play corner, which is a recent addition, gives these kids a chance to enjoy a part of life that is otherwise denied to them for the time being," says Lovely, a detained mother, who has been awaiting her court verdict for three years.

For Shahida and her two-year-old child, who came from Kamrangirchar two months ago, confinement is still new and hard to adjust. "My son Zahiul cries most of the time and is not interested in anything. The Matron apa summons me quite often to calm and soothe him, he gets upset if he sees too many people. He only likes the play corner," Shahida explains.

Adjoining these rooms is another spacious room where the children take their afternoon nap after their bath and a nutritious lunch of *khichuri*.

Late afternoons are for outdoor games and the big verandahs are their playground for the time being.

The toddlers who are aged between zero to three are also kept here. The bathroom is clean and every room is spick and span, providing the children a very healthy environment amid confinement. Late afternoons are for outdoor games and the big verandahs are their playground for the time being.

Emphasis on early learning

"For the pre-schoolers like Shanto, Laboni, Suha and 32 others the day care centre by the Social Services Ministry at Dhaka Central Jail is a better choice than sitting in their mother's cell and soaking in her sulking mood. However, the recent addition of the spacious play corner by Bangladesh Shishu Academy in December 2012 with the sup-



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It is a decent enough arrangement but still one that keeps them from the real world.



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A safe place to sleep. Children at the day care centre take a nap. *(below)*