

Play reigniting children's interest in school

Toybank's Play2Learn Program Update Report

Rajesh's (name changed) family was massively affected by the pandemic as his parents lost their daily wage jobs and were forced to move to another district once the situation allowed. The move was in search of opportunities, leaving the second grader back with his grandparents. Due to the situation at home, Rajesh stopped attending school when the new academic year began, pushing his teachers to check on him and understand why he remained absent. His parents and grandparents shared with the teachers that Rajesh had lost complete interest in school and would spend the day loitering around his village.

The teachers sat down with him and shared all the new and exciting things happening in school, focussing on the new board games and material that had recently been sent to his school, which caught his attention. They identified that he liked to play, and creatively tried to get his attention towards school.

He slowly began attending school, focusing his energy on playtime. His teachers slowly started observing a peak in his interest while playing with the alphabet game, numerical games and puzzles. The boy, who at the beginning of the year barely spoke to anyone and did not attend school, slowly started to attend school regularly, even asking questions and participating actively in class. He is also able to pay attention in class and participate, even showing interest in learning new concepts.

- Shared by Manik Kukde, Programme Officer-in-charge of Play2Learn Centre R228



Rajesh plays Memory Skills game with his classmate with ease, and is confident to ask questions and even support his classmate when faced with challenges (Play2Learn Centre R228, ZPPS Malnathpur)



Key Updates from April 2022 to September 2022

● **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 **410 sessions across 46 Play2Learn Centres**.

Children develop their memory skills, bond with their teachers and learn about geography through board games stocked at Zilla Parishad Primary School Vasti, Play2Learn Centre R198

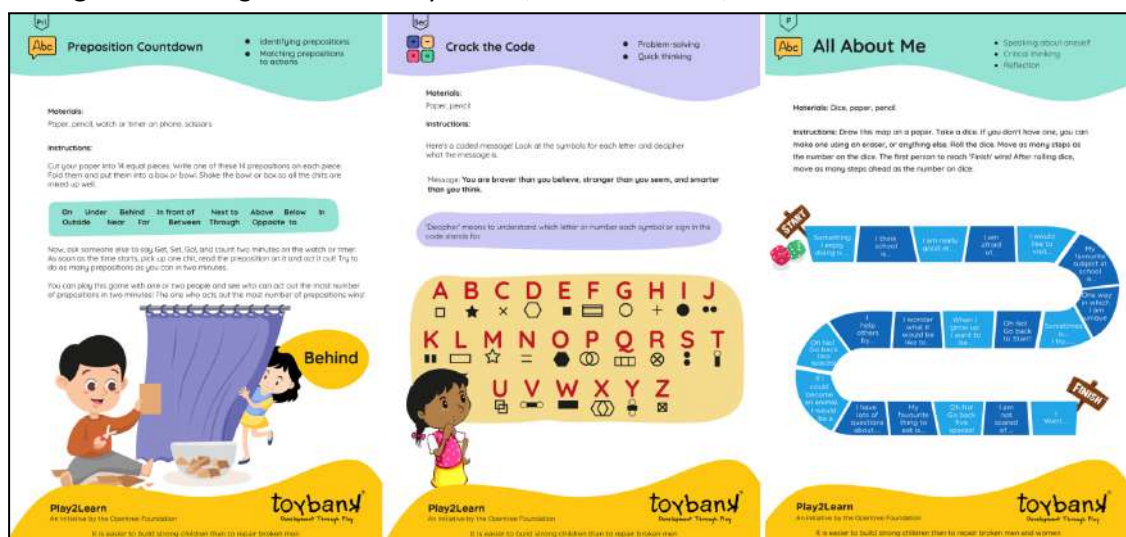


● **Digital Play2Learn activities curated and disseminated:**

Through our support group created on WhatsApp, we disseminated a total of **122 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 'Triangle Square', 'Preposition Countdown', and '2's all around' Play2Learn sheets.
- **Socio-emotional skills:** Through playsheets 'All about me!', 'Touch and Feel', and 'My Favourite.'
- **Critical thinking skills:** Through 'Make A Story Puzzle', 'Crack the code,' and 'Tourist Guide.'



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, spellings, and geography in the process. (ZPPS Bansorala, Play2Learn Centre R421)

- **Replacement of 931 games across 46 Play2Learn Centres:**

After the needs assessments conducted across schools, our team stocked up and replenished **46 Play2Learn Centres** with games, ensuring that our play sessions can go on without any hindrance.



Children group up and design different structures during a free play session at ZPPS Satpute Wasti, Play2Learn Centre R353.



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

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

- **Increasing active participation in class:**

“Due to Toybank, our children enjoy learning joyfully in school. We see happiness on their faces when they play. Children have started identifying animals, and they use numeric games to practice numbers and math tables. I have even observed the development of their interpersonal skills. These changes have resulted in their active participation in the classroom,” shared Govind Navgire, Principal from Zilla Parishad School, Chandan Sawargaon, Play2Learn Centre R142



Happily developing their numerical and spelling abilities through puzzle-based games at the Zilla Parishad School, Chandan Sawargaon, Play2Learn Centre R142

- **Boosting the concentration levels of children:**

“The games sent by Toybank have helped increase the concentration level of our children. Earlier children used to pay less attention in class, but being involved in games has developed their attention span. They now show more interest in learning, making teaching more effective. Sometimes they suggest a few ideas on how to make learning tables, alphabets, or wordings more interesting,” said Kulkarni D.R, Principal of Zilla Parishad Primary School Bharaj, Play2Learn Centre R349

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

“ I like that this program is focused on Play, a process often neglected by educational and caregiving systems, but nevertheless an essential process for children's development. ”

Giving access to Play to every child, regardless of what group they come from, will contribute to children's well-being, and future society.

Child Actions' Support for at-risk children's learning through Play

As we navigate through these post-pandemic times, the need for critical thinking, mental wellbeing and quality learning is crucial for children to resolutely face inequalities and crises. With Child Action's continued support, Toybank bolsters its efforts to rebuild childhoods with equity, ensuring our children's holistic development and mental wellbeing.

