



Our children are our future. In order to continue our faith, culture and values of **Sanatana Dharma** that we were raised with, our children need to be introduced to these very early, very consistently and most importantly definitely.

It is a known fact that most Hindu children born and raised in the USA have a vacuum in their mind about their religion and culture. If we do not provide them timely and accurate information, they are most likely to jump to wrong conclusions and deviate from the truth. It is therefore the duty of every parent to ensure that their children are made aware of the great dharma they are born in and teach them the values of our culture.

In a step to aid that drive, Hindu temple and Cultural center of South Carolina proudly announces the start of a Sunday school for children. The Sunday school that is called Balagokulam will be launched on Sunday, March 18, 2007 at 10:30 AM.

The goal of Balagokulam will be –

- To facilitate children to appreciate, learn and practice Hindu way of life.
- Instill pride and confidence in Hindu children about their identity.
- Raise Hindu awareness in the society around.
- Develop social awareness and leadership skills among children.

The goal will be achieved by involving children in various activities. Children will have lots of fun while they learn. Activities are planned for their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development. Weekly activities include games, yoga, story sessions, Shlokas, Bhajans, Arts and Crafts, Competitions and many more. Other activities include:

- **Clay Modeling - Especially for Ganesh pooja, children can make murti of Ganesh themselves.**
- **Rangoli - Demonstration and some hands on training.**
- **Projects on modeling temples with cardboard, foam, sticks, etc.**
- **Teerth Yatra or Pilgrimage (Visit to temples in your town).**
- **Sahal (Picnic) with all the families to build family level bonding.**
- **Seva: Visit to convalescent hospitals, children's wards in hospitals, soup kitchens, etc.**
- **A presentation by social workers group or teenage counselors about challenges facing American society today.**
- **Sports Day**
- **Competitions in chanting Shlokas, singing songs, speaking, etc.**

- Art of Skit writing and acting
- Hindu Jeopardy/Quiz
- Dialogue between parents and children (For teenagers)
- Celebrating Hindu festivals in schools.
- Teaching how to read and write Devnagari script
- Preparing posters on different topics: Can be group projects

We have a Balagokulam shakha running in the northeast, very successfully for over a year now.

The new Balagokulam will be conducted at the Hindu temple on every Sunday. The class will be for 90 minutes. Children from ages 5 and above are allowed without any charge. Based on the number of children enrolled, they will be segregated by their age group. Syllabus is developed according to the level of understanding in the respective age group. Activities will be planned separately for different age groups especially the youth groups of 14 - 17 yrs. Parents will also be involved in planning the activities for children of different age groups.

We will need volunteers for various activities. For volunteering in Balagokulam activities, please call the following people.

Ravi Narumanchi	803-454-9362	Sabari Chiraparambil	803-996-3523
Rajesh Verma	803-233-4737	Sunil Tupale	803-865-6837
Uma Krishnamurthy	803-996-5494		

In order to determine the age groups, we request you to enroll your children as early as you can. Please make the call by March 06, 2007 as we are planning a workshop for Balagokulam teachers on March 11, 2006.

Please use the attached enrollment form to enroll your children. You have a choice to choose between Balagokulam conducted in the Northeast or in the Temple. You can either mail the completed form to the following address of the temple or hand it over to our temple priest [Sri Joshiji](#).

[Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of South Carolina](#)
[5704 Kiawah Road,](#)
[Columbia, SC 29212.](#)

Though Balagokulam is being offered free of charge, please note that it involves significant expenses. Hence your generous donation, both financial and physical will be greatly appreciated.

Please note

- Balagokulam starts at 10:30 AM and finishes by Noon every Sunday.
- Child attending Balagokulam must be fully potty trained and attending a school/pre-school already.
- You are responsible for dropping and picking up your child.
- If you choose to send a snack and/or a drink, please make sure that drinks are in a spill proof cup. **Snacks must be strictly onion, garlic, egg and meat free.**
- Dropping time is 10:30 am. We will make every effort to make at least one volunteer available at Balagokulam at 10:30 am. In the event of no volunteer being available at the dropping time, please wait till at least one volunteer arrives. **Please do not drop your child at the temple for the Balagokulam and leave without any volunteers present.**
- Pickup time is 12:00 Noon to 12:15 pm. Please make sure you pickup your child latest by 12:30 pm.



Student information

Full name			
Date of birth		Age	
Preferred school (please tick one)	Temple <input type="checkbox"/>	North East Columbia <input type="checkbox"/>	

Parent/Guardian Information

Father's name			
Mother's name			
Contact numbers	Home	Work	Cell

Emergency Contact Information (other than parents)

Name		Phone
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Persons other than parents authorized to pickup the student

Name		Phone
Name		Phone

Medical Insurance details

Insurance Company Name		
Group #		Subscriber #
Primary Physician		
Physician Contact Info		
Known allergies or other pertinent medical information		

Parent's Consent:

- I hereby release Hindu Temple and its volunteers of any liability for any accidents or injuries my child may incur while attending the Balagokulam.
- I and my health insurance company are completely responsible for the payment of all expenses incurred for any kind of medical and/or surgical treatment as a result of child's participation in Balagokulam.
- In the event of any kind of an emergency where treatment by a doctor is deemed necessary, I hereby give permission for a volunteer of Balagokulam to authorize physician(s) and hospital personnel to give my children anesthesia and/or perform whatever medical and/or surgical treatment deemed necessary at such time in my child's best interest.

Signature of the Parent: _____

Date: _____

Quick Look at our Upcoming Events

Holi	Sat, Mar 03, 2007
Ugadi, Vasant Navarathri	Mon, Mar 19, 2007
Sri Ram Navami	Tue, Mar 27, 2007
Mahaveer Jayanti	Sat, Mar 31, 2007
Hanumat Jayanti	Sun, Apr 01, 2007
Grand Annual Srinivasa Kalyanam	Sun, May 06, 2007

We're Online!! Please visit our website @ www.hindutemplesc.org

**Hindu Temple & Cultural Center
Of South Carolina (HTCCSC)
P. O. Box 21976
Columbia, SC 29221**

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