

Activity-Birds' Talk

“We fly”.... Game show

(Listening and Recognition of names of birds) As the poem was about birds, we will play the popular game “kokku para para....kozhi para para, in English. The activity required that when I called out the name of a bird, for instance, crow/crane, children had to respond by flapping their hands, as an indication of their association of the bird with its movement. As they did this, they were required to say, “Crows fly fly, Cranes fly fly”. With the names of other animals or things, they had to stand still. Through this, I assessed their listening skills and prior knowledge, i.e. their ability to recognize the names of birds. I gradually increased the speed of the game to add to the fun and vigor. Children who were otherwise passive, participated in the activity with interest

I observed that four children who were new comers could not differentiate between the flying creatures from animals. To address this, I showed them picture cards along with the names of the birds. This helped them understand and they participated in the game. As a token of appreciation, the two winners were applauded with a “bird clap” (i.e.) clapping and miming the sounds of birds by others.