

## World Play Day Message 2011

This is my personal message to you for World Play Day which is celebrated on May 28th each year and is an activity of the International Toy Library Association.

Last year I gave a short list of some of the qualities of play. Qualities that allow play to happen at any time, in any place among any people.

This year I want to stress how important play is for all the children who have experienced trauma around the world as a result of the many very tragic natural disasters and the man made wars which continue without end. It would be easy to put aside the simple activities of small children while dealing with the very pressing and immediate situations of food, housing and economics. However, while adults have understanding of these disasters and are able to verbalize, children need to act out the tragedy and deal with the trauma in their lives through play. It is fortunate that children can play without tools (or toys). Play can be alone, or with anyone who is around, child or adult.

While you are celebrating and perhaps singing the WPD Song in your centres, schools, hospitals, homes, workplaces or wherever you happen to be, please spare a thought for the very traumatized children all over the world who must be encouraged and allowed to play even in their devastating conditions. By allowing children to play you are helping them to a healthy adulthood.

PLEASE PLAY

Dr. Freda Kim

WPD Founder for ITLA