

About Toybank—Development through Play

Toybank—Development through Play, registered as **The Opentree Foundation**, is a non-profit founded in August 2004 that provides underserved children safe and happy learning spaces to keep them on-track with their mental and behavioral well-being through our Play2Learn Program. We partner with schools, shelter homes, community centers and NGOs that engage with children from vulnerable communities across urban and rural Maharashtra to set up Play2Learn Centers in their premises.

Through well-curated Play2Learn Sessions involving board games and activities, we promote at-risk children's mental well-being, social-emotional development, learning, and cognitive skills. We focus on reducing school drop-outs, improving grades, enhancing social skills and reducing anxiety, depression and aggression caused by children's harsh surroundings.

On a daily basis, Toybank impacts **56, 631 children** through **411 Toybank Play Centers** (as of 31st March, 2020). At our **Play2Smile Centers**, in collaboration with **hospitals**, our Play Sessions reduce stress and anxiety in children undergoing treatments.

Toybank's Play2Learn initiative as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Since the 25th of March, the lockdown triggered by COVID-19 has had a menacing effect on our collective mental well-being. Children have been most adversely affected by adversity. More so, the 115 million* children living in extreme poverty.

COVID-19's ramifications on at-risk children

Cognitive	Socio-emotional	Mental well-being
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in motivation to learn due to prolonged disconnection from schools. • Early childhood development impacted by loss of mid day meals, early learning and mental stimulation • Loss of learning due to lack of access to online learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted out-of-home social interactions and access to open spaces limiting autonomy-building, and exploration • Inadequate parental involvement in aiding learning and development • No child-friendly learning environment for those living in cramped spaces, making it difficult to learn or cope with stress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety due to loss of income and livelihoods • Inadequate psychosocial support against violence or abuse at homes • Children with disabilities dependent on in-person services doubly impacted

Effects on learning**

- **27 crore** students are affected due to school closure
- **82% students** in Maharashtra anticipate difficulty in funding education next academic year
- **27% students** fear that chances of continuing with studies are "low to very low"
- **73% students** expect they will have to financially support their families

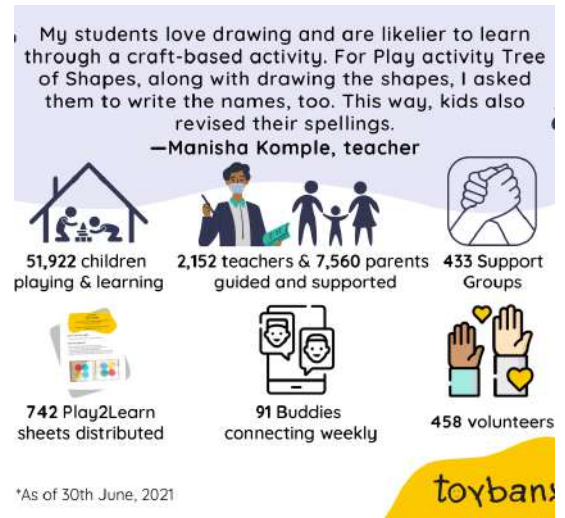
*UN. **Indian Express



Toybank Play2Learn Kit for continued learning and resilience

Even before the lockdown was announced, we pivoted into action to provide mental relief, meaningful engagement, resilience and continued learning to our children through the digital model of our Play2Learn Program, #ToybankPlay2LearnKit. On our support groups, we share two playsheets daily. Characteristics of the kit:

- Aligned with the children's academic curriculum – NCERT, Diksha online learning app
- Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 - Play-based, activity-based and discovery-based
- Promoting Learning Outcomes
 - Shape, colour, number and letter recognition
 - Science, History, Geography and Environment
 - Numerical and literacy skills
 - Managing emotions and healthy habit building



toybank
Colorful Grids

Solve maths equations and color boxes that are your answers.

Purpose: Thinking, Problem solving, numerical Skill develop
Age Group: Primary

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
Color, pencil, paper or book

HOW TO CONDUCT

- Make 5X5 grids as shown in the picture below.
- Write equations on the top of each grid.
- Ask the child to solve the problem and color as many boxes as the answer.
- For example, $2+2=4$, so they have to color 4 boxes or $5+2=7$, so they need to color 7 boxes.
- Refer to the image as example.

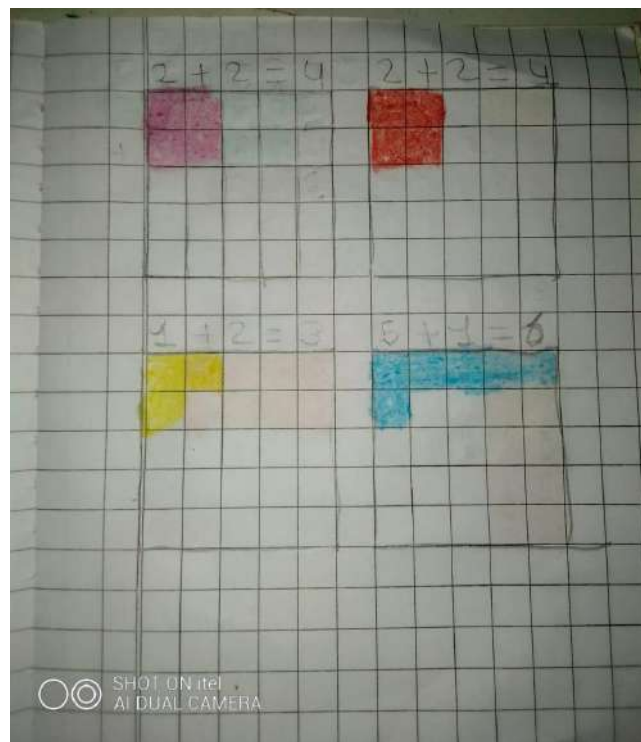
Reference:

- $2 + 2 = 4$
- $1 + 2 = 3$
- $5 + 1 = 6$
- $1 + 1 = 2$
- $8 + 1 = 9$
- $5 + 5 = 10$
- $4 + 4 = 8$
- $5 + 2 = 7$

Source: Free Online Sources.

#PlayAtHome
an initiative by
The Opentree Foundation

toybank
Development Through Play
www.toybank.org



A Class 4 student learnt to solve math problems with the Colorful Grids activity

Toybank Play2Learn Kit benefits

- Accessible and self-directed learning
- Safe spaces at home
- Stimulating learning environment during the lockdown
- Providing outlet for normal development, autonomy-building and exploration
- Reduce the severity of potential trauma caused by fear and uncertainty
- Supporting caregivers to focus on their responsibilities
- Promote opportunities for early learning and responsive caregiving

Voices from the Field



"I struggled to conduct online learning as parents weren't able to give adequate time and attention. But the self-directed activities from Toybank's Play2Learn Kit broke this barrier. Children became proactive in asking for and engaging their time meaningfully in play activities."

— Manoj Nikam, Teacher from Maharashtra Housing Board School, Hindi Medium

"Lack of playtime and learning made Kavi lazy and unhelpful at home. But Toybank's activities re-energized her and restored her healthy routine. She tried the 'Hold Water in Inverted Glass' activity. When the water didn't spill, Kavi had an awed expression like magic had happened!"

— Kavi's Parent, Nanded district

"I like Toybank's games a lot. We get to play new games that we haven't played or even seen before."

— Vikas, Student, Madhya Pradesh

It's imperative to impact all the underserved children and empower them to face not only the COVID crisis but also any adversity. We urge you to join us in making Every Child Resilient.

For more details and updates

- Email us at playathome@toybank.org
- Website: www.toybank.org/play
- Follow us on Social Media:
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