

# CHINTAN

## The Teacher

*Thirty years ago she began teaching  
Young children in their threes and fours;  
She didn't know much about children at first,  
But over time learned more and more.*

*She gave them hugs and wipes their tears,  
And never left them alone;  
She guided them through the small things,  
Which often turned out to be milestones.*

*Her first students are all grown now,  
And she waves at them when they pass;  
There's banker, a writer, a lawyer, an artist,  
And parents with children in her class.*

*To those who ask if she prays all days,  
She says with a gleam in her eye;  
That she teaches bankers to add and subtract,  
And artists the colour of the sky.*

*She teaches the alphabet to the writers,  
And lawyer what it means to be fair;  
She teaches politicians to take their turn,  
And executives how to share.*

*She knows that what's learned in the sandbox  
Will influence them for years to come;  
It's the little things that shape them,  
So impressionable are the young*

*If you too work with children,  
And dance and sing and play;  
Don't forget that you shape the future  
By whom you teach today.*

- Tim Bete