



# PARENT HANDBOOK

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

# Welcome to Prakruti!

At Prakruti Learning Center, we work with children aged 6 to 13 years, nurturing them through their foundational and middle years in a flexible, child- centered environment.

**At Prakruti Learning Center, we invite you to reimagine what education can look like when it is rooted in a child's natural curiosity, their home language, their local culture, and a sense of wonder.**

This handbook is designed to give you a clear picture of what we do, why we do it, and how you and your child can be part of this shared learning journey.



# Our Vision



To nurture confident, expressive, and thoughtful learners who stay rooted in their identity, learn with joy, and grow with a sense of purpose.

## Our Core Beliefs



**Every child learns differently.** We support varied learning styles through flexible, concept- based, and experiential approaches.



**Language matters.** We celebrate and build on your child's home language while supporting them to learn Marathi and English.



**Learning happens in life,** not just classrooms. We connect learning to real- world experiences.



**Children have a voice.** They co- create their learning paths with us.



**Assessment should help children grow,** not label them.

# What makes us different

We don't use fixed textbooks or follow a single board.

Instead, **we design learning around themes, essential questions, and projects.**

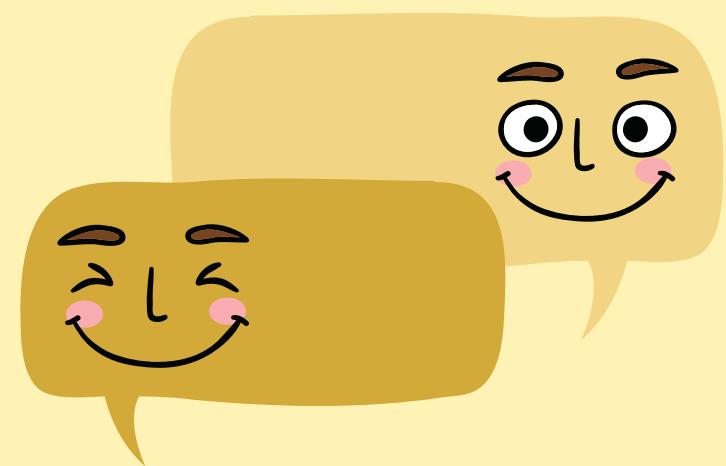
Children learn through **stories, conversations, local explorations, role- play, crafts, science experiments, and math games.**

We give time for ideas to grow.

**Our focus is depth, not speed.**

We use Marathi and English as **living, learning languages**

We organize **creative and physical activities** like drawing, singing, dancing, and nature exploration flexibly - not on a daily timetable, but based on the theme being explored and the children's interests. This way, their natural curiosity and creativity guide the experience, and learning becomes joyful and rooted in the moment.



# A day at Prakruti

Each day wears a new face, yet dances to the same rhythm!

## Dialogue Circles

Starting with  
questions, thoughts, or  
stories



## Thematic explorations

Enquiry-based learning on  
monthly themes like water /  
food / forests



## Language & Math clusters

Contextual hands-on, multi-  
level



## Independent & Group work



## Reflection & Sharing



# Curriculum Framework

At Prakruti, our curriculum respects the way children think, question, and make meaning. Instead of teaching subjects in isolation, we weave learning across themes, experiences, and real-life contexts.

## Domains of learning

- **Language & Expression** – storytelling, reading, writing, drama, discussion
- **Math & Thinking Skills** – puzzles, estimation, patterns, real-life measurement
- **Environmental & Social Awareness (EVS)** – food systems, community life, local ecology
- **Arts & Aesthetics** – music, crafts, drawing, clay, design
- **Movement & Body Awareness** – games, nature walks, dance, dramatization
- **Self & Relationships** – emotions, values, dialogue, peer learning



## Thematic & Inquiry-based learning

- Each month is anchored in a broad theme (e.g., Water, Shelter, Forests).
- Themes begin with essential questions to spark curiosity and thinking (e.g., “What does it mean to belong?”).
- Learning activities, stories, and projects are chosen based on children’s questions and inclinations.



## Multilingual learning

- Children use Marathi and English across different tasks.
- They are free to choose their language of comfort during many parts of the day, especially in discussions, stories, and reflections.
- English is introduced gently through songs, visuals, and project work.



## Child Voice & Co- Planning

- Children help design parts of their learning journey: choosing project topics, planning events, or reflecting on classroom questions.
- This builds ownership, motivation, and deeper thinking.



## Assessment & Documentation

- Portfolios include drawings, writings, photos, and sometimes recordings of their stories or reflections.
- Teacher observations, theme- wise trackers, and anecdotal notes help document progress.
- Children are guided to reflect on their growth and learning through simple tools.



# NEP 2020

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## Aligned & Flexible

- Our curriculum aligns with goals of the National Education Policy 2020 - **promoting experiential, multilingual, and competency- based learning.**
- We strive for **strong foundational readiness** for transitions into formal schooling, even though we don't follow a board syllabus.
- For families who wish to pursue a formal certification route, we also explore the option of **NIOS - Open Basic Education (OBE)**. This national- level pathway allows children to receive age- appropriate certification while continuing their learning in a flexible and supportive environment.



This curriculum keeps your child at the center, builds on their curiosity, and connects learning to their world.

# At the steering wheel



## Prajakta

has 9 years of experience in education, beginning as a volunteer with children in Melghat. Since then, she has worked across Maharashtra with children, parents, teachers, and the education system. Her work focuses on creating meaningful learning experiences, bridging education with real life, improving teaching practices, building teacher capacity, and strengthening school leadership to enhance student learning.

## Nivedita

is an experienced educator with over a decade in primary education, working across rural Maharashtra and urban Pune. She specializes in teacher training and developing concept and competency-based content in Language and Math. Known for her deep understanding of children, teachers, and parents, she builds trust-based relationships with ease. In recent years, she has also supported homeschoolers, bringing her expertise into alternative learning spaces.



Alongside Prajakta and Nivedita, a dedicated group of experienced resource persons work together to nurture and fulfill each child's learning journey.



# The Parent Collective



## Priya & Nachiket Kshire

HR professional mom | Podcaster, Author dad

अनेक कारणांमुळे पारंपारिक शाळेत आपल्या मुलाला घालायचे नाही असा निर्णय खूप आधीच झाला होता. सुदैवाने सुरवातीला ग्राममंगल सारख्या संस्थेचा आधार होता. पुढे २०२१ पासून अश्विनी गोडसे यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली प्रकृती सुंदर शिक्षण अशी आमची वेगळी शाळा सुरू झाली. excitement होती पण धाकधूक पण होती. शेवटी मुलाच्या भविष्याचा प्रश्न होता. पण ४ वर्षाच्या अनुभवानंतर आम्ही अगदी योग्य निर्णय घेतला होता असं ठामपणे सांगू शकतो. 'प्रकृती' मधे आमचं मूल आनंदी आहे, शिकायला उत्सुक आहे आणि प्रगती करत आहे.. सगळ्या ताया अगदी मनापासून आणि पूर्ण अटेंशन देऊन मुलानं बरोबर काम करतात आणि त्यामुळे मुलांचा सर्वांगीण विकास निश्चितच होतो आहे..

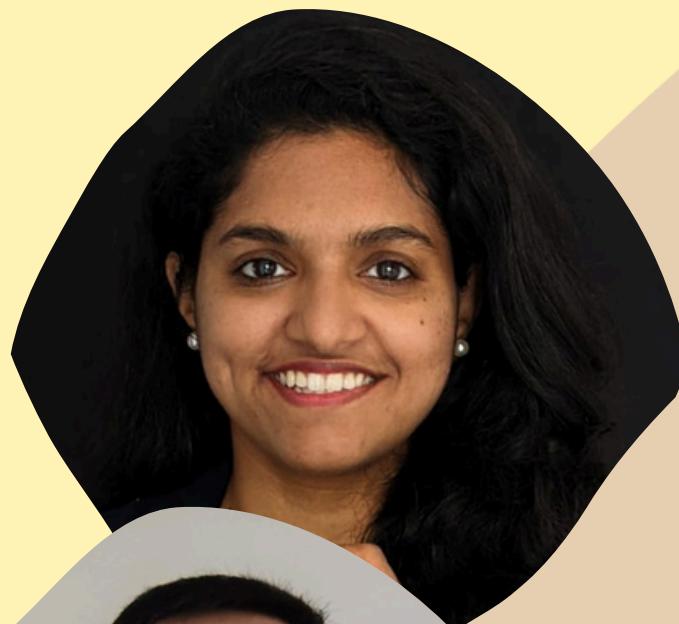
## Karishma & Omkar Kulkarni

Avid reader mom | IT professional dad

प्रकृती सुंदर शिक्षण म्हणजे नावाप्रमाणेच सहज, कृतीतून, अनुभवातून शिकण्याची जागा. इथे शिक्षण हा एक अविरत प्रवास आहे—ज्ञानाच्या शोधात मुलं सक्रियपणे सहभागी होतात. ही प्रक्रिया जितकी नैसर्गिक वाटते, तितकीच तिच्यामागे सर्व ताईचा सततचा अभ्यास आणि परिश्रम आहेत. मुलं इथे "शिकायचं कसं?" हे शोधत असतात, आणि त्या शोधात त्यांना विचार, भावना, आणि संवाद गवसतो. आम्हा पालकांचाही प्रवास तितकाच अर्थपूर्ण ठरतो—चर्चा, कार्यशाळा, अनुभवातून आम्हीही शिकत जातो. पुलंच्या भाषेत सांगायचं तर इथे शिक्षण तिहेरी आहे—पालक, मुले आणि ताई सगळेच शिकत असतात.

इथल्या अभ्यासक्रमाची मांडणी विचारपूर्वक केली जाते. संकल्पना चर्चा, कृती, आणि अनुभवातून साकार होतात, त्यामुळे मुलं आत्मविश्वासाने विचार मांडतात आणि सहभागी होतात. प्रत्येक अनुभवात वैचारिक बैठक असून तो आनंदायीही असतो. स्वयं-अध्ययनाचं स्वातंत्र्य आणि ताईचं मार्गदर्शन यामुळे मुलं एकमेकांशी, ताईशी आणि परिसराशी गहनपणे जोडली जातात. आमचाही हा प्रवास त्यांच्या सोबत अखंड चालू आहे.





## Ketaki & Anand Kelkar

Commercial photographer mom | FMCG Marketing expert dad

"We wanted Risha to learn through curiosity and real-world experiences, not just textbooks—leading us to explore homeschooling and find Prakruti Center. This past year has been enriching. Prakruti offers a joyful, hands-on learning environment where children are encouraged to ask questions and explore deeply. The mixed-age setting fosters collaboration and emotional growth, and the personal attention each child receives is truly meaningful. We've seen Risha grow into a confident, curious learner. We're grateful to the Prakruti team for creating such a nurturing space and look forward to the journey ahead.



## Suchitra & Darsshan Wagh

Communications professional mom | Sports Scientist dad

" We always wanted to give our daughter a stress-free, impactful and application-based education. Fate was gracious enough to lead us to Ashwini, Nivedita and Prajakta and we saw our daughter's personality unfold beautifully under their wings. All the benefits that we thought this education model would give her – the actual impact was way more in terms of small subliminal changes we observed along the way. We are more than confident of continuing on this journey with the committed and extremely knowledgeable team of Prakruti under the leadership of Prajakta and Nivedita."



# What's in a name?

For us - our children's identity, and their perspective towards their school!

After having mentioned co-creating earlier, here is the story of how PRAkruti got its name in the year 2022...

When the children were asking to come up with a name for their school, they decided on **PRAkruti** - explaining that it is where Prabha, Rama, Abhimanyu and Alapini learn new things by doing fun activities ( कृती ) !

In Ayurveda, Prakruti refers to an individual's innate nature or constitution — the unique balance of the three doshas: Vata, Pitta, and Kapha. It represents the person's natural tendencies, inclinations, strengths, and vulnerabilities. Similarly, every child has their own 'learning prakruti' — a unique way of understanding, expressing, exploring, and growing. Here we respect their pace and rhythm of learning while offering diverse learning modalities — oral, visual, physical, reflective!

This is how a regular group of co-learners gave birth to PRAkruti!



A special thanks to Priya for hand-drawing this amazing logo!

Alapini was an integral part of PRAkruti finding its identity. Here is what her mom Dhanashree has to say



"Raghunath and I were always clear about giving Alapini a learning platform that feeds her curiosity and allows her to explore the practical world around her. Prakruti resonated with us on that level and we are proud to have been a part of the foundational process of building this learning ecosystem. When our jobs brought us to Germany and Alapini started school here, we realised the significance of that decision back in India and how it became easy for her to adapt to the German model of education - which also emphasises holistic development and practical skills. We both are sure that these kids will turn out to be strong, resilient adults because of this groundwork happening at Prakruti right now! We wish them all the best!"





# Our message to parents

You are our integral partners in this learning journey.  
We invite you to...

- Participate in learning circles and open days where you can see and discuss your child's learning.
- Share periodic updates on what children are exploring and learning.
- Provide suggestions to support learning beyond the centre through simple activities and conversations.
- Share stories, ideas, and concerns to help us make learning better for your child.



We believe that learning is a shared  
and joyful journey, and we look  
forward to you joining us on this path

Let's discuss how to shape a bright,  
meaningful future for your child!

~ always eager to listen ~

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