

# Summer Holidays Activities for Children – 2018-19

## **Entertainment Orientated Activities**



**As you grow older, you learn a few things. One of them is to actually take the time you've allotted for vacation - John Battelle**

**Introduction:**

We have a few children who have no place to go except our orphanage. They spent every single day with us. While many children have some relation outside our orphanages some of them don't have one. So we assemble such children from all the orphanages and have some special programs for them during every summer holidays. Likewise we had some special program for them this year as well. We are indeed so pleased to give you a short report on the programs children had during this summer.

**Visit to Madurai:**

We had this special event on 24.04.2019. The children started their journey at 3:00 PM. We travelled in a van. It is always awesome to be in the company of these children and especially on holidays. They really had good time in the van as they were singing and dancing for songs played in the music player. On reaching Madurai we all visited museum where we witnessed beautiful statues and many rare things. We all had taken a group photo.

Next we went to Thamukkam ground and there were many things and it is huge place. Our Bro. I. Sebastian had given Rs. 200 younger kids and Rs. 300 for grown up children to purchase things for themselves. The children had joyfully spent time on their own to purchase things and were very much delighted. Then Bro. Joseph, Ms. Joseline and Ms. Devi Bala had brought us delicious dessert called Jigarthanda. It was indeed very tasty and we enjoyed it a lot. The trip indeed was memorable and returned to our hostel about 7:00 PM in the evening.



**Change in place and atmosphere:**

The children from Pudhu Punal hostel left to Pudhu Irudhayam in three batches. Mrs. Annakamu and 16 senior girls left on 09.05.2019. On the following day Ms. Joseline accompanied 10 children to Pudhu Irudhayam. The last batch travelled on 11.09.2019 and in this group 23 children were taken and Ms. Devi Bala and Ms. Thareni took care of them.

### **Gardening:**

This practice was meant only for the senior girls. The children who already reached Pudhu Irudhayam had started their gardening work on 10.05.2019. They get up at 06:00 AM and refresh themselves. They collect their tools needed for their respective work and start their journey towards the farm at 06:30 AM in a mini bus. On reaching the place they divide themselves in groups of six persons and start their work. They vigorously work from 6:45 AM to 09:00 AM. Then they relax for half an hour as they are given tea/coffee, snacks (Vadai) and other refreshing items. Then they continue their work from 09:30 AM to 11:00 AM. They commit themselves completely during their work and the supervisor was indeed impressed by the hard work of our girls. They start their journey back to Pudhu Irudhayam at 11:00 AM.

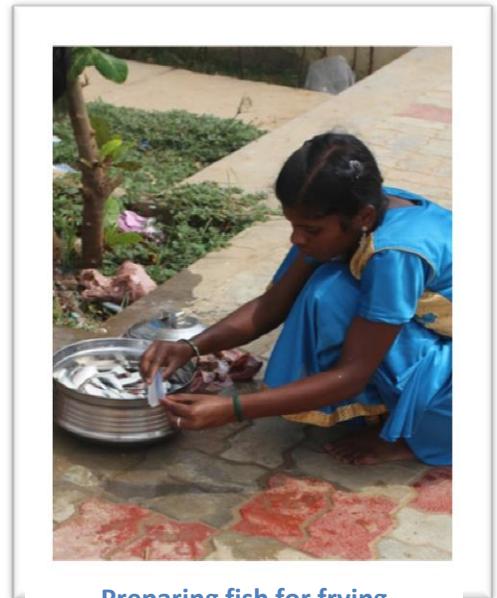


**Distributing new dress for children**

The girls indeed feel happy about this practice. Holidays does not mean only merry making, being lazy and wasting time. They are so happy that they spend their time usefully. They realized how good it is to get the sun shine in the morning which produces vitamin D in our body. When we work the sweat we get is the symbol that our blood is purified. As we start the day with such work the rest of the looks very smooth and fine. The senior girls had this work from 10.05.2019 to 19.05.2019 and in between they had some outings as well.

### **Purchase at Mayiladuthurai:**

The children on 11.05.2019 had gone to Mayiladuthurai for purchase. They started their trip in the morning in a van. While they traveled beautiful music was played which had helped the children to enjoy and dance. They indeed had enjoyed the trip. At the very outset they entered ARRS shop where they can get dresses. As usual the children let free to choose the dress they like most and fit them correctly. As a token of welcoming the children were given tea and biscuits and it was good gesture on the side of the shop owner. Once completing their purchase they came out and started their buying things like slippers, bangles, studs, ribbon and other needed things for the forthcoming academic year. The children were on their own during this purchase and they all gathered in at prescribed



**Preparing fish for frying**

time and place. Meanwhile Ms. Joseline had purchased some snacks for the children and had distributed them in the van. They reached Pudhu Irudhayam at 03:00 PM.

### **Visit to Velankanni Basilica:**

Yet again during this summer we visited Our Lady of Good Health Basilica, Velankanni. We had this trip on 12.05.2019, Sunday. We got up from bed by 04:00 AM and started preparing ourselves for the trip. We started our journey by singing hymns in honor of Mother Mary. On reaching there we prayed in the church in silence. We also visited the church where Mother Mary had given apparition to the lame boy who was selling butter milk. Then we drank Holy Water and felt blessed to be there. We enjoyed our delicious breakfast in the campus of Morning Star Church. We prepared Idly and Chutney for our breakfast. Once they finished their breakfast four college going girls Jeyamary, Pavithra, Dhivaya Bharathi and Priyadharshini were given in charge to lead the children in groups to different places there and enjoy the trip. Each group followed their own program to visit different places and finally everyone met in the beach for their enjoyment.

Meanwhile Ms. Devibala, Kaveri, Kavitha, Pandeewari, Noorjahan and Vijayakumari had prepared lunch for us. Once the children returned from the beach all of us went to take part in the Eucharistic celebration. Participating in the Holy Mass was very much soothing to our hearts and gave us all serene minds. After the Mass we all enjoyed delicious lunch prepared with love and concern.

### **Birthday Celebration of Ms. Devibala:**

It was 40<sup>th</sup> birthday for Ms. Devibala. Indeed we were all glad and delighted to celebrate her birthday in Velankanni Shrine as it is a holy place. This place brings abundance of blessings from our Holy Mother. Along with Ms. Devibala Arul and Nanthini also celebrated their birthdays. The children conducted a small yet meaningful prayer for three of them. Then three of them cut the cake while we were singing birthday song. We were all given sweets as part of celebration and brother felicitated Ms. Devibala with his words.



**Time to celebrate the life given**

### **Fun at Tranquebar Beach:**

This is another summer program we had to make ourselves happy and rejuvenated. On 16.05.2019 all of us got ready and journeyed to Tranquebar beach in a van. We started our fun by dipping our toes in the water but the excitement could not stop us and eventually we jumped in the sea and enjoyed. The happiness we received from this experience is so big that the time had passed swiftly. The in charge persons had to struggle a lot

get us out of the water. Then we all surrounded a ice cream van. Our beloved brother Dr. I. Sebastian bought us all ice creams. With lots of joy and delight in our hearts we returned to Pudhu Irudhayam.

### **Temple Festival:**

There is a temple for God Murugan at the vicinity of our Pudhu Irudhayam orphanage. On 18.05.2019 there was festival in that temple. So brother let us go and attend the celebration. It was “Fire Walking” ceremony held on that day. The senior girls are assigned to take care of younger children. Each group leader has guided their respective children with utmost care and at the same time we all enjoyed. The festival was organized in grand manner and many devotees took part in this fire walking ritual. Devotees do this as their intentions are fulfilled or they have some requests for God to fulfill. Brother had given us all some money to get some snacks. We used it and had wonderful time in there. This event of leading youngsters had given the senior girls confidence to lead a group and to understand their needs better.



**Learning music**

### **Music Class:**

It has been three years since the inception of music class for our children during the summer holidays. The children feel blessed to have this rare opportunity. Even the children who have parents do not have such a wonderful chance. Our children also are very much interested and attentive to take part in this class. We see the drastic change and progress they exhibit. It was indeed difficult for them in the beginning to get used to the music and notes but as days passed by they grabbed it easily. Now they are able to play songs in churches for Holy Eucharistic celebration. They are all appreciated by religious

sisters and fathers for their excellent support of playing music and enhancing the choir in their churches. This definitely creates an atmosphere to pray better. The children also play songs for other celebrations as well. All this success has become possible precisely because of the chances we received which were given by our beloved brother Dr. I. Sebastian.

### **Conclusion:**

We are very much delighted to present you the report of the activities held for the children

during this summer vacation. We could support these children and mold them perfectly only because of your loving and benevolent help. It is you who are behind in all the development that takes place in these children. We take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your extraordinary help. Your role in their wellbeing is enormous. Thus it is fitting that you get updated about the events that are carried out here. We hope to meet you through another report soon.



**Girls with new dress purchased**