

A school with a difference

NT Bureau

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Of late there has been a mushrooming of schools in Chennai that have attempted to adopt a student-friendly approach and introduced new pedagogy methods in order to mould the children to face the stiff competition in today's global environment.

Joining the list is the Y G P School located at Mylapore that was inaugurated by President Abdul Kalam.

According to Madhuvanathi Arun, school founder, Y G P School is a trend-setter of sorts in its global approach, innovative methodologies, while simultaneously inculcating a sense of pride and belonging to

India's hoary tradition and culture.

Improvised sessions of story-telling based on value-based legends and epics such as the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharatha* also form a significant part of the curriculum.

The school authorities have said that a new 'Student on the Move' method had been introduced in which students move every 40 minutes to different lines of activity such as reading, writing and learning so as to avoid a monotonous approach.

The school also has in place a system called 'Literary Learning Station' in which a class is split into two and a teacher works with half of the class on listening and speaking

skills while the other half learns reading and writing skills. After 20 minutes, the roles would be reversed.

This method, school authorities said, would expose the students to all the skills of language-learning.

Another highlight, according to them, was the gymnasium where there were a series of paintings of Tarzan and Spiderman in the hope of inspiring students to take up the fitness regime seriously.

The building in which the school is housed was, according to Madhuvanathi, occupied by spiritual leader Vivekananda and poet Bharathiyar during the freedom struggle.