



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Director's Message

Toys play a very vital role in child's development, as it promotes the curiosity and creativity in children. It is a tool to promote equal opportunity for all the children to engage and learn without receiving any gender stereotypes. I am sure that you all must have experienced the toy market segregating the toys by associating pink for girls and blue for boys. Further, parents are asking their kids not to play with toys of the opposite sex. Even when they observe their kids playing with opposite gender toys, they try to tease them or sometimes make them feel self-conscious. Taking into consideration that toys have no gender, so why community or the toy market has designated them as gender-specific toys for playing.

As a mother of a two-year-old daughter, I strongly believe that children should be free to pick the toy of their choice without stereotyping the toys with gender. For instance, my daughter loves to play with rocket and jet sets and is fascinated with stars and the moon. The two-year-old also says that she desires to be an astronaut and visit the moon one day.

For the past few years, we have been noticing a shift away from gendering toys. A few parents have even come forward and started breaking the stereotype by simply allowing their kids to choose the toy they wish to play with and accepting their kid's choices. Children should be free to pick any toys which they wish to play with, as toys enhance their imagination and play an important role in the development of their creativity, learning levels and social and emotional well-being.

Warm Regards,
Vidyun Goel
Director,
The Toy Bank

Once again we are in Assam

For young children play becomes the beginning for creativity in art or music expression. The engagement with toy helps the children to express, imagine and be creative through play.

The Toy Bank has collaborated with Human Care Foundation – Elite Academy located in **Mullaganj District of Assam** to create a Toy Library inside the academy. The Library will benefit more than **400 children** from 3 to 12 years of age belonging to economically weaker section. The Library will have different varieties of toys, board games, storybooks and other learning aids for holistic development.



The Human Care Foundation strongly believes that the creation of the Toy Library will motivate the other parents and children to enroll in the academy as they do not have toys or learning aids at home.

25 Toy Libraries in Jhunjhunu

Play is an essential element in Early Childhood Development and Education. The Anganwadi centres of India have very few or no toys and other aids to engage the students. It has often led to children losing interest to visit the centres daily and hence an increase in the dropout rate.

Responding to the needs, The Toy Bank has partnered with Gandhi Fellows of Piramal Foundation to **create Toy Libraries in 25 Anganwadi centres situated in rural spaces of Jhunjhunu District, Rajasthan**. The creation of the libraries allows nearly 300 children to play together which will improve their learning levels. The Anganwadi Workers will be trained by the Gandhi fellows on the usage of toys, i.e. how learning can be achieved through the play-way method. For example, teaching different colours name and counting from colourful building block set.



Creation of Toy Library in Delhi

The Toy Bank has always aimed to be inclusive in its approach in reaching out to the underprivileged children. During the journey to spread a smile, we have got the opportunity to create Toy Libraries for children with various disabilities like autism, cerebral palsy, partially or fully visually challenged etc.

The Toy Bank has created a Toy Library for children with visual impairment (fully and partially) in collaboration with The Blind Relief Association, New Delhi. The library comprises of texture and musical based toys, stationery items and other learning aids to help children to draw, learn and express.



Covid Relief Initiative: Reach and Teach Program

A. Distribution of Activity-based learning kit

While the corona virus continues to spread across India, the schools are close as part of a social distancing policy to decrease the transmission of Corona virus infection. However, the closing of the school has affected **321 million Indian** children leading to widening in learning gaps. The Lockdown has also affected the children, especially those who are living in vulnerable conditions as they are most likely to experience anxiety, depression due to physical isolation from their friends, as well as teachers, extended family and community networks.

*To address this concern, **The Toy Bank** team has come forward and distributed **Activity-based Learning Kit and Toys** in South Delhi Municipal School on 23rd January 2021. The kits are distributed to the parents and guardians of the **students studying from grade one to five-under Safe Playroom Program.***

The Kits will also allow The Toy Bank team to conduct online sessions smoothly with the students, as these individual kits will allow them to perform DIY activities, develop crucial language and literacy skills, numeracy, environmental awareness, life skills and multiple concepts at home in a fun and engaging way. The learning kits will not only support The Toy Bank to conduct online sessions. But, will also allow the children to engage, learn and minimize the negative effects of the house arrest on the social and emotional well-being of the children.



B. E-Learning Engaging Worksheets

Responding to the low learning level of the students, The Toy Bank has introduced activity-based E-learning worksheets during pandemic to engage the student's everyday within the safety of their home, as per the school schedule. Each engaging worksheet is carefully drafted after mapping the learning outcomes of each grade and components of the activity kit distributed. For instance, one of the elements of activity-based learning kit is clay. And, through the experimental activity of making different shapes from clay, the students will sensitize themselves with the different names of the shapes, properties, categories based on their attributes and able to identify the shapes in their surroundings.

Daily, **E-learning worksheets** and reference videos are shared with the students from first to fifth grade explaining the concept and how to conduct an activity at home to the students from first to fifth grade. As it was witnessed, that most of the parents are not capable enough to support the students in education. The E-learning class will also be flexible to the student's availability to mobile phones or any other electronic item so that no child is left behind.

Till now, The Toy Bank has implemented **900 worksheets** with the students enrolled in Municipal School of Delhi, from first to fifth grade. While sharing the worksheets and video, The Toy Bank has followed the day-wise theme for the worksheets are as follows:

Day	Theme
Monday	Drawing and coloring
Tuesday	Numeracy skills
Wednesday	Environment and Life skills
Thursday	Language skills
Friday	Art and craft
Saturday	Language skills

Class 3 Worksheet

Name: _____ Class: _____

Date: _____

Anagram Words

Write the words in the space. Then draw the line to match the opposite word. Use the example.

SLEOC	CLOSE	_____	TEFAR
STOL	_____	_____	KARD
FORBEE	_____	_____	SEY
ORTIN	_____	_____	DINF
LGHT	_____	OPEN	PONE
ON	_____	_____	STOHU

Handwritten student work on a blue background shows the words and anagrams with lines connecting them. A red line connects 'CLOSE' to 'OPEN'.










Class 2 Worksheet

Name: _____ Class: _____

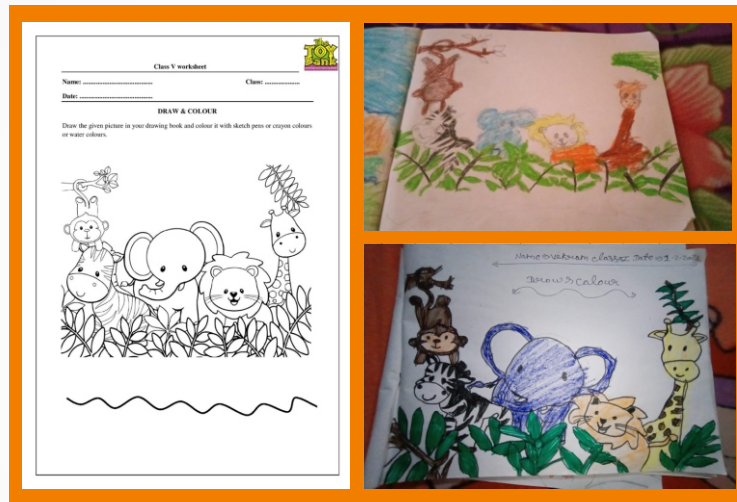
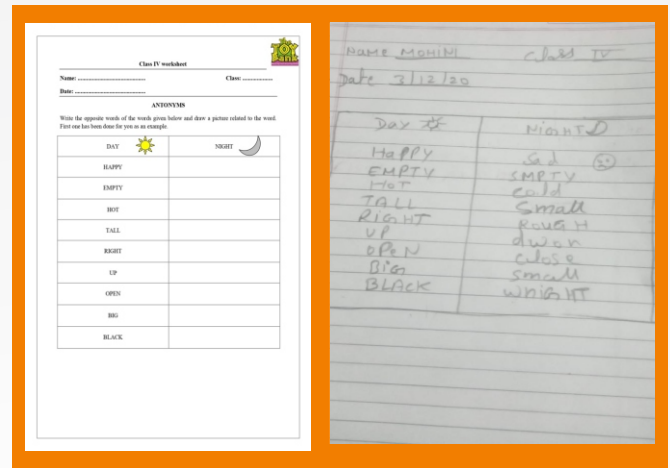
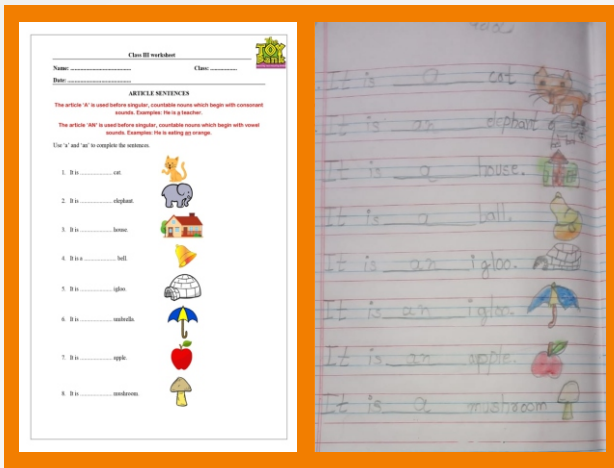
Date: _____

COLOUR MIXING

Fill in the circles with the colours and mix them to form new colours. Also write the name of the new colour.

	+		=		_____
RED		YELLOW			
	+		=		_____
YELLOW		BLUE			
	+		=		_____
RED		BLUE			

Handwritten student work on lined paper shows the color mixing activities. The first row shows 'RED + YELLOW = ORANGE'. The second row shows 'YELLOW + BLUE = GREEN'. The third row shows 'RED + BLUE = PURPLE'.



Panel Discussion

Ms Vidyun Goel, Director of The Toy Bank participated in a virtual panel discussion on **"Use of Open-Ended and Gender-neutral Toys in Early Childhood Development"** At the India Toy Fair.

Ms Yasmin Ali Haque (UNICEF Representative to India), Shri Ram Mohan Mishra (Secretary of Women and Child Development) and others have also joined the panel.

The session focused on the power of play and the value of play in a child's development year, introducing toys in early childhood centres and creating pedagogy with toys as educational tools to reach development milestone.



School collection drive

During the Coronavirus pandemic, The Toy Bank has organised a Toy Collection Drive with **Global Mother's School** located in Preet Vihar. One of the most encouraging aspects was that during the crisis the children were extremely happy and interested in donating their favourite toys and books to the underprivileged children in need, which not only included their used and discarded toys but also their current favourite that they play during the pandemic lockdown.

Virtual Republic Day celebration

