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NOW A SCHOOL WITH A 'THINKING LAB'

by **Amritha K R**

Kochi: In what is a far cry from conventional ideas of laboratories and experiments, the Viswajyothi CMI Public School in Ernakulam has come up with a one-of-its-kind, 'Thinking Lab' in the school.

The lab which will be functional from the next academic year will have various tools including a 'reflection wall', various mind games, bean bags and other facilities that will enable the child to improve his thinking processes and skills.

The room is part of the 'My Thinking Programme' developed by the Mind Edutainment Private Limited, a one-year academic program that aims at helping the child to think and analyse in a systematic fashion.

"The thinking abilities of a child is something that is often neglected, though it forms the basis of a child's action. If the child is trained to think systematically through an experiential training in the form of games, puzzles and

real life situations, he or she will be able to not only relate to the concepts that are taught in school much better but also be equipped to deal with real life situ-



ations more effectively," said Ashuthosh Khurana, CEO of Mind Edutainment Pvt Ltd. The programme consists of weekly classes with facilitators throughout the year, thinking development tools like mind games, work sheets, activities, workshops for parents and most importantly an 'Annual Thinking Skills Development Achievement Report' at the end of the year. The report which will analyse the progress of the

child at the end of the year is broadly categorised into three sections, cognitive skills and processes, emotional skills and process and social skills and processes.

The programme aims to provide an alternate way of learning

Under these, the child is analysed under various categories including creative thinking, logical deduction and inference, forward and backward planning, decision making, problem solving, visual mapping, sequencing thoughts, channelisation of extreme

emotions like anger and frustration, team work and team handling, effective verbal and non-verbal communication, coping with socially charged situations and so on. "Through this programme, we hope to provide an alternative way of learning for our students apart from the regular academic syllabus. The academic syllabus has its own restrictions and framework.

This programme on the other hand can be a parallel intellectual and innovative learning for the child," said Father John Pyndath, Principal of Vishwajyothi CMI Public School.

The program, which has received the funding of the Department of Science and Technology as an innovative enterprise in the field of education in the year 2010, is in its fourth year and has been adopted by schools across New Delhi, Bangalore, Chandigarh and Jaipur.

CMI Vishwajyothi Public School is the first school in the state to introduce the programme.