



### **The challenge of language**

I Sr. Anima Tirkey O.P the Dominican sister of the presentation, would like to share my first experience in Maria Kirana crèche in Bangalore, 80 Feet Road in Indiranagar.

When I started my journey in teaching, to teach many small kids in L.K.G, I was very much excited, as it is my first mission soon after my first profession. All the children speak Kannada or Tamil. I speak only English with them that is the only language that I could probably use with them. It is very challenging mission to with the little ones as it is the first beginning of the school in their life. It takes few months for the

children to be at home with the school and to get along with the other children. As I am also new to this mission they as well are just inventing their life, we learn from each other. On this journey of learning language plays a greater role. It is there I am challenged to learn the language of the children on order to communicate and build a good rapport with them.

The first day when I went to the class I would just stand and think how I would maintain these cute angels. Once my provincial asked me about my mission in the crèche my feedback was to cry. I say one thing in English, they do other things. If I say to sit quietly, they fight with each other. Then I decided that I would learn the language of the land. Whenever the parents come with the children with their issues, I could not give any answer because of the lack of language. I feel very sad and struggle to make them to understand.

Many children are from the slum area. Some parents are even do not have the capacity to provide the necessary things for their children. The children are form poor family. Some parents are not educated to bring the children in good values. Being one month in the crèche I learned many things from Sr. Ann, teachers and the children. Though it is very hard to look after the little ones, I am very happy to be with them. I enjoy by making the little children to eat, I play with them and teach them. I try to speak a bit Kannada with the children and the teachers.

When I make a mistake they help me and correct me to pronounce Kannada. I am very glad to have Sr. Ann with me. I am inspired by her, enthusiasm and commitment to the mission. She is very loving to the children and gives herself fully to the mission, teachers as well work hard. My mission taught me many things and gives me a lot of knowledge. I am grateful to my Provincial and the councilors for giving me this opportunity and also Sr. Ann for all the help and support she gives me.

Sr. Anima Tirkey