The brainchild of Vasundhara Patni, Expanding Minds Program (EMP) is a concept that is sure to keep both the mother and child busy. Why? It makes them think with the best minds in education.

After starting a successful chain of innovative dessert outlets called ‘Ice Stone Factory’, Vasundhara Patni has been busy finding the ideal set of institutions and teachers for her latest venture, “Expanding Minds Program (EMP). EMP is a creative thinking and concept-building platform that encourages young children to think and reason.

What is EMP?

“The main idea of EMP is to heighten a child’s divergent, innovative and individual thinking capabilities through the use of creative and fun means”, says Vasundhara Patni, founder. The study of architecture and human body couldn’t be done in a more fun way. Sugar cubes, toilet paper, shaving foam, peanut butter are just some of the ingredients that were used to understand these concepts better. EMP’s curriculum is open-ended and structured to encourage children to think and reason and discover their own answers in a free and fun space. Vasundhara presents an explanation for this — “What we are essentially trying to do is balance the left and right side of the brain, enhancing overall cognitive, social and emotional development.”

LEARNING CURVE: Vasundhara Patni with the EMP team Kate, Libby and Malika

Why EMP?

“In a world with easy access to information, children are able to find all that they need but are often unable to process it. A program like this encourages a child to expand the frontiers of their mind by directly experimenting with the concepts that he sees. “EMP is about experiential learning which is emotion-driven and backed by knowledge. It works at opening up the child’s creativity and gives him/her confidence to understand and apply concepts better,” says Vasundhara.

Who teaches at EMP?

The first program had carefully picked teachers from India and the United States. Libby Meyers and Kate Schellie, both teachers at the Elliot Pearson Children’s School from Tufts University (Cambridge) ran the program, while Iris Ponte and Clement Chau doctors in the field of child development, developed the curriculum. Malika Mehta, with a Master of Arts in Learning Disabilities from Northwestern University was also a part of the illustrious panel that developed the EMP curriculum.

How healthy do you snack?

Remember the 11 am hunger pangs that forced you to give up your pledge to not eat anything between meals? And that resolution to start working out from the next weekend which never materialised? But then that didn’t stop you from wishing for a body like that of Ritasha Basu.

fruits and vegetables. It’s only natural that she chooses Real Activ as a healthy snack.

Made from fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from the best orchards and farms of the world, the Real Activ range is available in Orange, Apple, Orange Carrot, Mixed fruit cucumber, spinach and Mixed fruit.