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Director's Message

Education is a fundamental tool for achieving the full potential of human beings and for the prosperous growth of society. By providing quality education, we can develop citizens who are critical problem solvers, decision-makers, and have the ability to lead society towards betterment.

It is essential that, as educators, we move towards promoting skills that are essential and focus less on rote memorization of facts. It is crucial that opportunities are created where the student has a voice and can decide how, when, and where they want to grow and learn.

Through our initiative, we create opportunities for the learners to grow and learn in a playful manner. By promoting the **Right to Play**, opportunities are created where they can play and nurture skills that are essential for the future.

At The Toy Bank, we prioritize giving students practical, hands-on education via play-based learning. The objective is to support students as they use exploration to build their knowledge. Play equipment and educational tools facilitate the development of new knowledge, connections, and the practical application of existing knowledge. The goal is to inspire students to design their own learning experiences by assisting them in transitioning from the known to the unknown. As NEP 2020 points out, pedagogy must evolve to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable.

The Safe Playroom Program ensures equal access to high-quality education for every child, bridging the gap between learning and allowing individuals to develop at their own pace. We feel that education should lead to self-realization and liberation, and in order to achieve this, a safe space is made available for them to playfully explore, experiment, and acquire new information and learning. At present, we have seven effectively operating safe playrooms in Delhi's municipal schools, serving over 3,000 students from families with limited resources.



Vidyun Goel

Director

The Toy Bank

Teacher Training Program



The Toy Bank has launched a teacher training program to improve the skills and knowledge of teachers in Safe Playroom Schools. Every quarter, a session is implemented with primary school teachers and focuses on keeping teachers up-to-date with the latest toys, board games, and learning aids to provide an immersive and engaging learning experience for students. The training sessions aim to create master-play teachers who can provide a stimulating and fun learning environment for students, as well as inspire new teachers.

During the sessions, a range of topics are covered, including the National Education Policy, VARK (visual, auditory, reading and writing, and kinaesthetic ways of learning), communication skills, language skills, numeracy, and the use of various play materials and aids. The objective of the training is to help teachers become proficient in creating a safe, interactive, and enjoyable learning environment for children.

Halloween Celebration at Safe Playroom



The Toy Bank celebrated Halloween with primary students from Delhi's Municipal schools on October 30th and 31st. The event aimed to introduce the students to Halloween's origin and history while also allowing them to participate in fun activities such as face painting, creating a scary pumpkin face, making a witch hat, and a bat cape. The Toy Bank believes that children in India are not only Indian citizens but also global citizens who deserve to enjoy experiences like trick or treat were carried out to mark the day.

Puppet show

Diwali, a festival of lights, is one of the most popular festivals for children. The festival involves colourful lights, sweets, crackers, and a five-day-long celebration following Dhanteras, Gowardhan, and Bhai Dooj. However, it has been observed that many students fail to understand the reason and story behind the celebration.

This year, in order to educate the students about the significance of the festival and the ancient legend of Lord Rama, who was deprived of his kingdom and sent into exile for 14 years, a puppet show was organized. The puppet show was choreographed by students under the guidance of the play teacher and was showcased to all the students to raise understanding about how Rama's eventual defeat of the evil spirit Ravana, and his triumphant return home, is the reason for lighting diyas and feasting.



Christmas Day Celebration



To keep the spirit of joy and kindness in the air, The Toy Bank organized an art and craft activity to celebrate Christmas with students. They crafted colourful Christmas trees, Santa caps, and sang Christmas carols.

Lego Day Celebration

The Toy Bank celebrated **International Lego Day** on 27th January 2024 by engaging the young children in many group and individual play sessions to celebrate the day across the safe playrooms. This year the primary class students were given the theme **“Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat”** for the Lego activity.

The students from the primary grades confidently showcased their ideas, depicting the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Right to Vote, and various other activities relevant to the theme.



Make your own Abacus

The Toy Bank has engaged primary-class students in the Make Your Abacus activity. Under the guidance of the play teacher, students made a working abacus from waste materials like used card boxes, beads, and other materials. Additional lessons on place value and other arithmetic concepts were imparted to students using the working abacus.



Anganwadi Toy Connect

The Toy Bank carries out regular visits to the Old Delhi Anganwadi centres, where they have enforced Anganwadi Toy Connect. During these visits, they observe and provide guidance on the appropriate utilization of the toys and other resources to ensure effective use within the centres.



Toy Collection Drive

The Toy Bank has successfully organized multiple toy collection drives in various schools and corporate offices across different cities in Delhi NCR. The aim of these drives is to encourage the donation of preloved toys, which are then carefully sorted and sent to our refurbishing centre. At the centre, the toys undergo a thorough refurbishing process, ensuring that they are safe and in good condition for reuse. After this, the toys are repackaged into toy kits, which are then distributed to our extensive network of toy libraries and safe playrooms across India. These facilities play a crucial role in providing access to play materials for children who come from underprivileged backgrounds and may not have the means to access toys otherwise.

Unlocking Imagination: The Importance of Knowing Animal Names in a Child's Journey"

In the enchanting realm of childhood, where curiosity knows no bounds, the significance of knowing animal names becomes a pivotal cornerstone in a child's journey of discovery and growth. Imagine a world where a child is on the brink of exploring the wonders of the animal world. This seemingly simple knowledge not only opens the door to understanding the natural world but also plays a profound role in shaping a child's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

The ability to identify and remember animal names serves as a gateway to broader learning experiences. For a child, it's more than just recalling facts; it's a foundation for developing language skills, expanding vocabulary, and improving memory.

The play teacher in the Toy Bank safe playroom located in the Municipal Schools of Delhi implemented a play session named "Animal World" by using puzzles that featured images of various animals and their infants. The play teacher followed up on the activity by discussing the baby's name and other animal traits. As the puzzle pieces were scattered on the table, the play teacher enthusiastically unfolded the activity, making each piece a gateway to discovering the wonders of the animal kingdom.

During the activity, the play teacher observed Rashmi's hesitancy to participate. Rashmi is a third-grade student at the Municipal School of Delhi, RK Puram. She has a very curious observance. However, due to her shy nature, she exhibited less participation and hesitated throughout the play session activities. Rather than compelling her, the play teacher embraced patience, taking a moment to repeat the instructions and ensure every child felt included. Recognizing that Rashmi still needed personalized support, the play teacher stood by her side. This act of solidarity created a safe space for Rashmi to engage herself in the activity, showcasing the play teacher's unwavering commitment to each child's unique learning journey.



As Rashmi gradually warmed up to the activity and the classroom buzzed with shared excitement. Every student appeared very enthusiastic upon completing the activity; a few even shared instances where they were confused between the names of a few animals, like the wolf and fox, the leopard and cheetah, etc. The puzzle transformed into more than just a learning tool; it became a catalyst for teamwork among the children. Rashmi started off unsure and hesitant, but with encouragement, she changed into an active participant. This shows how giving people individual support and being patient can make a big difference.

After a few days, when the play teacher was guiding another activity from the play session, specifically focusing on the names and sounds animals make, the entire class eagerly participated. In this engaging activity, the play teacher led discussions about both wild and pet animals, emphasizing the unique sounds each species produces. The play teacher used different animal toy figurines and soft toys to keep it interesting.

As the activity unfolded, students presented the assigned animal, sharing fascinating details about its characteristics, and producing its sound in groups. The room echoed with a chorus of animal sounds, creating an immersive learning environment. This time, the play teacher observed that Rashmi, along with her group partner, actively participated in this collaborative experience, showcasing a deep understanding of her assigned animal. Not only did she accurately describe the animal, but she also went the extra mile by confidently producing its distinct sound out loud. Her confidence in accurately describing the animal and mimicking its sound reflected the transformative impact of interactive and hands-on learning.

The positive change in Rashmi's participation was not isolated but was observed by her peers. The sounds of animals filled the air, and the collective enthusiasm of the students transformed the classroom into a vibrant space of shared knowledge. It was a testament to the transformative journey she had undertaken—from initial hesitancy to becoming an active, eager participant in the learning process.

Rashmi and her peer's enthusiasm extended beyond the activity, as the class embraced the joy of acquiring knowledge in a creative and enjoyable manner. The engaging techniques taught by the facilitator empowered not only Rashmi but the entire class to become animated storytellers, sharing their newfound knowledge with one another. The collective experience demonstrated that learning, when coupled with fun and creativity, goes beyond just learning in books—it turns into a real joy and a chance to discover exciting things.



The resources and new learning skills provided by The Toy Bank enabled the creation of engaging activities that not only enriched Rashmi's learning but also fostered a supportive learning environment for every child.

The play session with a puzzle is not just an activity but a testament to the impact of personalized and playful education, where every child, regardless of their initial hesitation, can blossom with the right guidance. Rashmi's journey, aided by a playful play module from The Toy Bank and the caring efforts of the play teacher, demonstrates the possibility of life-changing educational experiences that leave a lasting impression on a child's academic trajectory.