

Looking back at a playful year

Toybank's Play2Learn Programme Update Report

Due to scarce internet connectivity and low-income households, there was little to no opportunity to learn anything apart from what is taught to us in class. Even if we wanted to, there were no other resources easily available to help us learn about topics outside of our academic curriculum. Simple things like other animals' behaviour, details of other countries or how can one imitate them was information not available to us.

Though, since our school partnered with Toybank's Play2Learn Programme, we have got the opportunity to learn through play. We learn about the outside world, about various animals that we have never heard of before and even how to build structures through 'Mechanix'. We also got the chance to get to know each other better through the game 'Kids Act' and we enjoyed discovering another side to ourselves and our friends. "Thank you Toybank and Manik Sir," said Prajakta, Pradnya and Priyanka(name-changed) together after a Play2Learn Session.

-Shared by students from Kodari Zilla Parishad School, Ambajogai, Beed, Play2Learn Centre R107



Prajakta, Pradnya and Priyanka (names changed) playfully get to know each other while engrossed in a game of Kids Act. (Kodari Zilla Parishad School, Play2Learn Centre R107)



Key Updates from January 2023 to March 2023

• Play2Learn Sessions:

Toybank's Play2Learn Centres are safe spaces for children to engage in developmentally appropriate play sessions. During Play2Learn sessions, children engage with games, toys, playsheets and play-based activities using innovative facilitation techniques facilitated by our Programme Officer and partner teachers. This quarter we conducted **2809 sessions across 575 Play2Learn Centres.**

Children play and learn with Alfabestical and Numerical games at Zilla Parishad Primary School Sangaon Ambajogai, Play2Learn Centre R205



• Digital Play2Learn activities curated and disseminated:

Through **646** of our support group created on WhatsApp, we disseminated a total of **57 curated play-based activities**. These activities aid in the development of integral life skills like critical thinking, socio-emotional wellbeing, and cognitive skills, while also aligning with children's academic curriculum.

These sheets are designed in-house by a skilled play-content developer and include age-appropriate content aligning with their academic curriculum and developmental goals. Through the kit, the children improved their:

- **Cognitive skills:** Numeracy and language skills were built through 'Word Balloon', 'Tied-up Tenses', and 'Spot the Shape' Play2Learn sheets.
- **Socio-emotional skills** through playsheets 'Understanding 5 senses', and 'Count and Play'
- **Critical thinking skills:** skills through 'Addition Memory Game', and 'What's the Solution.'



Play-based activities help children learn grammar, problem solve and understand themselves better. Every activity from the Toybank Play2Learn Kit is colour-coded and tagged to help caregivers easily identify age-appropriate activities.





Children learn to work as a team to put together puzzles. They also learn more about animals and shapes in the process ZPPS Sangaon Ambajogai Play2Learn Centre R205.

- **Replacement of 5589 games at 199 Play2Learn Centres:**

After the needs assessments conducted across schools, our team stocked up and replenished the stock at Play2Learn Centre in need with games, ensuring that our play sessions can go on without any hindrance.



Children group up, play and solve strategy games at ZPPS Sangaon Ambajogai Play2Learn Centre R205.

- **Power of Play Teacher Training workshops head:**

The Toybank team conducted Training workshops for **44 teachers from 14** Play2Learn centres to:



- Reconnect the teachers to the benefits of Play-based Learning and re-orient them about the Toybank Hybrid Play2Learn Programme
- Train them on new games and how to effectively use them inside classrooms as a part of their daily classroom teaching to build a healthy Teacher-Student bond
- Maintain a strong relationship between our field programme officer and the teachers to ensure effective facilitation of Play2Learn Sessions and better classroom management as they integrate play into their classes.

Teachers collaborated, shared their challenges and worked together to complete puzzles and games. They also identified and discussed various skills each game would boost in children post the session.



● **Additional Activities:**

Teachers conducted play sessions with parents during Parents Teachers Meeting

During a Parent-Teacher meeting the teachers organized to conduct Toybank's Play session getting the parents to group with children. The Teachers observed the parents enjoying the session, laughing, sharing, being playful and opening up with each other. Post session various parents shared the lack of such games during their growing years. After experiencing a play session and playing with the games, they acknowledged and appreciated the benefits of them for the children. The teachers also concluded that conducting such sessions with parents is a holistic approach in making play a daily and essential part of every child's life.



Parents who attended the Parent Teachers Meeting solve puzzles with children at Private School, Moha Parli, Play2Learn Centre 148



- **What teachers have to say about our Play2Learn Programme:**

During our feedback calls, teachers highlighted that our hybrid Play2Learn Programme is:

- **Providing Access to Playful Learning Space:**

“During one of our play session with the Primary section class, the group playing with ‘Colour Match’ game, instantly showed curiosity to learn all about shapes. Their names and soon enough started matching them appropriately. They started relating the the game to their mathematic chapters. Through Toybank’s games children are able to building their geometric knowledge and having fun at the same time.”

-Shared a teacher from from Zilla Parishad Primary School, Sangaon Ambajogai, Play2Learn Centre R205.



Children developing their numerical and geographical abilities through puzzle-based games at the Zilla Parishad School, Sangaon Ambajogai, Play2Learn Centre R205 and Zilla Parishad School, Dongar Pimla, Ambajogai, R209

- **Play for learning:**

“The Toybank initiative is very important for our school children. The board games at our centres are not use only for breaks in-between classes but rather in the classrooms during lessons to make learning new concepts easier for the children. Games like World Map, Alphabetical and Numerical games are excessively used in our classrooms by teachers.

-Said a teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, Dongar Pimla, Ambajogai. Play2Learn Centre R208 & 209.



Children develop their mechanical skills, memory skills and bond with their teachers and classmates while also learning about curriculum based concepts through board games stocked Play2Learn Centre R208 & R209



Snapshot from a review of Toybank's work by an expert panel
set up by The Lego Foundation...

“

The Opentree Foundation has already shown success in sustaining its programme, reaching thousands of children, teachers and caregivers. Their approaches give the options of implementing Play in children's lives and sustaining the programme over the years.

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**Invest to Rebuild a World of Play for
at-risk Children**

Investing in Play to make mental well-being and learning accessible for at-risk children is the need of the hour. Your support will build the well-being and happiness of **75,000+ children** who continue to Play and learn!

Thank you and Happy Toybanking!

