

Toybank's Play2Learn Programme Update Report for April to June 2024 (Q1- FY 24-25)

Play helps Class 2 student build confidence, improve language skills

Divya (*name changed*) is a Class 2 student, who lives in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district in a joint family. Her Mother is a domestic worker, while her father and uncle work as labourers. The children Toybank - Development through Play works with come from vulnerable communities and do not have access to quality play.

When Divya first came to the Bal Bhavan, she did not want to sit in class and was afraid to interact with other students. She would often cry when brought to the Bal Bhavan. In the 'Power of Play' workshops the teachers attended, they were told about using play to strengthen the student-teacher bond and how to effectively use play in their classrooms. When the teacher noticed that Divya was being hesitant to sit in class, she introduced her to board games and started playing with her.

Eventually, Divya got comfortable and began attending the Bal Bhavan regularly. When she moved to a higher grade in the following year, she struggled with reading, writing and speaking, and was not very confident. To help her, the teachers began playing games such as fruit flash cards, which help with visual recognition, memory, and also used games based on letter recognition, language and vocabulary and spelling building.

They played these games daily and the teachers noticed improvements in her. Divya also started finding it fairly easier to read and spell words, eventually leading to improved skills. She began sitting with her classmates and they began competing to learn better, while ensuring that they helped each other. Learning through play made learning fun and easy for Divya, which led her to top her class in her exams.

Research shows that play has a transformative impact on children's holistic growth, equipping them with the skills and mindsets needed to grow into well-rounded adults in an ever-changing, increasingly volatile and uncertain world. At Toybank, we are committed to building critical life skills in at-risk children by increasing their access to play.



Divya (name changed) playing 'Fun Maths' a puzzle-based game which helps children to learn addition and subtraction.

- Story shared from Malala Bal Bhawan, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra



Key Updates from April 2024 to June 2024

1. Play Workers Unnati Workshop Series:

Ahead of the new academic year, as part of 'Playworkers Unnati Workshop Series', Toybank conducted multiple training sessions with the programme outreach team to train the new team members and as refresher training for existing team members. The objective was to prepare and train the outreach team in successfully delivering the programme through the year. The sessions were focused to align Outreach Playworkers (OPWs) to the vision of the organization, which is to bring PLAY-based methodologies into classroom learning, while also understanding how to use Playful approaches in engaging with children. Through these training sessions OPWs were trained to build their capacities in playful facilitation, classroom and behaviour management, communication and volunteer engagement and more.

2. On-ground Play2Learn Sessions

Play is the primary way in which children explore a world that is not in their control. Toybank — Development through Play's Play2Learn centres are safe spaces for children to explore and engage in developmentally-appropriate play sessions. The play sessions are an hour-long session that start with energisers, fun and movement-based activities and are aimed at starting the session on a joyful note. This is followed by children engaging in carefully-curated and strategically chosen games and play-based materials. Our Programme team members and Play Centre Facilitators (PCFs) support children to understand the games, learn through them, work in groups, help them think independently and more. The play session ends with another energiser, in addition to children sharing what they liked the most about the day's play session and what they learned. These play sessions are conducted with children between 3 to 13 years at government-aided and government schools, private schools, community centres and childcare institutions.

From April 24' to June 24', the Programme team members and PCFs conducted **2,153 Play2Learn Sessions across 413 Play Centres** in Maharashtra.

3. 'Power of Play' Workshops for Play Centre Facilitators (PCF):

On-ground training sessions were conducted with the school teachers (PCFs) to make them aware and knowledgeable on play-based learning and re-orient them on Toybank's play programme. These training sessions help them understand the impact of developmentally appropriate play on the childhood to adulthood outcomes in children. They are trained on new games and how to effectively use them in classrooms, as part of their daily teaching, in order to build a healthy and stronger student-teacher bond.

Our Programme Team conducted **four 'Power of Play' workshops training 80 Play Centre Facilitators of Maharashtra** during this period.



Photographs:



Toybank's Outreach Playworkers attend a series of workshops designed for them in preparation for the year ahead



Groups of Children engage with carefully curated board games that support in building essential life skills.



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



Invest to Rebuild Childhoods through Play

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 back the well-being and happiness of 77,000+ children who continue to Play and learn!

Thank you and Happy Toybanking!

