

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



Guest Curator : [Kutuki](#)

## Learning and Play are not mutually exclusive

*"My child does not sit and study. He is always playing"*

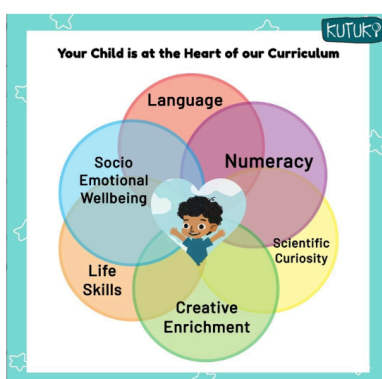
This came up during a conversation I had with a parent of a five year old some years ago.

I've always wondered why a child with their nose in a book, sitting at a desk, is idolized as a serious learner, while someone who appears to be having fun while learning is branded as distracted or uninterested.

Why should learning look like suffering? In reality, learning is unbridled play, and that's something we've always believed at Kutuki.

Research from the Lego Foundation, Edutopia, and the Hechinger Report supports our belief that children engaged in play-based learning demonstrate improved creativity, problem-solving skills, and adaptability compared to those receiving direct instruction-focused education.

## Kutuki's Approach to Play-Based Learning



A curriculum centered around play places children at the core of the learning process. Since 2019, every piece of content we've created has been designed to enable teachers, caregivers, and children themselves to teach and learn through play-based methods like storytelling, music, dance, art, and games. We believe that almost everything from math and science to literacy and socio-emotional learning skills can be explored through these methods especially in the early years.

Here are interesting examples of how teachers, caregivers and children have engaged with our content across different domains of development and made it their own.

### Physical Development

Physical development is crucial in the early years. While unstructured play naturally encourages children to be active, can structured settings also make physical development activities enjoyable for young children?

- Our story "[With Yoga I Can Be Anything](#)" combines yoga asanas with a child's imagination, helping children learn critical gross motor skills through pretend play. This story has gained popularity at

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- Here are examples of preschoolers re-enacting our story during an [annual day](#), and a child adding her own unique touch to the [Hindi version](#) of this story.

### Sensory Development

Connecting with their five senses helps preschoolers build awareness about their own bodies and the objects around them. The topic can become enjoyable only through experiential exploration rather than theoretical learning.

- [The Senses Song](#) and [Squishy Atta](#) offer ample opportunities for designing activities that prompt children to interact with real world objects in the Indian context. Such activities, involving exploration of various textures, scents, and sounds, enhance their sensory abilities in an exciting way.
- Here's a [young child](#) singing along to our Senses song, connecting each sense with its intended purpose through the use of actions and home-made props.
- Here's [another instance](#) of a young child exploring textures using our song Squishy Atta. His mother arranged all the items mentioned in the song in separate bowls, allowing the child to explore the texture of each item and describe them as squishy atta, sticky honey, grainy sugar, and more independently.

### Health and Hygiene

Preschoolers are often susceptible to coughs, colds, and viral infections, which can be quite challenging for both the child and caregivers to manage. Teaching personal hygiene skills early on can empower children to take control of their overall health as they grow. However, the way we convey these concepts to children differs greatly from how we approach adults.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an abundance of information about personal hygiene across various platforms. The messages and tone of these communications were primarily aimed at instilling a sense of fear and caution among adults regarding hygiene practices.

- However, to get through to young children, we created a no-panic, child safety song called '[Corona se Darona](#)' that taught the same skills but in a playful way.
- Here's how a parent and child choreographed an entire [dance sequence](#) to our song and showcased it in their online preschool during the lockdown to spread awareness among her classmates.

### Speech Skills

If you're looking for a break from phonics or traditional instructional methods to teach language and speech, consider using [tongue twisters](#). They not only present a fun challenge but also motivate children to practice speaking without being afraid to make mistakes. Our adaptation of popular Indian tongue twisters aids children in mastering difficult sounds and word combinations through enjoyable repetition.

- Take a look at this mother and child having a blast while trying to keep up with our take on "[Kachha Papad](#)."

### Social Skills

In the early years, children are gradually moving from solitary play to engaging with a group. This transition could be daunting for some. Action songs and call-and-response activities during circle time help children learn to engage with others. These activities encourage cooperation, turn-taking, and group participation, essential for developing social skills.

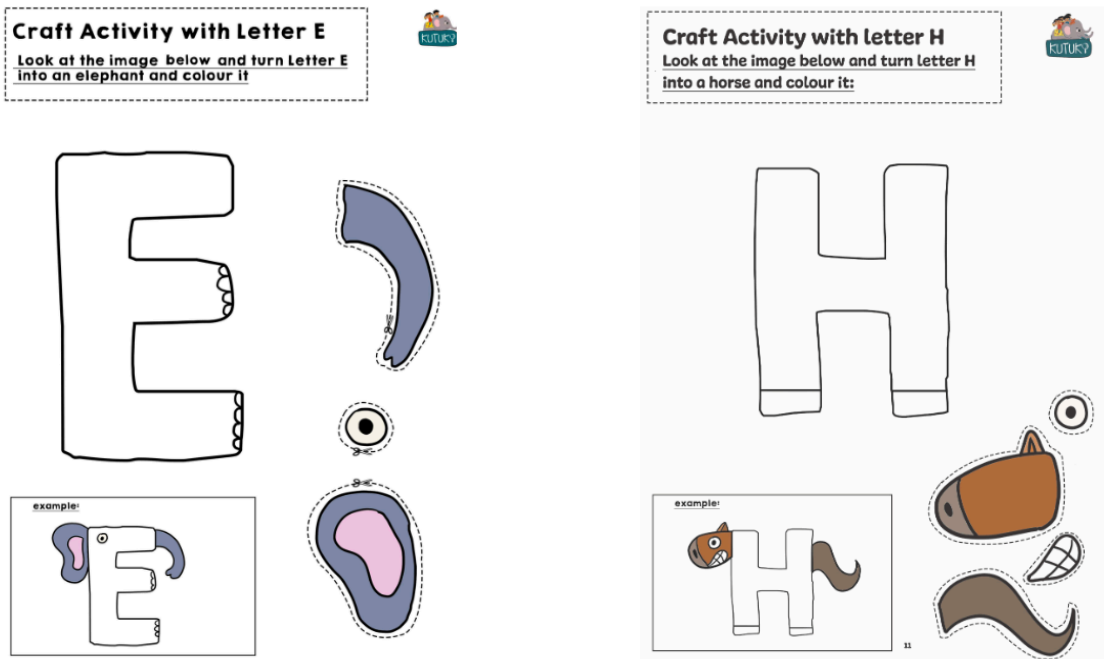
- Watch a preschool teacher using our [Insect song](#) as an icebreaker on the first day of school getting children to hop, crawl and march away.

### Pre-Writing Skills

clear and most of all, they will feel very frustrated. Writing will feel like a chore and not as a means to express themselves.

Here are some play- based activities to strengthen fine motor skills to prepare a child to write:

- Get them to trace: Finger tracing is the easiest and most effective way to prepare them for writing.
- Tweezers: With the help of tweezers ask your little one to pick up objects. This develops finger strength to grip objects.
- Create Art: Sounds easy right? Folding paper, finger painting, doodling with crayons and sticking activities are great to support finger strength. It helps in increasing several sensory skills for your little one.
- Cut with Child safety Scissors: Use child safety scissors and help your child to cut out the outlines of some shapes. You can also ask them to paste these shapes and create some fun crafts.
- Stick and Paste: Draw the outline of a letter and put some glue all over it. Ask your child to pick up lentils and stick them all around to form the letter.
- Here are samples of pre-writing activities from our [Phonics worksheet kits](#).



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



If you had to select the relationship status between food and young children, I'm sure you'll choose - It's complicated. But, to our surprise, our food themed content is among the most viewed and read.

Stories like [Snack Time](#), [Pickle Party](#), and [Breakfasts of India](#) make eating playful, sensory, and imaginative while celebrating cultural diversity. Children love seeing their own food and discovering new cuisines. Engaging with these stories can also encourage picky eaters to try new foods and develop a positive relationship with diverse diets. Watch children exploring different foods.

### About Me

[Kutuki](#) is an award-winning product and content studio. Their diverse team has created an extensive collection of online and offline learning materials tailored for children from Nursery to Grade 2. These resources cover a wide range of subjects including literacy, socio-emotional learning (SEL), physical development, early STEM, creative expression, and more.

At the heart of our content are Kutu, Ki, and Minku, three endearing learning companions adored by over 5 million children across 2,500 locations in India. Together, they have accumulated over half a billion minutes of learning time. Available in English and eight Indian languages, Kutuki's content is highly regarded by renowned organizations such as Google for their Read Along app, CSC Bal Vidyalayas, and international educational content platforms like Bo Clips.

## The Bachpan Manao Network at Play

**Adhayayn Foundation, Pratham Storyweavers and Bachpan Manao** are celebrating the librarians of Karnataka with the unveiling of the storybook "Story Chikkappa"! Today (13 June) at 6pm. Sign up [here](#).

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▾

**Building Contextual Solutions for Rural School Transformation in India**

14th June 2024 6:00pm IST Zoom

to dive into learning how and why they are building contextual solutions to ensure high-quality learning in rural schools in India, tomorrow (14 June) at 6.00pm online. More details [here](#).

**Aadhaar Ganit**

A 5-day Residential Camp for:

- Teachers
- Parents or Guardians (Along with their kids)

**17 JUNE - 21 JUNE**

**AAVISHKAAR CENTER, PALAMPUR, HP**

**APPLY NOW**

**Aavishkaar** is hosting a Primary Math workshop over 5 days for teachers, parents and guardians to rekindle the spirit of joy in learning and teaching Math from 17th June onwards in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh. More details [here](#).



Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao Copyright (C) 2023. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

[bachpanmanao@gmail.com](mailto:bachpanmanao@gmail.com)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)