

Play Must Go On!

Resilience and learning during COVID-19 through the Toybank Play2Learn Program

Toybank Play2Learn Kit for mental relief and continued learning

As soon as India went into a lockdown on 25th March, Toybank started curating the Play2Learn-PlayAtHome Kit to provide at-risk kids mental relief through meaningful engagement. The playsheets focused on mental stimulation in the initial months, graduating to continue learning and bridging learning gaps, as the digital divide in India is glaring with just 24% households having access to smartphones and 11.5% computer and internet access.

The downloadable and self-directed playsheets prevent excessive internet dependence and children learn practically and independently at any time of the day, revisiting activities as many times as they need to.



toybank® Newton's Disc

Make a colored disc and see it turn white when you spin it fast.

Purpose: Concentration, Cause and Effect, Language development:
Using descriptive words to express ideas and opinions.

Age Group: Primary/Secondary

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Thick Card Paper, Paper, Colour Pen, Pencil,
Scissors, Thread.

HOW TO CONDUCT

- Cut out a circle from cardboard and Paper each.
- Carefully paste the paper on the cardboard.
- Divide the circle into seven parts. (See Image 2)
- Divide the circle into seven parts. (See Image 3)
- Use different colours to paint each part.
- Make a hole at the center of the colored circle.
- Take a string and fix it into a circle. (See Image 4)
- Spin it. When the disc spins fast, it looks white. When the disc spins slowly, you can see the different colours.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- When the disc spins slowly, the image of any one color disappears before the image of the next colour forms on the retina. Hence, you can see the different colours.
- When the disc spins fast, the images of the colours overlap on the retina because of persistence of vision. The seven colours combine together to give the effect of white light.

Source: Science Action 3 by Arvind Gupta.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

#PlayAtHome
an initiative by
The Opentree Foundation

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Development Through Play
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Engrossed for up to 4 to 5 hours each day, our children stay distracted from negative emotions caused by economic hardships and lack of attention from inadequately educated and financially-overburdened parents.

They also learn critical thinking and solving problems creatively. For instance, some of them made colors out of plant juices when they didn't have crayons at home. Similarly, in 'Touch The Color', kids had to spot colors in their surroundings but they struggled as some rural homes do not have hues apart from the earthy tones and gray walls. So, children used colorful clothes of their family members, displaying an example of resource mobilization.

The Play2Learn Kit gives the children control of their learning, which makes it more exciting for them. Like teacher from a primary school, Harshal Phule states, *"The activities on shape recognition encouraged children to practically draw, cut the shapes, and color by themselves."*

Benefits of the Toybank Play2Learn initiative:

- Meaningful engagement at home during the lockdown
- Accessible and self-directed learning
- Safe spaces at home
- Stimulating learning environment
- Opportunity for normal development, building autonomy and exploration
- Reducing the severity of potential trauma caused by fear and uncertainty
- Enabling caregivers to focus on their responsibilities
- Promoting opportunities for early learning and responsive caregiving

Story of Resilience:

Parth used to be a stubborn child who always got into fights and struggled to read, write or follow simple instructions due to poor concentration. Playing outdoors channelled his energy and helped him calm down. But the teacher couldn't let him skip studies and play all day.

Toybank's games came to the rescue as over the year, they helped Parth sit in one place and improved his concentration, listening skills, camaraderie, numerical and linguistic skills.

As school shut down due to COVID-19, Parth's parents' major worry was keeping him engaged within the safe confines of home and ensuring that the improvement wasn't reversed. However, since he couldn't go to play, Toybank Play2Learn-PlayAtHome Kit brought play to him. Parth's energy was expended in being engaged with playsheets. He got back into the routine of learning through play.

Number and language-based activities helped him retain the basics of learning. The Play2Learn Kit also helped him bond with his parents as they guided him, played with him and encouraged him to do more.



Outreach as of September 2020

Toybank Play2Learn Kit has ensured that every day, 49,189 children have continued to learn through play at home. It has guided and supported 2,027 teachers and 7,018 parents through 405 support groups, as of 25th September 2020. While the organization has collaborated with existing partners, new ones have also joined in. This has enabled the organization to impact children beyond its home state Maharashtra and reach children in Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

“ The playsheets not only got the children up to speed with their studies but also enhanced skills required for academic success, such as attentiveness, problem solving as well as critical thinking. ”



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playing & learning



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405 Support Groups



281 Playsheets distributed

*As of 25th September 2020

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As the partner, Sunbird Trust from the remote Manipur villages, Aben and Singngat, shares:
“With limited or no access to digital devices, we were not able to jump on to a digital or online program immediately. Toybank playsheets have been a great stepping stone for us to induct both teachers and students into learning out of school, without a rigid framework in this lockdown period.”

Little Vikas from the tribal village of Madhya Pradesh says excitedly:
“I have never before seen or played with such new games.”

Toybank will continue to forge more collaborations and build resilience during these tough COVID-19 times.



Aligning with the New Education Policy that recognizes Play as integral to learning

The Play2Learn Kit is experiential, discovery-based and participation-based, which form the crux of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) by the Union Cabinet.

As the pedagogy aims for students' holistic development and enhancing their critical as well as creative thinking, Toybank Play2Learn Kit involves multifaceted learning focusing on numeracy, literacy, scientific concepts, building resilience and forming healthy habits. It promotes cognitive development and executive function—skills used to learn, work and manage everyday life. This includes memory, self-control and mental flexibility to adapt behaviours in response to changes in environments. Children explore new ideas, being fully present in the task and directing their own play.

Support Play to make #EveryChildResilient

The Covid-19 pandemic is perhaps the greatest humanitarian and health crisis ever; it threatens to have a long-term impact on children. Toybank's endeavor is to ensure that it does not alter our children's future opportunities or development. Learning and playing must not stop for them.



This can only be achieved as a collaborative effort. As we hope for your well-being, safety and happiness, we also urge you to continue to empower us to achieve the same for the disadvantaged children.

"The true object of all human life is play."

Thank you to our supporters at Child Action and Global Giving, and Happy Toybanking!

