On 13th of March, 2026, we the students of B.Ed. Department of Loreto College attended two sessions on Playful Pedagogy: Primary and Pre-Primary Teaching. The morning session was conducted by Maam Sonali Lahiri with interactions that focused on understanding language development and its importance in effective teaching.

The energetic session began with the SBI model (Situation–Behaviour–Impact), which helps teachers reflect on classroom situations and understand the difference between behaviour and personality. This idea was linked to the vision of NEP 2020, which encourages teachers to move beyond traditional roles and grow as teacher-leaders who focus on meaningful learning rather than material benefits. The discussion highlighted that language is the most important component in the classroom as it supports thinking, communication, and learning. Teachers must therefore have a strong command of language and design engaging activities for students. The CRA approach—Concrete, Pictorial, and Abstract—was also introduced to help build conceptual understanding in mathematics.

The session further emphasized developmental milestones, noting that rapid brain development occurs by the age of six. Children should be encouraged to speak frequently to develop language skills. Key components such as phonemes, vocabulary, grammar, and pragmatics were discussed. While learning phonics, the students were actively involved in practicing sounds through an action song, making the activity engaging and interactive. The session further emphasized the importance of bilingual exposure, early intervention, and sensory-based learning in younger classes. Finally, the role of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) was highlighted to support the overall development of children.

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This was followed by the afternoon session after a break from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., which was conducted by Ma'am Meeta Chatterjee, an educator who earlier lived in Kolkata and later moved to the United States. She shared several creative and interactive strategies that teachers can use while teaching young learners.

She began the session by emphasizing that children should feel safe and comfortable in the classroom. She also highlighted the importance of positive teacher body language, as children closely observe and learn from their teacher's expressions and behaviour.

The first activity involved empty name tags, where participants wrote the name of a friend along with a positive adjective describing them. Each participant then shared it aloud, which helped create a positive and friendly environment. In another activity, Ma'am Chatterjee played a song and encouraged everyone to dance freely, allowing the participants to experience the joy and energy of learning like young children. She then introduced the concept of storytelling in teaching using a presentation on the smart board. She explained the importance of storytelling, different types of stories, the use of visual aids, storytelling across subjects, and the steps of effective storytelling. Participants also engaged in a collaborative storytelling activity, where each person added a part to create a story titled “The Time Loop.”

In the final activity, Ma'am Chatterjee distributed different shapes of snacks and played music mentioning various shapes. Participants had to stand or sit according to the shape mentioned in the music, making the activity fun and engaging. Overall, both the session was interactive, enjoyable, and highly informative for future teachers.

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