HOW-TO GUIDE

A Guide to Applying Teacher-Led Innovation for Preschool Teachers

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

JULY 2026

01 Implementation Principles

Evidence: This guide is designed as a new and creative response to traditional and oral teaching methods.

Evidence-based findings: Based on interviews with 4 students, 1 teacher, and 4 parents, it was found that oral lessons make children tired, and they cannot understand math and language well. A quote from Ahmad, a pre-school student who finds stories more interesting, is the main idea of this project.

Educational alignment: All activities match the learning goals of pre-school education (language, math, health, and social skills) and prepare children for Grade 1.

Goal: To change the classroom into a happy place, without fear or pressure.

02 Class Activities and Inclusion

In this section, teaching is designed in a way that, even with limited teaching materials, ensures equality and inclusion for all 16 students.

Drawing and story acting: Using paper masks and handcrafts to show stories. This helps children with different abilities learn through pictures and movement.

Practical math (scale and blocks): Using a digital scale and blocks (bought with a budget of 21,680 Afghani) to help children understand weight and quantity in a real way.

Color and movement activities: Because there is no sports field, the school yard is used for movement games that help improve hand and eye coordination.

Health and nutrition: Preparing healthy food together to teach teamwork and sharing responsibilities in a practical way.

03 Management and Capacity Building

This plan is created with direct participation of pre-school teachers and focuses on building their skills.

Continuous capacity building: Teachers learn “learning through play” methods in a practical way through coaching sessions and support from the central school management.

Teacher independence: The teacher, as the class manager, has the authority to adjust activities based on the daily needs and interests of students.

Technical support: Supervision is supportive and helps teachers improve, so they can use their creativity and local materials in teaching.

04 Implementation Method

This solution is designed based on the needs, interests, and direct feedback of children, teachers, and parents. In this method, children learn basic concepts like language, math, colors, and shapes through smiling, picture stories, role-play games, and practical activities.

The activities also help improve creativity, imagination, self-confidence, social skills, teamwork, and awareness of health and nutrition.

This solution uses simple, low-cost materials and can be used for a long time in both the classroom and at home. It makes learning fun, active, and practical for children.

Activities

Drawing with stories: After seeing colorful pictures from a story, children draw related pictures and talk about characters, colors, and healthy habits.

Story acting with pictures: Children act out story scenes and work in small groups to complete the story, building confidence and teamwork.

Counting and sorting objects: Using colorful items or healthy food, children count, group, and organize them to build basic math skills.

Role-play games: Children act like characters or copy healthy actions, such as washing hands or eating fruit.

Songs and counting: A simple song about numbers, colors, or healthy food is played, and children follow it with movements or objects.

Color and movement game: The teacher says a color or food, and children with the same item do actions like jumping or clapping.

Finding shapes: Children look for objects with similar shapes in the class or yard and work in groups.

Making short stories: Children use drawings or crafts to create short stories about health and creativity and share them with others.

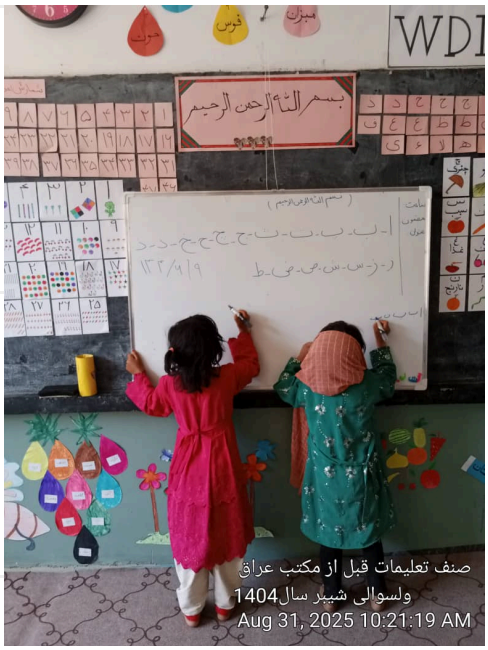
Health and nutrition with fruits and vegetables: Children learn about fruits and vegetables and prepare a simple healthy meal together.

Color adventure: Children follow a path using color cards and find objects that match each color.

05 Implementation Plan and Scaling

The design of this innovation is simple, so it can easily be used and copied in other pre-school classes. See Annex 1 for the Implementation Gantt Chart.

06 Sustainability, Evaluation, and Recognition



Financial sustainability: Using simple and low-cost materials means the plan does not depend on a big budget and can also be repeated at home by parents.

Communication with parents: Showing children's work to parents every month helps build strong communication and supports learning at home.

Measuring results: Using daily assessments, a manager's feedback notebook, and comparing students' knowledge at the beginning and end of the year to show results and impact.

Recognition of innovators: At the end of the year, teachers and students who show creativity in activities are appreciated to encourage a culture of innovation in the school.

Sustainable health habits: Healthy habits (like handwashing and good nutrition) learned in practice stay with students as lifelong skills.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Learning Through Play in Action