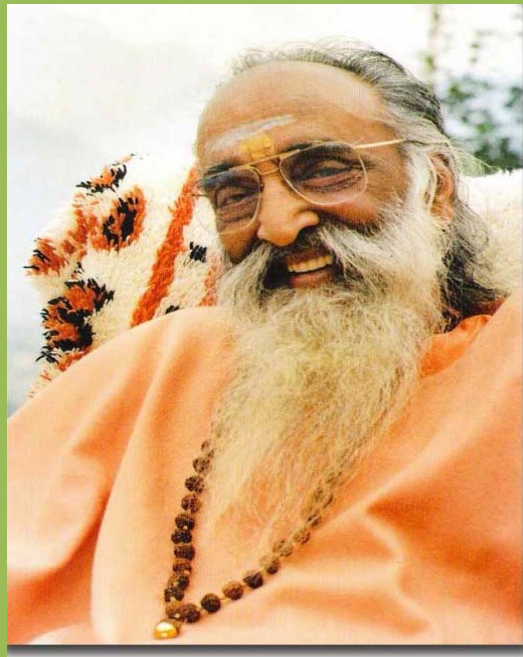


## Bala Vihar Locations and Timings

- 1. Troy:** Bharatiya Temple  
6850 Adams Road  
Troy, MI 48098  
Timing: Saturdays, 9:30 am to 11:00 am
- 2. West Bloomfield:** Orchard Lake Middle School  
6000 Orchard Lake Rd  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Timing: Saturdays, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
- 3. Novi:** Novi Meadows School  
25345 Taft Road  
Novi, MI 48374  
Timing: Saturdays, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
- 4. Ann Arbor:** Chinmaya Avantika  
4760 Packard Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
Timing: Sundays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
- 5. Canton:** Canton Hindu Temple  
44955 Cherry Hill Rd  
Canton, MI 48188  
Timing: Sundays, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- 6. East Lansing:**  
3919 Sandhill Rd  
Lansing, MI 48911  
Timing: Sundays, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



“Dear Children,

From the Lord, when we reached here, we came as a good child of light. But as we live among others, the animal in us comes up and we become bad children of darkness. To avoid this fall, we must always remember the great Lord of Love, the flute player of Jamuna banks. Bala Vihar is meant for this. With the song of the glorious Lord in your heart grow to be great men and women”.

- Swami Chinmayananda



Chinmaya Mission  
Ann Arbor

## Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar

Classes resume on:

*September 11, 2010*

*Novi, Troy, and West  
Bloomfield*

*September 12, 2010*

*Ann Arbor, Canton, and  
East Lansing*



Website: [www.chinmaya-aa.org](http://www.chinmaya-aa.org)



## What is Bala Vihar?

Bala Vihar is a nationwide program envisioned by Swami Chinmayananda to expose our children to the rich heritage of India and Hinduism.

This highly structured program is organized into different grades according to the age group from toddlers to 12<sup>th</sup> graders. This forum is also designed to create a positive personal and social awareness to help them integrate into the multicultural society we are in and develop into well-rounded happy and successful individuals.

Little children learn about the Gods through simple bhajans, stories, and coloring. As they get older, they start learning with great fun and enthusiasm, the values through songs, stories, games, arts and crafts. Next, they are introduced to the Ramayan, Bhagavatam, and Mahabharata. An emphasis is placed on character analysis so as to develop ideal role models in society. Along with this, the children celebrate all the religious and cultural festivals, and learn about their significance. By their eleventh grade, they are exposed to fundamentals of Bhagavad Gita principles enabling them to be useful leaders in society. In their senior year they are teachers of younger children, which helps strengthen their understanding, making them ready to be outstanding citizens in college and thereafter.

## Who conducts Bala Vihar?

The current teachers for Bala Vihar are motivated volunteers who devote their time to educate the children using a Mission-wide curriculum/syllabus that is directed toward the different ages of children.

The teachers are highly dedicated and knowledgeable sevaks of the mission who are regular participants of one or more of Chinmaya Mission study groups of scriptural texts. There are ten study groups spread in Ann Arbor and the metro Detroit area.



**Bala Vihar is to help children learn values with fun to delight like the moon and shine like the Sun.**

**- Swami Tejomayananda**

## How is the program suited to the whole family?

While children are in their respective classes, it is mandatory for at least one parent to attend the adult class conducted by the main Acharya Sharada Kumar, who has been directly trained by Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda. Bhagavad Gita is the main text that is taught, along with chanting and deeper imports of almost all popular stotrams and slokas.

This regulation, though looks restrictive initially, is a great secret to bringing parents and children together in their understanding and appreciation of our basic values. It also has been a forum for binding with love and respect, thousands of families from different parts of India for mutual support and strength. This also goes a long way in instilling a sense of pride of being a Hindu or Indian with a strong healthy sense of belonging, among our children.

## Chinmaya Avantika



4760 Packard Road,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

## Activities

- Vedanta Study groups
- Bhagavad Gita classes in all Bala Vihars
- Bhagavatam and Ramayanam classes
- Bhajan and Devi class
- Vedic chanting classes
- Hindu Festivals and Poojas
- Annual Youth camp
- Jnana Yagnas by Swamijis
- Chinmaya Yuva Kendra group
- Food and clothes drives for the needy
- Women's support groups



## Chinmaya Mission

**Mission Statement:** To provide to individuals, from any background, the wisdom of Vedanta and practical means for spiritual growth and happiness, enabling them to become a positive contributor to the society.