

**Sakthi foundation**  
**Uni5 education – Navarathry festival report – 2014**  
**Namma Veedu Uni5 Infancy Day Care Center – Theethipalayam – Coimbatore**

Along with traditional dolls, we have planned for a Uni5 setup in Golu. So we took "Earth" as the concept and made a vast arrangements with all landscape patterns. This is linking the children with the concepts. We have followed more pattern based dolls.

Teachers assisted each other and they came even at evening for performing poojas and sacred food. Very small children asked various questions and observed the Golu setting with calmness.

Children gave much importance of observation when we installed Kalasam and asked several questions and said that Ganga is inside that. They have developed a good patience and relishing attitude.

Few dolls based on occupations were placed and there were several talks around those dolls.

Around 10 children were just totally involved only in Golu. They do not want to work with any tools. They also said that they wish to watch our Golu work. These children observed the whole ritual patterns.

Children liked the new idol of Devi and involved in decoration. Few children said that Devi wears the saree similar to their mothers. One child asked why Durga likes red color. Every ornament was observed while getting fixed with the idol.

Parents were also much interested in seeing the new idol of Devi with the manifestation of Durga, Laxmi and Saraswathy. The idol is being named as "Mookambikai" and she will be the grounding corner.

Few mothers visited school regularly to see the idol decoration. They also ask many questions about color coding of costumes, flowers and Prasad.

**Many said that they can understand a great meaning behind this navarathry only through this Uni5 center.**

Children were also aware about the turn of each teacher in decoration and pooja and informed their parents.

A child brought a Krishna doll and placed and took back that. Children brought many flowers and gave to Devi.

Principal's father and mother – in – laws came to center, sang, and performed poojas.

Children sang many Golu songs.

Every day 30minutes was taken by us to explain about Golu in Uni5 pattern.

*"I am very happy that I got chance to touch and decorate the Devi idol, thanks to center" – Ms.Kavitha [child assistant]*

*"I enjoy this Golu along with my daughter in this Uni5 center. My child asks several questions*

*about each doll. I enjoy this opportunity in my life for celebrating Navarathry with a meaning.”*

– Ms.Raji [child assistant]

*“This is the first time I am seeing a Golu and I am happy. I can feel the importance of tradition and children are able to grasp the devotion and they do not have a fear for God. I enjoy decorating the Devi idols. I learned more mythology through this along with children.”* –

Ms.Induja Anand [Child assistant]

*“I thank the center for giving a great importance to this most important festival of the nation. I thanks for providing the Devi idol to us with all needs to perform the poojas. This culture and tradition is very important to our country children and as a mother I feel happy and great about this Uni5 center. I like the concepts of hot and cold deserts. I thank for making me to perform Linga Bairavi pooja in this center. I have learned many concepts about Navarathry. Color coding has made me to think a lot and I have understood that so called God is always within us. All teachers have accepted me and respect me as a senior staff and I have more gratitude of your staff. I also admire the clear cut concept about panchaboothas in Golu.”* –

Ms.Rajalaxmi [Child assistant and parent]

## Childrens’ attitude, questions about Navarathry

1. **Moorthy [13 year old special child]** observed the whole Golu days with calmness and he took part in each activity. He did not ask for his beloved animal models which have been placed in desert setting. One day he searched for prasadam and when he cannot find, he took peanuts from shop setting and ate. He stopped throwing sand upon children. He did not touch and disturb the dolls. He sat with teachers and involved in all rituals.
2. Darshan – 3.5 years old observed a weaver doll and spoken around it.
3. **“Who broke Nehru’s leg and where is his rose”** asked Darshini [3 years old]
4. **“He is Gandhi who got freedom for us”** – Raju [2.5 years]
5. **“See Krishna likes butter very much like me, it is very healthy”** – said Nivashini [3 years] to her friend. She observed the entire decoration of Devi idol. She likes to touch and see various jewels. She enjoys the texture of silk sarees.
6. Harshitha [3.5 years old] refused to work with tools and she says, **“today is Saraswathy’s birth day”** and she sings Golu songs at home also.
7. Mukundhan [3.5 years] immediately brought all animal models to set the desert. Why we have to give abishekam? [Sacred bath]. He also enquires much about all dolls. He likes dasavathram set and he has invited all his relatives. He narrated hare and turtle story with the doll model. He is very much keen about colors given to dolls. He likes Meenakshi very much and identifies that image anywhere.

**“Why Devi cannot wear Churidhar like you? She is also a girl like you?” asks Mukundhan.**

**“ Ho...Durga sits upon Lion and she makes all to come out of fear”** commented Mukundhan.

8. Anjanasree [3.25 years] called her mother to Golu and explained about it. She spoke clearly about dolls in each step. **Every day when her mother keeps lamp at home she chants and sings.[this is the natural way of children imbibing the culture and transforming into life pattern]**

**“Gandhiji only got us a flag and freedom”** says Anjana to her friends after seeing the doll.

9. **“Why dolls cannot be placed as regular materials?”** asked Anjana. She observed the occupation set carefully and asks several questions about various work.
10. Shivani [2.2months] named each food grain when they were placed in shop setting. She enjoyed the dressing pattern and jewelry style of Devi idol. She also named various flowers used for decoration. She screamed and clapped when each doll was taken out.
11. Haritha [3 years] spoke about many dolls to her father at home. She sang Golu dolls at home and helped us to keep Golu also. She is very particular about knowing dolls’ names. She asked much about shop keeper dolls.
12. Dakshana [2.75 years] observed our explanations very well. She asked why the potter uses a rod to make clay pot. She is much interested in using musical tray while performing pooja.
13. Preethika [3.5 years] asked why we celebrate Golu and gave her Krishna’s doll. She refused to work with tools. She assisted us in every ritual. She asked her mother to come and see the dressing style of Devi idol. She herself explained the Golu to her mother. She spoke around snow caped mountains setting.
14. Lakshana [3 years] explained herself about cold desert to her father. She also explained about water cycle. She counted all the trees. When we got glass bangles after Linga Bairavi pooja and she asked why we wear that. She asked why Durga looks fearsome in photos.
15. Anisha [3 years] named each object which were put inside kalasam and related to her. She asked more questions about shop setting. She enjoys the songs.
16. Tharunika and Thanishika - twins [3.5 years] refused to work with tools and assisted us in

each activity and her awareness is more. They like to wear real saffron as pottu.

17. **“This is Saraswathy Devi who makes us to study well”** says 3.5 years old Thanishika.
18. **Subashree [8 months old]** observed the colorful dolls and observed our actions. She was very keen in focusing with her eyes when we decorated the Saraswathy doll. She wanted to leave her free and she crawled and started exploring all objects placed for rituals. She was very calm when we performed the poojas. She was involved in each activity. She likes to listen a particular Golu song.
19. Very active children did not disturb the Golu and they just observed.
20. **A Christian child [Agnes] and her mother involved in Golu and said that they have not seen such a grand Golu anywhere. They took our sacred food also.**
21. Nithin [3.5 years old] observed idol decoration and touched many flowers and texture of sacrees and jewels. Very often he applies saffron at forehead but in previous years he refuses to apply.
22. **A hyper active child did not disturb any of the dolls and he maintained total calm and happy observation.**

With regards.,  
Dr.M.Madeswaran  
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