

## Toybank's Play2Learn Programme Update Report



*Soham from Play2Learn centre R147 individually plays the puzzle game of 'Pairs' before he started playing in group with his classmates.*

*Soham (name changed), a Class 3 student, was always afraid to speak to his peers in class. When I asked him a question or to solve a Math problem, he would just keep his head down and not respond out of fear. I could not understand the reason, but as a teacher, I wanted him to also feel safe and be able to talk to others. So, one day, I thought of using play as a medium to interact with him and see if there was some difference. To my surprise, he found the games very amusing. When I asked him if he would play with others, he initially said no, so I gave him a game to play by himself and I kept a tab on him. As time passed, he started getting out of his comfort zone and began to reach out to the students sitting near him, asking if he could join them. The others happily accepted him into the group and they were all having fun playing and learning together. Soham is also a little weak in Math, so I usually use Fun with Maths and Abacus to teach him. Learning through play has led to some improvement in his overall skills. I am happy to see him now mingle with other children.*

**-Shared Durga Lokhande, a teacher from Shri Sandeshwar Primary School, Chanai, Play2Learn Centre R147.**



### Key Updates from July 2023 to September 2023

- **Capacity-building of programme team:**

The programme outreach team participated in a number of training sessions led by Toybank to better understand play and its significance. The training consisted of a refresher session on Play and its components, Play Facilitation and Behaviour Management, as well as play session demonstrations of the new sessions by our outreach officers.



*Caption: Programme Outreach team gathered in office to refresh their learning and through interactive activities shared their on-field experiences.*

- **2,525 Play2Learn sessions were conducted by our Programme Team and Play Centre Facilitators (PCF) across 167 Play2Learn Centres.**

Toybank's Play2Learn centres are safe spaces for children to engage in developmentally-appropriate play sessions. Play is the primary way in which children explore a world that is not in their control. At these Play2Learn sessions, children engage with games, toys and play-based activities, using innovative facilitation techniques by our Programme Officers and partner teachers. These games, toys and activities are chosen strategically to help children build various skills, including cognitive and interpersonal skills.

- **'Play helps children stay socially active'**

*"Crossword games boost children's IQ levels, strengthen cognition, and keep them sharp. These games have also developed their problem-solving skills, are keeping them physically active, socially connected, and engaged through board games."*  
Shared Sabir Shah, a teacher, Snehalaya, Play2Learn Centre R258.



*Caption: Children from Play2Learn Centre R258 play with puzzle and block games in group.*



○ **‘Play encourages children to work in teams’**

*“The games from Toybank are helpful as our student’s knowledge on Science, Maths and Social Studies have increased. While they play games, they are grouped and encouraged to play in teams. Our teachers have observed that students help and support each other to give their best and this has translated into them behaving the same during class as well. If any student is having any difficulty with studies, not one, but four to five students will come forward to help. I have also realised that students have become well versed in reading and explaining the India Map because of the puzzles they keep solving during their play sessions. Overall, I feel that play not only gives children joy and excitement, but also helps them build, nurture and develop into well-rounded people.”* shared Anil Deshmukh, the Principal of Zilla Parishad Primary School, Nandgaon, Play2Learn Centre R200

● **Replacement of 2,947 games across 114 Play2Learn Centres:**

The programme team conducted stock and quality checks at the Play2Learn centres and initiated the process of **restocking the games and play material at 114 centres**. The team ensures that children have access to not just age-appropriate and category-wise games, but also that these games are in good condition. This also allows the PCFs and programme team to conduct play sessions smoothly.



*Caption: Our Programme partners and Play Centre Facilitators pose with the games and play materials that were replaced after stock and quality checks at play centres.*

● Between July-September 2023, we conducted **50 Power of Play Workshops for 435 teachers from 197 Play2Learn centres** to,

1. Reconnect the PCFs to the benefits of play-based learning and re-orient them about Toybank’s Play2Learn Programme
2. Train them 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
3. Maintain a strong relationship between our programme team on field and PCFs to effective facilitation of Play2Learn Sessions and better classroom management, as they integrate play into their classes.





**Caption: 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**

- **“The games that Toybank provides helps in boosting children’s confidence.**

The games also help them develop curiosity and come up with strategies to win the game. shared Prabhakar Ghiodke, a teacher from ZPPS Dhanora, Play2Learn Centre R384.

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

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

- **Building knowledge through play and simple activities**

“Toybank’s play sessions are incredibly beneficial because they offer knowledge in a simple method, which is through strategic games. The children gain a better understanding of one another, strengthen their interpersonal skills, gain confidence, and sharpen their decision-making abilities while playing together,” said Sangita Ege, principal from ZPCPS Pohregaoon, Play2Learn Centre R329.





**Caption: PCFs & Children from Play2Learn Centres R338, R329 & U34 engage in action songs activities and puzzle games.**

- **'Children developing critical thinking skills and more'**

*"Play sessions allow children to have fun and learn together. When given any game, the children work together to finish it, which means they are developing leadership skills. Playing in a group also develops their decision-making ability, as it allows them to listen to what others have to say, their ideas and strategies. We have noticed that playing these strategic games has led to children improving their logical thinking, as well as interpersonal skills,"* said Mahadevi Koshti, a teacher from ZPPS Bhokramba, Play2Learn Centre R338

- **Additional Activities Conducted:**

- **Celebrated 19 years of Toybank's work:**

On August 26, over 100 volunteers came together to distribute games to 1,674 children and conduct fun activities at seven schools in Malad. The day marked 19 years of Toybank – Development through Play, and was filled with learning, games, but most of all, play.

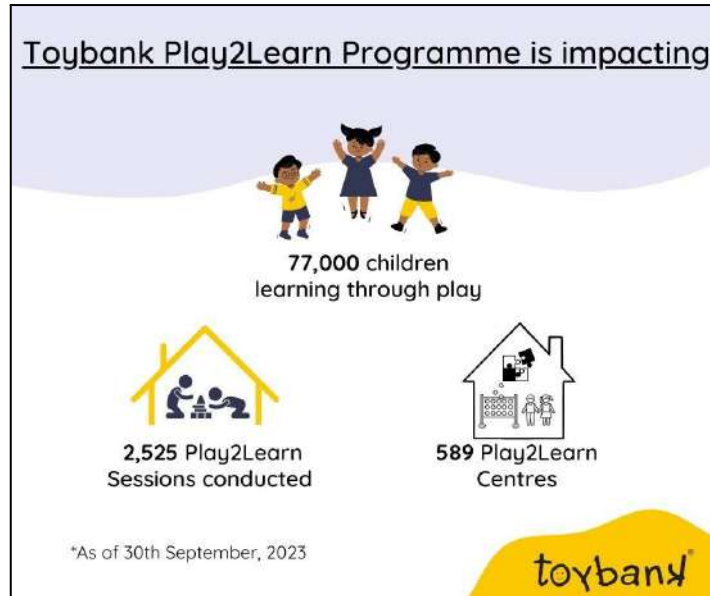
The day began with an induction of volunteers, where they were briefed about Toybank's work and the power of play. The volunteers were then split into groups and every group was assigned a class, where they spent the day playing, laughing and sharing stories with children. The volunteers also conducted fun activities and distributed educational games towards the end of the session.

In addition, one of our 16-year-old volunteers also organised an origami workshop for children of Grades 1 and 2. She taught them how to make butterflies, bookmarks and more. Pravin Tulpule, former naval officer turned clown, made the day even more special by going class-to-class and showing children magic tricks. The children were in awe of his tricks and amused by the jokes he told.



**Caption: Toybank turns 19' was celebrated on 26th August 2023 alongwith Pravin Tulpule, and over 100 volunteers and supporters and games were distributed to 1,674 children**





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

As a non-profit that envisions a world where every child is empowered through play, Toybank is creating safe spaces for at-risk children, providing them access to quality play material and mainstreaming its Conscious Play™ approach. Toybank's play programme helps to develop cognitive abilities along with 21st century life-skills such as critical thinking and problem solving. With Child Action's continued support, Toybank bolsters its efforts to rebuild childhoods with equity, ensuring our children's holistic development and mental well-being.

