



# JUST PLAYING



By Anita Wadley



When I'm building in the block room,  
please don't say I'm **"just playing"** For you see,  
I'm learning as I play, **about balance and shapes.**  
Who knows? **I may be an architect someday.**



When I am getting dressed up, setting the table,  
**caring for the babies.** Don't get the idea  
I'm **"just playing"**. For you see, I'm learning as  
I play. **I may be a mother or a father someday.**



When you see me up to my elbows in **paint** or  
standing at an easel, or **moulding and shaping clay,**  
please don't let me hear you say **"He is just playing"**  
For you see, I'm learning as I play, I'm expressing myself  
and being creative. **I may be an artist or an inventor someday.**



When you see me sitting in a chair **"reading"**  
to an imaginary audience.  
Please do not laugh and think I'm **"just playing"**.  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
**I may be a teacher someday.**



When you see me combing the **bushes for bugs,**  
or packing my pockets with choice things I find,  
don't pass it off as **"just playing"**. For you see,  
I'm learning as I play. **I may be a scientist someday.**



When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or  
some **"plaything"** at school. Please don't feel the time is  
wasted in **"play"**. For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to **solve problems** and to **concentrate.**  
**I may be in business someday.**



When you see me **cooking or tasting foods,**  
please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is  
**"just playing"**. I'm learning to follow directions  
and see differences. **I may be a chef someday.**



When you see me learning to **skip, hop, run and move**  
**my body,** please don't say I'm **"just playing"**. For you see,  
I'm learning as I play. I'm learning how my body works.  
**I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.**



When you ask me what I've done at school today,  
and I say, **"I just played"** Please don't misunderstand me.  
For you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to enjoy and  
be successful in my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.  
**Today, I am a child and my work is play.**





## TRADITIONAL TOYS OF INDIA

Lets not forget them.



The National Education Policy talks about 'toy pedagogy' and it is important to understand our culture and history of toys. Presently schools have either wooden, plastic or steel toys and that is a very limited 'sensory' exposure for growing brains. Traditionally toys were made of terracotta, clay, bamboo, coir, shells, wood and cloth. How about bringing them back in our classrooms? Worried that children will break them and get hurt? So how were children using these toys before the advent of safe plastic and steel? Its time to help children hold and handle all kinds of material for them to learn the sensitivity and coordination required with different materials, this dexterity is important in the growing years.

- Dr. Swati Popat Vats- President Early Childhood Association/Association for Primary Education and Research

### 1. UTTARAKHAND

- Damru



### 2. PUNJAB

- Handwai- kitchen set
- Chankana is a toy whose traces were found even in the era of Indus valley civilization. It is a lollipop-shaped whistle toy with ghunghroo onto it.
- Lattu is a spinning toy, designed to spin rapidly on the ground.
- Ghuggu is a traditional form of rattlebox.



### 3. RAJASHTHAN

- Cloth dolls and puppets



### 4. UTTARPRADESH-VARANASI

- Lacquered toys



### 5. GUJARAT-

- Clay and terracota toys



### 6. DAMAN AND DIU-

- Mat Weaving Craft and Tortoise shell toys and crafts.



### 7. MAHARASHTRA-

- Sawantwadi is popularly known for Ganjifa playing cards and wooden toys made from mango tree traditionally done by the Chitari or Chitrakar community.
- Bahatuktli is the miniature version of all household items put together



### 8. GOA

- Coir toys



### 9. MADHAYA PRADESH

- Adivasi gudra hastashilpa (dolls) from Jhabua
- Betel nut toys from Rewa
- Tin toys



### 10. CHATTISGARH

- The tribes of Chhattisgarh are excellent artisans, experts in crafting artistic Toys/ Items with clay, stone, bamboo and metals.



### 11. ANDHRA PRADESH

- Kondapalli toys- also known as "bommala koluva"
- Etikoppakka toys -popularly known as "etikoppakka bommalu" the etikoppakka toys got the geographical indications tag in 2017



### 12. TELANGANA

- Nirmal toys - The material used is soft wood & enamel colours. Panicki and white sander is the local available softwood, easy to shape and give perfect finish. The enamel colours give the toy the shine. The artisans are called Naqqash, they came from Rajasthan in 17th Century.



### 13. KARNATAKA

- Channapatna Toys - Referred to as the Lacquerware toys, Channapatna has become a household name in Karnataka . Received a Geographical Indication (GI) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) The Hereditary artists are known as 'Chitragars'. The wood, primarily used was 'ivory-wood', though rose and Sandal wood were also used.



### 14. KERALA

- Traditionally, coconut palm leaves are used in making a wide range of toys & are the most popular toys played and are made at homes itself
- Coir is used in making eco-friendly toys & Coconut shell products are used to make animal shaped toys
- Woodcraft is another famous craft item of Kerala
- Lacquer Ware, the craft combining metal and wood, is a favourite among the tourists. A wide variety of lacquer products are produced in Kerala especially in Ernakulam district
- Leather is used to make puppets for Tholpavakoothu (shadow puppetry)



### 15. TAMIL NADU-

- Thanjavur Dancing Dolls, traditionally known as "Thanjavur Thalayiatti Bommai", are a part of an eclectic heritage of beautiful handicrafts from Tanjore
- They are now listed in the Government of India's Geographical Indications Registry.
- Choppu Saman is a traditional role play toys for kids. All the utensils are either made up of fine wood with polished edges or clay and painted with harmless natural colours



### 16. BIHAR-

- Kanyaputri Dolls (Champan): This art form comes from Champan. In the month of Saavan (monsoon), sisters make dolls for their brothers and dip them in the pond and brother brings these dolls back
- Sikki Work: Sikki work is a craft whereby the craftsmen turn unnecessary riverside grass into beautiful decorative objects
- Bamboo Work: Bamboo work has been remained a culture of Bihar throughout the ages and time. Right from the pre-historic time forest dwelling tribes are experts in bamboo and cane work.



### 17. JHARKHAND-

- The most common figures are the mother and child and Raja-Rani that are painted on wood.



### 18. ODISHA-

- Raghurajpur Artisan Village is famous for Papermache Toys, Clay toys, wooden toys.
- Bargarh in Sambalpur district is famous for its artistic wooden toys.
- The animal figures are richly carved and, at times, even carry riders Subarnapur is known for making wooden toys. Generally wood from shamli, shavan and ghamandi are used in the making of these toys.



### 19. WEST BENGAL-

- Bengal had a rich & varied tradition of making wooden-dolls and toys . These figurines were mostly of 4 to 9 inches in height and were produced in large numbers, up to the middle of the last-century, by the local Sūtradhara- artisan



### 20. ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

- Coconut and shell toys

