



# **Katha On Ratha**

*Creating Lifelong Learners*

# Our Vision

is “to instill, in children, the passion and confidence for reading & learning”

and

achieve this through a medium that is most desirable to children –  
stories & playful activities

developing skills in  
reading, comprehension, critical thinking,  
and creativity.

# Our Ratha

has rolled beyond boundaries to **6 districts**  
**in Tamil Nadu** and across the ocean to  
Malaysia,

joining hands with many like-minded  
partners and enabling a community of  
**150+ passionate Reading Coaches(RCs)**  
to achieve our vision.

We have touched **5000+ children** in **60+**  
**schools** and every day brings us face to  
face with new learning.



***Greetings friends  
and fellow travelers!!***



It has only been a year since the last  
**Rathotsav,**

but we are bursting with  
decades worth of stories to share with  
you all.

Many of you have been with us since the  
time of our inception,

but we have also made  
many more new friends along the way.

*We invite you all  
to walk along with our **Ratha,**  
taking inspiration from each **Katha**  
and strengthen us with your ideas and  
feedback.*



**2018 was a year of analysis,  
introspection, research,  
symbiosis, knowledge sharing  
and experimentation for us.**

*Understanding the needs of partnering schools*

*Close collaboration with RCs*

*Constant listening to feedback and ideas*

*Led to*

*Well structured assessment methodology*

*Design and development of effective learning aids*

*Accelerated progress in children's learning levels*



**We can't talk about our learning aids without thanking the volunteers who answered our call for content generation hackathons.**

*We are indeed fortunate to meet such passionate volunteers with diverse expertise who helped us design enjoyable KOR sessions.*

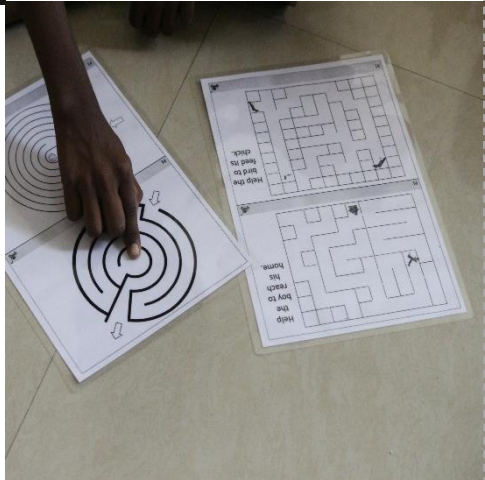


## Movable alphabet

*Children deeply engrossed in manipulating letters and sounds, an essential step in enabling children to read.*

## Maze

*Children being children can easily get lost. All they need is a gentle guiding hand to get back on track.*



## Play with symbols

*Symbols need not exist only in the realm of pen and paper. Symbols are all around us!*



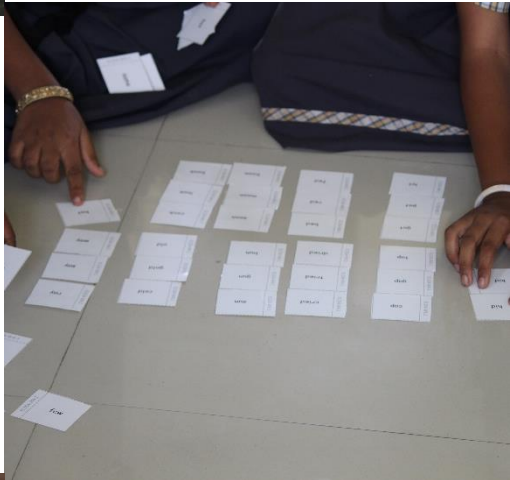


## Sky Bingo

*BINGO! Look how happy our children are learning while playing!*

## Word Families

*What do these words have in common?  
Children playing with sounds and letters and learning to read.*



## Hopscotch

*No need to write with pen on paper.  
You can also jump and form words.  
When learning meets an activity, everyone is happy!*



## Concept sort

*Our children love to sort, sometimes in their own way. Remember how we enjoyed playing name, place, animal, things when we were young?!*

## Storytelling

*Listening to stories brings out the child in us.*

*RCs can bring in the magic of bedtime into classrooms.*



## Skit

*Our KOR sessions are filled with lively characters bubbling with emotion. Bringing life to characters helps with the emotional growth of children.*



HIH

15+ Reading  
Coaches

250+ kids

Hand in hand (HIH), has been implementing KOR sessions in their Residential Special Training Centers since Aug 2016. With excellent improvement in student learning levels and an awesome commitment – 98 hours of learning sessions in just a year, KOR @ HIH is on a roll!



***KOR programme has given teachers like us an opportunity to integrate many creative methodologies which have helped in bringing interest among students. KOR helped in improving the learning levels of the students. The programme has paved way for more creativity.***

***--Mr. Adalarasan, Reading Coach, Poongavanam RSTC, HIH***

*The impression that teaching and learning have to be done only through blackboard has now changed. As a teacher, I am also motivated to use different methodologies and children are also showing interest in learning. This has overall enhanced the teaching-learning process.*

***...Mr. Soundar, Reading coach,  
Kaverirajapuram RSTC, HIH***

செல்வி (Actual name changed to protect the identity),  
அணைக்கட்டு உண்டு உறைவிட சிறப்பு பயிற்சி  
மையத்தில் மூன்றாம் வகுப்பு படிக்கும் மாணவி. செல்வி,  
மையத்தில் முதலில் சேர்ந்தபோது தமிழ் மற்றும் ஆங்கில  
மொழிகளில் எழுத்துக்களைச் சரியாக அடையாளம்  
காண இயலாத நிலையில் இருந்தாள்.

தற்போது, கதை ரதம் மூலமாகப் பாடல், கதை கூறுதல்,  
புதிய கதைகளை உருவாக்குதல், பொம்மலாட்டம்,  
ஓவியம், கதைகளில் வரும் கதாபாத்திரங்களாக  
நடித்துக் காட்டுதல், போன்ற அனைத்து  
செயல்பாடுகளிலும் சிறந்து விளங்குகிறாள்.

மேலும் கற்றல் திறனில் எழுத்துக் கூட்டிப் படிக்கும்  
நிலைக்கு உயர்ந்து இருக்கிறாள். கதை ரதம் மூலம் கல்வி  
நிலையில் நல்ல முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்துள்ளாள். இதற்கு  
உதவியாக இருந்த கதை ரதம் குழுவிற்கு நன்றியைத்  
தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம்.

.....Ms. Sevvandhi, Reading Coach,  
Anaicut RSTC, Hand in Hand



SODEWS

10+ Reading  
Coaches

200+ kids



Created to bridge the gap between urban and rural India in areas of education and healthcare, SODEWS has been a valuable Katha on Ratha partner since the beginning of 2018. The RCs of SODEWS are amazons who travel and conduct KOR sessions at multiple primary schools in the Vellore area, many being remote and inaccessible.

*முகுந்த் (Actual name changed to protect the identity), Panchayat Union*

*Primary School, Madavalam – இல் ஐந்தாம் வகுப்பு படிக்கும்*

*மாணவன். KOR நிகழ்ச்சியின் மூலமாக அவனுடைய கற்பனைத் திறனை மிகவும் பயனுடையதாக வளர்த்துக் கொண்டான்.*

*இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியின் மூலமாக அவனாகவே கதையை உருவாக்கும் அளவிற்கு அவனுடைய திறனை வளர்த்துக் கொண்டான். பிறகு எந்த ஒரு பாடத்தைப் படித்தாலும், அதிலிருந்து ஒரு கதையை உருவாக்கும் அளவிற்குத் தன் கற்பனைத் திறனை வளர்த்துக்கொண்டான்.*

*---R. Prithiya, Reading Coach, SODEWS*



Vijai  
Foundation  
10+ Reading  
Coaches  
100+ Kids



KOR sessions were initially implemented as part of Vijai Foundation's library program in Navalpakkam in Oct 2017. Soon the foundation adopted 6 primary schools in the Cheyyar block , implementing KOR. Thanks to the excellent program coordination and collaboration with RCs by the foundation, KOR implementation has been smooth & fast paced in this learning cluster.

***I think the basics are important and have to be taught. There is no shortcut for that. The children lose their fear & become more confident with the bilingual approach. I want the children to feel excited to read and enjoy books. I want them to feel confident that they can manage and read anything. The increase in the interest & enthusiasm of the reading coaches is the greatest success. They are ready to learn more. This is reflected in the progress of all our children.***

**- Yamini Kumari, Vijai Foundation**



*Devi (Actual name changed to protect the identity) 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student of Sai Sankalp never participated in her class, as she could not even identify letters. When she was on-boarded to KoR Sky Program, her familiarity in symbols, thereby letter recognition increased her confidence immensely. She started to read letters and words comfortably and her reading journey is fully on.*

*-- Ms. Vikneswari, Reading Coach,  
Sai Sankalp Nursery & Primary School*

*Kavi & Kandan (Actual names changed to protect the identity) are two peas in a pod. They love stories but will always look for reasons to skip the reading assignments. 1:1 coaching by the reading coaches over a span of 3 months has helped them to read simple sentences comfortably.*

*- Ms. Manjula, Reading Coach,  
Sai Sankalp Nursery & Primary School*





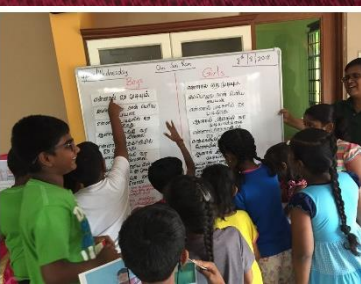
*Reading has been made very easy for the children. We have students with different needs & skills, and your reading program caters to all these. Students have shown enormous interest in story sessions and activities associated with those stories. The class has thus been made an enjoyable and participative one. The children look forward to KOR sessions every week.*

*- Mrs. Geetha Lakshmi,  
Panchayat Union Primary School, Karapakkam*

New  
Center

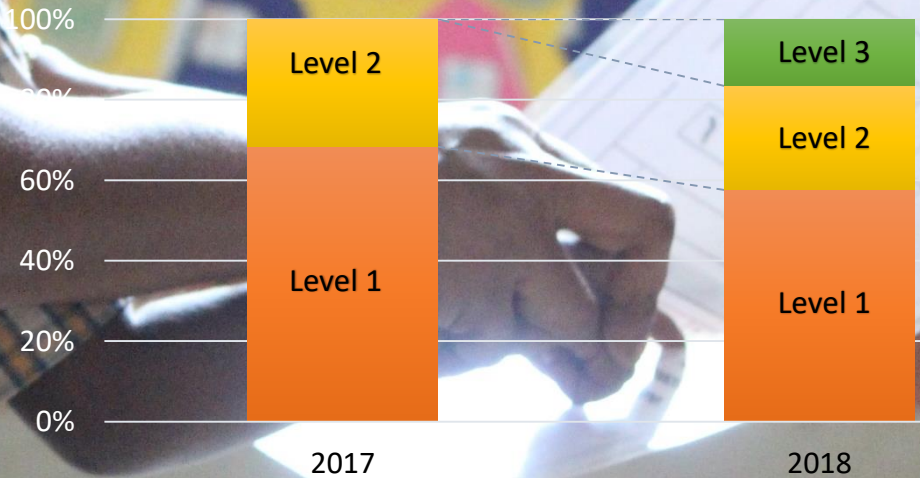
Sai House

Ipoh, Malaysia



*We have completed a Level 1 book for 23 students in two languages (English & Tamil). The impact is good. Almost all the students responded with positive results. Next year we are taking KOR to few more schools.*

*- Mr. Sai Krishnan, Ms. Vanitha & Ms. Keppali  
Reading Coaches, Malaysia*




Thanks to all our passionate teachers, volunteers and NGO partners, our kids' learning levels are improving. Let us stay focused in creating lifelong learners.

*Reading has improved with better expression and intonation both for the teachers and children.*

- Ms. Elizabeth George, Correspondent, Little Angels Nursery & Primary School, Paraniputhur

*Very down to earth learning aids designed based on the feedback from all stakeholders. Surely this would go a long way to vastly improve the skill-set of the students.*

- Mr. Stephen Arulraj Edward (Volunteer)



*The experience has been extremely satisfying and transformative personally as I myself discovered a storyteller in me.*

*– Mr. Aru (Volunteer)*

*Initially, kids were hesitant to speak both in Tamil and English. Upon encouraging, students are sharing their views and now their confidence level has improved.*

*– Ms. Arthi (Volunteer)*



“Katha on Ratha” is a program conceptualized, designed and implemented by Sai Kedar Trust. KOR is a bilingual reading program that aims to instill the passion and confidence for reading and learning among young children. The core focus of KOR is to improve the reading, comprehension, critical thinking skills & creativity of children who are part of this program through enjoyable story telling sessions and activities.

KOR, relies on “train the trainer” model to sustain and scale. As part of this program, teachers and committed volunteers associated with schools are trained to become “Reading Coaches”.

## About Sai Kedar Trust

Sai Kedar Trust is a charitable trust with a focus on education. It aims to play a valuable role in the propagation of education and learning, by making available education related resources and services to the needy, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion, gender and age.



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