

# Stories that Inspire: Baatein, Sneh, Khel (Talk, Care, Play)

An Initiative by Dost Education

The early years of a child's life are crucial for their development, and the way families respond during this time can make a big difference. Responsive caregiving is about being in tune with a child's needs—whether it's through their facial expressions, body language, or sounds—and responding in a way that makes them feel heard and supported. For example, in one of our photographs, a father paints his child's nails during play. This moment beautifully illustrates how attentively participating in a child's imaginative world strengthens their bond and nurtures the child's creativity and confidence.



Figure 1: Father painting child's nail

# The Insights behind the project

What does responsive caregiving (RCG) look like in Indian families' daily lives? While research defines best practices, the lived experiences of families remain largely unexplored. Baatein, Sneh, Khel set out to bridge this gap—using visual storytelling to document talk, play, and care in action. We worked with six diverse families in Dehradun, capturing caregiving moments aligned with six key domains of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). Through this, we not only brought real stories to life but also created a resource for parents, educators, and advocates working in early childhood development.

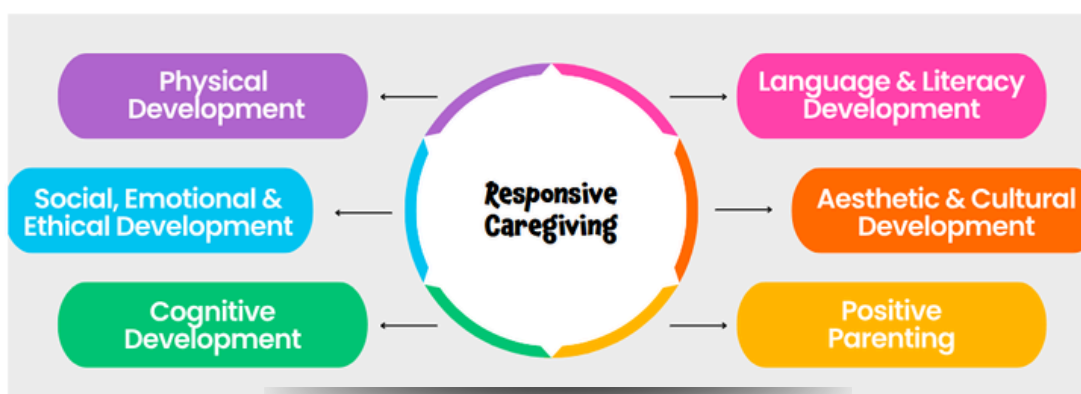
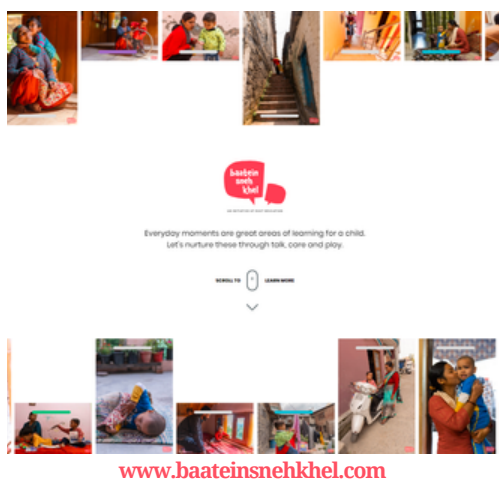


Figure 2: Domains of National Curriculum Framework

## Micro-site



In collaboration with Bachpan Manao, an initiative by the EkStep Foundation, Dost Education launched an immersive micro-site titled "Baatein, Sneh, Khel" (Talk, Care, Play)—an advocacy project that brings to life the authentic moments of responsive caregiving. For the first time in India, this platform offers an intimate look at how talk, care, and play unfold in daily family life. The site features stories from six diverse families, with each moment categorized into one of the six domains of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), connecting real-life practices to the science behind early childhood development.

In September 2023, we unveiled the micro-site through an immersive photo exhibition. The exhibition not only provided a space to experience these heartwarming stories but also served as a powerful platform to advocate for conversations around responsive caregiving and the critical role of families in early childhood care and education.



## How we use the photographs

These images are not just documentation; they are tools to demystify responsive caregiving:

- **In our work at Dost**, we use the photographs to enhance parent engagement, train educators, and advocate for policy change by illustrating how RCG happens in daily life.
- **In advocacy efforts**, we leverage these stories to shift public perception of caregiving, promoting the importance of everyday caregiving moments for healthy child development.
- **For capacity building**, we share these images with frontline workers and policymakers to help them see how the theory of RCG translates into real-life actions that improve outcomes for children.

## Explore & access resources

We've also created resources for parents, educators, and practitioners to deepen their understanding of responsive caregiving:

- **Parent Resource Guide**: Practical tips on how to incorporate RCG in daily routines.
- **Interviewer Guide**: Our approach to documenting caregiving stories—useful for researchers and field practitioners.
- **Photos**: If you are interested in using the photos to advocate Responsive Caregiving practices in your community, please get in **touch with us**.

“These photos depict that parents engage in the right activities with their children, even without formal exposure to the concept of ECD.”

- Venita Kaul,  
Early Childhood Development (ECD) expert & Director at Ambedkar  
University



Uncover and experience each family's unique journey, where responsive caregiving in talk, care, and play come alive in everyday moments.



**The Active Bloomers**

Dehradun



**The Dreaming Drivers**

Dehradun



**The Creative Educators**

Chakrata



**The Naturally Playful**

Chakrata



**The Architects of Love**

Dehradun



**The Healthy Hearts**

Dehradun

**CLICK  
HERE!**

To meet the families!

## Read more: Behind the scenes of the project

Want to know more about how we brought this project to life?

Read **our blog** for a deeper dive into our journey, from selecting families to overcoming on-ground challenges, and how we've used these stories to create a lasting impact.



*Unlocking children's full potential*

We are Dost, a friend who has empowered families to unlock their children's full potential since 2015. Our mission is to enable school readiness for every child in India through talk, care, and play. Dost supports families to aid whole child development by providing them with quality early learning and responsive caregiving resources through simple 1-minute phone calls for free. We are continuously innovating new products and advocating for talk, care, and play-based programmes, emphasising the pivotal role families play in nurturing their children's early care and education.

[www.dosteducation.com](http://www.dosteducation.com)