

**Marathi Shala, Toronto. ON.
Written by Sunanda Tumne**

- The golden rule is emphasized that nobody makes the fun of students who speaks incorrect Marathi, has difficulty or has an accent. No giggles or no laugh. Students must put hand up who wishes to help him/her with corrected Marathi.
- Teacher must speak in Marathi all the time. Teachers do use English equivalent words to explain. Make each lesson such that students are giving answers in Marathi even they use some words in English.
- There is dedicated half an hour of speaking exercises time planned during each class after the Prarthana or Sanskrit Shlokas.
- I start with simple one word introduction such as नमस्कार, सुप्रभात, शुभरात्री, धन्यवाद, हो, नाही, छान, सुंदर etc. I pose the question and they have to answer. This is also the speaking exercise at home. Make up a sentence and say it aloud together. Students ask each other questions and give answers. Repetition drill works best (increase from one word to two/three words)
- Gradually introduce the sentences. Example तुझे नाव काय आहे? माझे नाव – --- आहे. तुला कोणता रंग आवडतो? मला निळा रंग आवडतो. हा, ही, हे, तो ती, ते. हा मुलगा आहे. ती भिंत आहे. Students are required to point and describe item in Marathi using हा, ही, हे, तो ती, ते
- Similar use of words and associated sentences such as वर, खाली, छोटा, छोटी, छोटे, मोठा, मोठी, मोठे, इकडे, तिकडे, डावीकडे, उजवीकडे, मागे, पुढे, पलीकडे, जिकडे, तिकडे, जवळ, लांब etc.
- Students are encouraged to ask five other students questions using who, what, why, where, how many, if then etc. Collect five answers and tell the class.
- Invite guest speaker (Aaji, Aajoba or a special speaker) to tell the story/presentation. This gives students a chance to hear Marathi from other person than the teacher. Show Marathi VCD of children's songs/story.
- I make up the story play at the end of class. The stories such as भोपळ्यातील म्हातारी, बुड बुड घगरी, उंदराची टोपी, टोपीवाला आणि माकड for younger group. We make out short skits based on Ramayan, Gandhiji, Lokmanya Tilak, and Shivajee for older group.
- A sing along poems using Khanjiri, Bean balls, Chipalya, Zanja make children very comfortable to sing Marathi songs/poems/bhajans.

- A show and Tell, A situation based theme, a group project based on animal, safety, seasons, newscast are the sure keys that each student participate in speaking. Older students do Internet search (disaster, volcano erupt, oil spill, Maharashtra Day, elections, migration of birds) and we translate the information in Marathi. Repeat and drill the sentences. That way they learn new words.

Marathi Shala, Edison. NJ **Written by Lata Phadke**

It was nice meeting on that day. I want to share following games.

- Play Simon says (Shivaji mhanato) game with Marathi action verbs
- To understand numbers for older kids, game of number 7. Go around the circle counting numbers in Marathi when 7 (saat) or multiple of 7 (such as chouda, Ekvis) come say pass.
- Play categories by giving different Marathi letter. Kids have to give the word in that category starting with that letter. Such as name of the river with letter M
River Mississippi

Marathi Shala, Morganville, NJ **Written by Swati Goudar**

Here are 3 ways we have introduced in our school:

1. We have had a parent call each student one on one and have a mini conversation with him/her in मराठी .

2. In my class, I had introduced a guessing game.

A person has an object in mind. Others have to identify it. In order to help them identify it, the person will give clues which will be sentences in मराठी .

For example, I have balloon (फुगा) in my mind. I can start by saying what category it is - whether a food item, a toy, clothes, animal etc. Then the characteristics like color, shape etc. The audience can ask questions in मराठी .

Whoever identifies the object has to give its name in मराठी .

If I just asked my students what balloon means most of them will know its मराठी name. However, to challenge them I started playing this game.

Alternatively, I would also ask my students to choose an object and talk about it in 3-5 good sentences in मराठी .

3. At the end of each class, students from each class do a "presentation" for everybody. This typically involves speaking in Marathi - ranging from a few words to a few sentences.

Swati Goudar
(Morganville मराठी शाळा , NJ):

Marathi Shala, Raleigh, North Carolina Written by Vijaya Bapat

मराठी शाळा:

मुलांना बोलते कसे करावे?

आमची शाळा, नार्थ कॅरोलिना विद्यामंदीर , सुरु होउन आता जवळ जवळ पंधरा वर्षे होत आलीत. अनुभव आला तसतशा शालेय अभ्यासक्रमात सुधारणा केल्या. सांगायला आनंद वाटतो की आता आमच्या शाळेतील मुले अगदी छान (चुरुचुरु) बोलायला लागली आहेत.

मुलांना बोलते करण्यात खालील उपक्रमांचा उपयोग झालेला आहे:

१)शाळेच्या नियमानुसार, वर्गात शिरल्यानंतर मराठीशिवाय इतर कोणतीही भाषा बोलण्यास परवानगी नाही.

२) पालकांना घरी मुलांशी मराठी बोलण्यास उत्तेजन दिले जाते. अर्थातच ह्याचे पालन वेगवेगळ्या प्रमाणात केले जाते. पण मुलांची प्रगती पाहून नियम पालनाच्या प्रमाणाचे चांगले अनुमान करता येते.

३) उपयोगी गृहपाठ:

मुलांना वयानुसार लहानसा , ४ ते १५ ओळीचा निबंध लिहायला सांगितला जातो. तो गृहपाठ असतो. वर्गात आल्यानंतर त्यांनी तो निबंध स्वच्छ शब्दात , न अडखळता वाचून दाखविण्यास सांगितले जाते. उच्चारांवर भर दिला जाते. हळूहळू भाव वाचक वाचण्यास शिकविले जाते.

एखादा विषय घेउन त्याचे चित्र काढायचे व त्याबद्दल दोनचार ओळीत मराठीत माहिती सांगायची.

४)वयोगटाप्रमाणे गोष्ट ऐकून वा वाचून स्वतःच्या शब्दात सांगायची.

५) मुलांना टॅबुसारखे खेळ आवडतात. ह्या खेळाचा आमच्या शाळेचा तर्जुमा आहे; मुलांचे लहान गट करुन एका गटातील एका मुलास शब्द द्यायचा. त्याने मराठीत तो शब्द न वापरता , वेगवेगळे शब्द सांगून आपल्या गटातील इतर मुलांस दिलेला शब्द ओळखावयास मदत करायची. गटाने शब्द ओळखल्यास त्यांना गुण मिळतात. आळीपाळीने प्रत्येक गटास खेळायला सांगून मिळालेल्या गुणांची बेरीज करुन विजेत्या गटाची निवड करायची. कोणताही इंग्रजी शब्द वापरायचा नाही. तो वापरल्यास पाळी रद्द.

६) एखादी ओळखीची मराठी गोष्ट घेउन (उदा: कबुतर व मुंगी) मुलांना त्यांच्या स्वतःच्या कल्पने नुसार त्या गोष्टीचा शेवट करायला सांगायचे.

७) कोणत्याही एखाद्या गोष्टीचे वा व्यक्तिचे आत्मवृत्त सांगायचे. उदा: एका मुलाने दूरदर्शन चे आत्मवृत्त कथन केले.

८) मराठी सत्र, चित्रपट वा इतर काहि कार्यक्रम पहायचे. आम्ही वर्षाअखेर मराठी चित्रपट दाखवायचा एक कार्यक्रम करतो.

९) वर्षातुन एकदा किलबिल कालविष्कारासारखा कार्यक्रम करायचा. त्यासाठी तयारी करताना बरेच मराठी बोलले जाते.

अधिक सुधारणेसाठी सुचलेल्या काहि सुचना:

कदाचित मराठी शाळेच्या परिक्षेसाठी भारतात असायचा तसा उपस्थितीच्या टक्केवारीचा नियम सामाविष्ट करावा का?

दुसरा नियम पालकांसाठी हवा. पालकास आपण रोज किती वेळ मुलांशी मराठी बोललो ह्याची नोंद ठेवायला सांगायचे. मुलांची परिक्षा घेताना त्या नोंदीस काहि गुण असावेत का? मुलांच्या हितासाठी पालक बऱ्याच गोष्टी करतात. त्यांच्या ह्या सद्गुणाचा फायदा घ्यावा का?

बी. एम. एम. अधिवेशनात शाळेतील मुलांचा कार्यक्रम करण्यासाठी नार्थ कॅरोलिना विद्यामंदीराकडून आलेल्या सुचना:

ह्या सुचना करताना साऱ्या देशभरातील मुलांचे एकत्र कार्यक्रम करण्यात येणाऱ्या अडचणींचा (कित्ती पालक अधिवेशनास येऊ शकतील, त्यासाठी लागणारा खर्च, वेळ इत्यादिचा विचार केला आहे.)

१) मुलांनी निर्माण केलेले साहित्य प्रदर्शन (निबंध, मासीकासारखे प्रकाशन, कविता इ.)

२) मुलांचे अभिवाचन.

३) एक वा द्विपात्री प्रयोग.

Marathi Shala, LA
Written by Janhavi Gupte

Inspiring Kids to converse in Marathi

Maharashtra Mandal Los Angeles – Janhavi Gupte-08/2010

1. We ask them **translation** questions one by one. We try to introduce questions with the vocabulary words already taught. Each kid gets to answer one question every time.

Translation questions are both ways – English to Marathi and Marathi to English.

Sometimes some words in English are given for translation as homework so that parents are involved too and ask few sentences, this increases vocabulary and also confidence.

2. Introduced “**BOO**” for anyone who talks in English during the class. Sometimes do it deliberately so that kids can be attentive and have a feel good factor.

3. Teachers tell kids that she/he doesn't understand English hence cannot answer their questions.

4. Most of the homework given to students is oral homework so that they know they have to be prepared to come to class to answer the questions in Marathi.

5. Younger kids (below 5) are more open to learning a new language compared to older kids. With older kids, the main challenge is to get them overcome their fear / shyness / disinterest in learning a new language.

Having a **buddy system - pairing up** younger kids with older , letting them help younger kids (especially in writing) and the rule - no-one will laugh at other student for making mistake seems to have helped.

6. In class **Visual and Audio Tools** : We use several means of audio and visual tools such as Songs (younger kids below age of 5 enjoy this more), Story telling (using video CDs - kids of all ages enjoy this), Q/A followed by stories - this makes kids revise all the new vocabulary learned during the class and also helps teacher understand how much they have understood), Interactive games** (older kids), Role playing (older kids), Greeting card making (all ages) in Marathi. These activities not only help to make the class fun for every one but also help kids with enhancing vocabulary and making sentences using new/already known words.

7. Involvement from Parents : Getting parents more involved in helping their kids do the homework (especially for younger kids for e.g asking parents to play available videos on **You tube** and then asking students questions based on that in the class, ask student to pick 5 fruits/ vegetables when you go to grocery with your parents and tell teacher what

they were) has several benefits - for students learning does not limit to 2 hours during the class and also parents get to know what our kids are learning.

8. Conversations during the class : All the conversation during the class are only in Marathi, it is easier to get the kids listen and talk about topics that they can relate to more easily such as daily habits, how did you spend your weekend, Father's day / Mother's day celebration etc festivals like Hanuman-Jayanti, Ram-navami etc. Introducing concept of karta (mee/tu), kriyapad, sarvanaam merely through conversations during the class.

9. **Interactive games**** : Some example of games -

(a) Sanga, sanga lavakar sanga kahi phulanchi nave sanaga...Replace flowers by fruits,vegetable, birds, animals, house hold items

(b) Chit game: We all write something that we know on the chit in Marathi. (Kids write letters, numbers, colors, words etc.) We put chits in the center, mix them well. Every one gets a chance to open one and read it.

This way they get to write, read and show off their ability and knowledge of language.

(c) Story making: Ask students draw a picture. They all draw something in the picture.

Then we all take turn to make a story out of it.

(d) Going around a word: Where we take a topic and teacher tells them word in English and they have to give a word in Marathi for the same.

(e) Marathi scramble words.

(f) Marathi words Bhendya..

Marathi Shala, Edison, NJ

Written by Medha Rajamanur

Main Goal: Enable kids to be able to speak Marathi.

Classroom Resolutions :

Structured Learning

Hold certain classes dedicated only to speaking **OR** create a separate speaking only class.

Build strong word power by introducing word sets. The sets will be a max of 5 to 7 words and if possible be grouped by a subject. For e.g.

All the words that we use w.r.t. direction, like maage, pudhe etc. The children will learn the words and their meaning. In subsequent classes the words will be used in sentences to demonstrate usage. Flash or quick notes cards will be created that has the word its meaning and sentence usage. See attached cards.

Play and Fun Learning

Gappa Goshti

Invite a guest/ parent(s) to hold a conversation with the teacher and kids. This will be theme driven so that children can grasp subject specific subject. For e.g. Take a Farm or Animals subject and on that theme parents will converse to the teacher. As a result new words will be heard and their usage too can be seen.

Games

Chinese whisper or the game of telephone

Children will start with a simple word or sentence that will be whispered into each person's ear. At the end of the circle the word/ sentence is told which may/ may not be what it started as.

Audio

- Story Time/ Joke time
- Listen to audio cassettes that tell Marathi stories as a circle time. Re-tell the story with explanation and use of words and meanings.
- Read stories from books that have pictures and illustrations. Children love pictures as it keeps them hooked and they can follow better.
- Listen to music CDs and follow it up with a circle time explaining/ discussing songs poems
- Homework Assignment - Read To Your Child
- Run a Reader's Log program that will encourage Marathi story reading at home. To track progress the below log will be turned in and graded for the mid term and final exams.

Sample Log file used to track progress -

Day	Name of the book	How many pages/ lines	How many minutes	Tell me in English about it	Parent Initial