

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

August 9th, 2024

Celebrating Abundance in Collabaction

Guest Curator: Key Education Foundation

This a bi-weekly Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao newsletter

Enriching Classroom Environments for Early Learning

Have you ever imagined what the world looks like from the eyes of a little child?

What is a 4 year old seeking when she explores what is around her?

How does she interact with her surroundings? What does she choose to explore and how?

Young children are geared to learn from everything that is around them. They do this using all their senses to explore things - Simply put - They Play.

When a child is given access to open-ended materials, the possibilities they see are infinite and once they have found something of interest, the focus with which they engage with it is immense.

Take a moment to watch this little learner engage with these dominoes that he found in his classroom. Think of all the things he is doing and learning.

The experience of play brings together all kinds of development ranging from executive functions, motor skills, emotional regulation and so much more. When we put together a rich early learning environment for children, half the job is done and we unlock every child's potential to play and learn. In this edition, we bring to you some ideas that have worked for us in enriching pre-primary classroom environments.

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

The Ideal Early Learning Environment

Whenever we speak about enabling play for young children, we are faced with multiple challenges like small space, high teacher:student ratios, high cost and so much more. We believe that creating a quality early environment is possible despite these challenges and can actually contribute to managing some of these challenges in an under-resourced environment. When we combine research with the idea of looking at the world through the child's eyes, we find that applying some simple strategies in the classroom can make a world of difference to the way children learn even if we have limited resources. Earlier this year, we launched the [Ideal Early Learning Environment Guide](#) and shared it with schools. Many schools have adopted changes using the guide to make the best use of their resources and space.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



This is an example of a classroom which was rearranged so the teacher can easily access every child, and the furniture is movable to facilitate playtime and activity periods. This setup also allows children to move around freely.

A storage room beautifully transformed into an indoor play area for children.



Engaging elements installed in the doorway to ensure children get some interactive experience on their way to their classrooms

This guide includes strategies based on 7 big ideas

1. **Order** - Ensure the classroom resources are well organized to minimize clutter and maximize use of space available
2. **Safety** - Ensure that the environment is physically safe for children to minimize risk of injury during individual and peer interactions
3. **Movement** - Ensure there is space for the children to move around through the day for activities, to access resources and for the teacher to access every child
4. **Access** - Ensure that all teaching and learning materials, including displays and books are accessible to children through the day and are placed at the level of the child
5. **Self** - Ensure children feel represented in the classroom environment
6. **Peers** - Ensure that the classroom arrangement allows for children to easily play with and interact with their peers
7. **Nature** - Ensure children have access to elements from nature and are able to go outdoors

Observe how your children interact with the space and keep adding small changes to provide children with more opportunities to explore, play and learn.

Body Safety Awareness in the ‘Early Years’

Innovation for learning is a core part of our work at KEF and as we continue our journey to develop quality curricula for the early years, we are focussed on developing a curriculum to introduce Body Safety in the early years.

In the last year, we brought in experts to pilot a curriculum that focussed on introducing conversation on Body Safety in the early years classroom.

This answered many questions for us as we wondered if this is something we can introduce so early and if teachers and parents will accept it. We shared our insights in our recent [Bachpan Manao, Badhte Jao Masterclass](#).

WHAT SHOULD A PRE-PRIMARY CHILD KNOW ABOUT BODY SAFETY AWARENESS?

01 MY BODY - MY RULES
Teaching young children that they have control over their own bodies and the right to say "no" to unwanted touch

02 UNDERSTANDING BODY LITERACY
Children should know the proper names for their body parts, especially private parts, and feel comfortable saying them

03 SAFE AND UNSAFE TOUCH
Teach children about "safe vs. unsafe touching" instead of "good vs. bad" to avoid guilt. Explain how feeling "unsafe" might look and feel, such as sweating, wanting to cry, upset stomach, fast heartbeat, or goosebumps

04 SAFE PEOPLE
Ask your child to name five trusted adults they can talk to about unsafe touches. Practice reciting names, relationships, and how to contact them, like "Mrs. Sindhu, my teacher, who I can talk to at school."

05 STRANGER DANGER
Teaching "stranger danger" alone is not enough to protect children from sexual predators. Most abusers are familiar adults who build trust to access children.

Adults I can trust
Mum, Dad, Nani, Granddad, Teachers

The pilot [report](#) provides an overview of the importance of introducing the curriculum in the early years, insights into the implementation process, and additional resources.

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

to co-create a curriculum on Body safety for 3-8 year old children. If you would like to engage in this process, please click [here](#) to express your interest and we will be in touch soon.

You can access more video resources for [teachers](#) and parents [[English](#), [Kannada](#), [Hindi](#)] on our YouTube Channels.

About Key Education Foundation

Our vision at Key Education Foundation is to ensure quality Early Childhood Education for every child in India. We ensure a holistic approach in our programs focussing on 3 things:

(1) Enriched Classrooms (2) Equipped Teachers (3) Empowered Parents

We work in partnership with governments to build their capacity to deliver quality early childhood education at scale and ensure that children are achieving age-appropriate outcomes before they enter grade 1. We currently work in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland impacting over 1,00,000 children, 3000 Teachers and over 1,00,000 Parents through our interventions.

Write to us at connect [keyeducationfoundation.org](mailto:connect@keyeducationfoundation.org) if you have any queries.

The Bachpan Manao Network at Play



On 12 August 2024, Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon. CM of Karnataka will launch [Kathe Chikkappa \(Story Uncle\)](#) as a tribute to the **Librarians of Karnataka** who have revitalised **5900 gram panchayat libraries** into joyful learning spaces for about **118000 children**.

Adhyayan Foundation and **Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao** commissioned **Reshma Bachwani**, Illume to write Story Chikkappa, a children's picture book, made available in Kannada as *Kathe Chikkappa*. Accessible on **Pratham Books' online platform StoryWeaver**, it is also available in Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Tangkhul and is being translated into other Indian languages.



“How Can Access to Art Help Students Thrive?” [Join](#) the conversation with **Saturday Art Class** on this Saturday, 10th August to celebrate creativity and art.

Subscribe

Past Issues

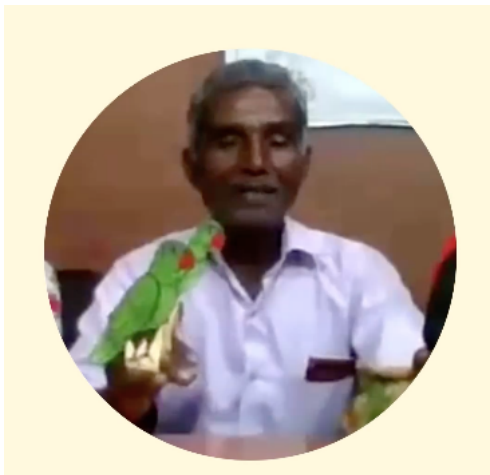
Translate ▼



Samyukta Subramanian, National Co-Lead, Early Years at **Pratham Education Foundation**; **Tinni Sawhney**, Chief Executive at **Aga Khan Foundation**, India; and **Amita Kaushik**, Co-Founder and Director at **EduWeave Foundation**. It's a must-listen for parents, educators, and anyone passionate about nurturing the next generation. [Tune in](#) to listen to the full podcast.



REACH Collective, **Shiksharth** and **Bachpan Manao** hosted the 'Voices of play' - a children's conference led by children. Click [here](#) to watch the insights.



The **Bachpan Manao, Badhte Jao Masterclass** by **Agakhan Foundation** brought to life **Khel Konas** or **Play Corners** through the experience of a number of caregivers. Watch the snippets of the masterclass [here](#).

Interested in curating the next edition of the BMBJ newsletter? Write in to us at bachpanmanao@gmail.com.



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

Our mailing address is:
bachpanmanao@gmail.com

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