

How to Teach
Hinduism
to Your Child?

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EMESCO

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Transliteration key

The International Alphabet for Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST) has been used to denote the Sanskrit words which are in Devanagari script. IAST is the most widely used key, which is also explained on the web. A brief table is given. However, it is best to learn the exact sounds from a teacher.

अ	a	as in <i>sun</i>	क	K	cut/ <i>kite</i>	ट	ṭa	<i>touch</i>
आ	ā	<i>Bald</i>	ख	kha	<i>Book-house, 'k' combined with aspiration 'h'</i>	ठ	ṭha	<i>anthill</i>
इ	i	<i>Bit</i>	ग	Ga	<i>Gun</i>	ड	ḍa	<i>Dull</i>
ई	ī	<i>Beat</i>	घ	gha	<i>Pig-head, the sound 'g' in 'gun' with aspiration 'h'.</i>	ढ	ḍha	<i>Godhead, aspiration as above</i>
उ	u	<i>Put</i>	ङ	ṅa	<i>Lung</i>	ण	ṇa	<i>under (retroflex)</i>
ऊ	ū	<i>Tool</i>	च	Ca	<i>Chunk</i>	त	Ta	<i>Path</i>
ऋ	ṛ	<i>Rhythm</i>	छ	cha	<i>catch-hold</i>	थ	tha	<i>The sound 'th' in 'thumb' combined with aspiration 'h'</i>
ए	e	<i>Date</i>	ज	Ja	<i>Jug</i>	द	Da	<i>Then</i>

ऐ	ai	Might	झ	Jha	Hedgehog, 'j' with aspi- ration	घ	dha	The sound 'th' in 'thus' plus aspiration
ओ	o	Oat	ञ	Ña	Bunch	न	Na	Number
औ	au	Out						
प	pa	Pot	य	Ya	Yet	ष	ṣa	shun
फ	pha	Soup- hunt, aspira- tion as above	र	Ra	Run	स	Sa	Sun
ब	ba	But	ल	La	Love	ह	ha	Hall
भ	bha	Abhor, aspira- tion as above	व	Va	Voice	क्ष	kṣa, combines the 'k' in 'king' with the sound 'sh' in Shaw	Rikshaw
म	ma	Much	श	Śa	Sat	ज्ञ	Jña	

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The Need for This Book

1.1. Globalized children

I write this book for the parents of today's globalized children. Students of higher classes can read it on their own. The subject is old but it has to be told in modern terms.

Perhaps, about fifty years ago, this book was not quite so needed, especially if we grew up in rural India. We were credulous children, never doubting anything that our parents or grandparents told us about gods, heaven, hell and all such things. We celebrated all festivals joyously and boisterously, worshipping which ever deity concerned. We would worship Sri Rama on the day of *Rama Navami*, worship the mighty god Shiva on the night of *Shiva Ratri* or goddess Durga on the day of *Durgashtami*. It never occurred to us to question why we had different gods and goddesses. We were willing to believe and admire what we were told about the demons slain by Rama or Krishna or Durga. Our childish curiosity was only about which god was more powerful – whether Hanuman or Rama. Whatever answer was given by our elders was quite alright for us.

Although the rituals and festivals continue to be performed with more zest than earlier, social change has brought about a great disconnect with the traditional lifestyle and value system. A significant change has been in our educational system, where anything to do with any religious text is meticulously avoided. Our school education does not expose the child to any religious