

# TOY BANK

## Distt. Bilaspur (HP)

It is a well known fact that the maximum brain development of a child happens during 0-3 years of age. More so, around 90% of brain development happens during first five years. Toys are a great tool for brain development of a child. Not only they help in development of their senses but they also aid in stimulating motor skills, hand-eye coordination, knowledge of symmetry and colour in a joyful manner.

While some of the privileged children have access to such a vibrant learning atmosphere, some others may not be so fortunate to learn and evolve in the most crucial phase of their life.

The Integrated Child Development Program (ICDS) of the Government aims for early childcare and development of children with 0-6 years of age through the vast network of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) all over the country. Due to financial constraints and other reasons, sometimes the children enrolled in AWCs are not able to get access to toys and child games. Therefore, as a community-aided initiative for institution-based learning of children enrolled in AWCs, the district administration Bilaspur (HP) proposes to set up a 'Toy Bank'. Anyone can donate toys which may be used by the children to play in AWCs across the district.

### What kind of toys to donate

Although the list cannot be exhaustive, a tentative advisory may suffice for all the donors. The toys need not be expensive, but must be useful. They must involve a child rather than making them mute spectators of some fancy gadgetry. Most importantly, the toys must be safe.

- Toys which are 'open-ended' in the sense that children can create, add and demolish. e.g. Interlock blocks, jigsaw puzzles, Rubik's cube
- Toys which grow in usage with age of the child. e.g. plastic animals which can be cast into different stories by them
- Toys/charts which help them learn shapes, names, colours etc.
- Board games etc. which can involve a child's attention
- Toys which simulate real life things. e.g. cars, kitchen sets, aeroplane models
- Child accessories which have been rendered unusable

### Where to send your contributions

The toys can be sent to: **Deputy Commissioner Office, Bilaspur (HP) - 174001** by post or by hand. For any information, the following nodal officers may be contacted:

1. Mrs. Kaushalya Bansal, CDPO Ghumarwin Mob: +919418365954
2. Mr. Sandeep, DC branch Mob: +917807239959
3. Mr. C.R. Bansal Mob: +919418622947