted that her child has become more confident and often wins prizes in reading, storytelling and recitation. Prabhnoor, a student, says, "I love to read anything and everything that comes my way. I am no longer shy about reading and speaking."

The ripple effect continues to those who are at the helm of affairs. Vandana Shahi, head teacher at the BCM Senior Secondary School in Ludhiana, says, "I value E-Blocks as the most effective English language



I HEAR AND I FORGET, I SEE AND
I REMEMBER, I DO AND I UNDERSTAND.



learning solution - it has helped children improve their linguistic skills tremendously. It has done wonders with young minds, enabling them to emerge as confident individuals who are well-equipped for success."

For children, The EB Clubs' activities build a corridor to communication skills, a readiness to read, as well as writing skills, personality development, and participation in various activities.

Their passion is also echoed in the people who run the centres. Gurpreet Kaur, head of The EB Club in Delhi, says: "It has been just one month since Ishpreet started coming to The EB Club. He is three and a half years old, and is undergoing speech therapy. His parents have been really worried, as he was not able to speak. But working on E-Blocks has helped him enormously. He has started speaking words and can recognise almost all the letters and their sounds."

With its link between classroom space and mind space, it adds colour to life by shifting the focus to crayons and making it stay ... there ...

<http://www.eblocks.net>



■ BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FUTURE