



Why Balagokulam?

With the busy life we have, we rarely find time to talk to our kids (they are our future!) about our religion and culture and explain them who we are and how our religion is different from other religions. As part of our religious practices we do so many things (worshipping idols, put tilak on forehead, break coconut etc.) and there is a good reason behind each of those. We are sure most of our kids would like to know why we do these activities. However, we rarely have time to explain our kids about our religion and our rich culture, not to mention many of us do not even know why we do many of these rituals. As a result, our kids have a vacuum in their mind about our religion and culture and they have no source to find the correct information, also they are exposed to information about other religions from other sources like church run preschools, schools, media, library, basketball teams etc.

If we do not provide our kids with the right information about our religion and do not provide a stage for answering the questions they have, they are likely to get misguided and feel lost in the society they live in and end up with misconceptions about our religion.

Balagokulam is an effort to create a connection between our future generation and our religion and culture and provide them with a source where they can find the correct information about our religion and our culture and our way of life. The best part is that the kids will have a lot of fun – making new friends and strengthening existing friendships – learning about their culture and heritage.

The sooner we can provide our kids with a source where they can find the correct information about our religion and feel connected, they are less likely to absorb the misinformation from other sources.

If you would like your kids to know about our religion and you want them to believe in our religion, please bring your kids to Balagokulam and also promote other parents to do so.

What to expect?

Balagokulam is strictly based on Sanatan Dharma principles. The purpose is to teach our kids about the principles and beliefs of the Hindu Dharma and answer any questions they have about our religion and culture. The learning includes both mental and physical activities with a good proportion of songs and slokas.

While we may use various sources to make a curriculum and find content for the teachings, our purpose is to teach our kids about Hindu Dharma principles and beliefs only, you can be assured about that.

Balagokulam will be held every Sunday from 10:30 am to Noon, starting March 18th. Here is a sample curriculum:

Assembly	5 Min
Exersice/Strecthing	5 Min
Games	30 min
Surya Namaskar	5 Min
Shloka/Bhajan	20 Min
Story /Discussion	20 Min
Prarthna	5 Min

Kids will be provided with a snack at the end of each class.

Enrollment is free and all kids 5 years and older are welcome. Pick up time is 12:00 pm.

All parents are welcome to attend the proceedings in the Balagokulam. However, if you have any issue/concern/question/comment, please raise them after the class is over to the volunteers.

How can Parents help?

The most important help you can provide is the moral support to the organizers and shikshaks.

Here are the other ways you can help:

- Spread the word about Balagokulam and explain other parents why it is important to bring our kids to Balagokulam.
- Volunteer as a teacher/ shikshak. The more teachers/ shikshaks we have, easier it will be to run the school.
- Volunteer for administrative/organizational help.
- Volunteer for the lunch/share your dish program.
- While enrollment is free, any financial help you can provide is welcome. Please make checks payable to HTCCSC and mark it is for the Balagokulam.
- Kids 15 and older are encouraged to volunteer for Balagokulam. Kids who volunteer for 3 months, will be given a certificate of appreciation by the temple

Do's and Don'ts

- Please do not walk into a class in progress. If you need to talk to your child or pick up early, please talk to a Balagokulam Administrator and have him call your child.
- Please do not stand outside a class in progress and distract the kids.
- Please be punctual and make sure your child reaches atleast 5 or 10 minutes before the commencement of the class (10:30 am).
- Please be sure to pick your child by 12:00 pm or latest by 12:10 pm.

Future plans

Here are some other things we have in our mind and need your help to start them:

- Balagokulam lunch program. We need volunteers to start this program. This will be more like "bring your dish to share" program. All you need to do is bring a dish to share with 8-10 people. You can choose to bring rice/a curry/Poori/lemon rice/curd rice etc. The food you bring must be free of meat, egg, garlic and onion.
- Start a yoga class for adults. If you are interested in a yoga class, please let us know.
- Start a Bhajan/Ramayana study group. If you are interested, please let us know.
- If you think there are some other activities that can be started for parents, please let us know.

We need your support and feedback. If you have a suggestion to make Balagokulam successful and a great experience for our kids, please let us know, we are open to all ideas.

We have a designated Coordinator/Administrator and a few volunteers for BalaGokulam to respond to all your queries and concerns.

Coordinator:

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