

Let imagination take wing

LAUNCH “*The Adventures of Chiya the Yellow Birdy*” is aimed at pre-school kids

A book launch is certainly not the best place to find a lot of kids. But if the book is strictly meant for them, it is possible to have them take the clear majority at the event. At a book launch in Oxford Bookstore, Connaught Place, that's precisely what happened.

“*The Adventures of Chiya the Yellow Birdy*” is a book by Divya Johar Bawa aimed at aiding the basic development of toddlers. While actors Vidushi Mehra of *Aisha* fame and Reema Mehra along with designer duo Shantanu and Nikhil Mehra were present, the book was released in the presence of parents and educationists like Neelu Sarin, Area Director, Special Olympics. After the release, Vidushi sang “Do a deer” from *The Sound of Music* along with the children.

The author, who was earlier in the corporate world, has been teaching at playschools across Delhi for 10 years now. In March 2010, she started her own playschool, Kinder Plume, at New Friends Colony. The book is the first in the series of curriculum books written by Divya for the school. On why she chose the little bird as the central character, she said, “I connected with the free-flying world of the bird.”



BOOK TIME Designers Shantanu and Nikhil, author Divya Johar Bawa, Vidushi and Reema Mehra

The book contains two stories that deal with various characteristics of a child's development, like colours, sounds, vocabulary, the environment around them and social behaviour in a very simple manner. Illustrated beautifully so that the child can connect to the story immediately,

the book highlights the necessity of inculcating good food habits in toddlers. The author then narrated the stories to the kids in a rather animated tone. Alongside, the children were being explained the characters of the story with the help of pictures. “This book will serve as a perfect companion

for a child in his early years. The preschool stage is an important phase — a time between infancy and childhood when a child learns and grows in many ways. By the time the child masters new skills in each stage, another stage begins,” Divya said.

Designer Nikhil Mehra, when

asked to comment on the book, said, “It's a book with fabulously chosen colours. Kids are so happy with *Kinder Plume* that they would soon have to start a night school too. I'm so much in love with the book that I am going to read it to my twins tonight itself.”

A.C.