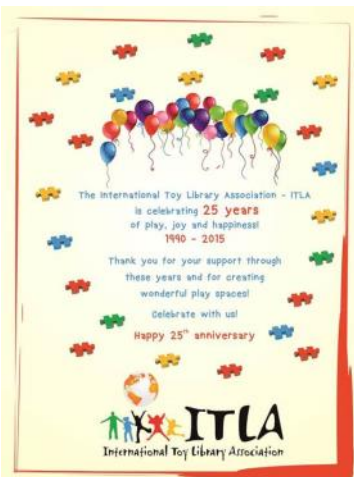




Editorial



ITLA's formal constitution in 1990 at the Turin Conference was the result of previous steps taken in the 80's, mainly in meetings in England (1978), Belgium (1984) and Canada (1987).

The Articles 13 and 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1959) calling on the Right to freedom of expression and the Right to play and freely and fully participate in

cultural and artistic life, in equal conditions, were at the root of the appearance of many toy libraries in the 60's and 70's.

This tendency was resumed in the 80s after the International Year of the Child (1979), which led to the opening of many toy libraries and justified a diversity of models, chosen according to the educational, social, cultural or therapeutic functions that each toy library proposed for itself.

The establishment of the International Toy Library Association (ITLA) is noteworthy for the:

- Identification with a common ideology;
- Respect for the diversity of cultural models of each country;
- Desire to know and follow up the action taken by other partners;
- Need to face new challenges together and to share doubts and knowledge.

For 25 years, ITLA has been a witness to:

- A significant increase in toy libraries in the world
- An educational and sociocultural recognition of toy libraries' intervention, when politically assumed
- A tremendous improvement in the quality of toy libraries' services and in the competence of the professionals who work there
- A multiplicity of research on activities, objects, spaces and times to play in education, art, culture and health
- An increasing support for World Play Day and other proposed worldwide initiatives.

The diversity of the topics discussed in the past 13 international conferences (Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania) and the appearance of continental, national and regional groups or associations endorse ITLA's importance as a leader in the toy libraries' world and as a unifying element.

The informative role of the website in recent years should be highlighted, in providing access to several documents and a permanent communication with members and other partners.

ITLA is to be congratulated and we wish for its continuity so that ITLA can transmit security to the ones who are embarking on the route of toy libraries and also energy to continue that path with joy. ITLA's help is very important in this millennium in which multicultural policies and equal opportunities are indispensable to the creation of a democratic society and the education for peace ensures sustainable development.

Kind Regards,
Natália Pais
Representative of IAC (Portugal)
ITLA Board Member 1990-2005

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USA Toy Library Association 30 Years and Counting!

Thirteen smart and dedicated people launched the USA Toy Library Association (USA-TLA) three decades ago.

One of their first activities as a spanking new organization was to host a national conference. It turned out to be a success and set the Chicago-based organization on a trajectory that continues today.

Thirteen smart and dedicated people launched the USA Toy Library Association (USA-TLA) three decades ago. They were toy librarians spanning the United States, California to Connecticut. One of their first activities as a spanking new organization was to host a national conference. It turned out to be a success and set the Chicago-based organization on a trajectory that continues today.

USA-TLA's provision of education to professionals working with young children has blossomed. We've co-hosted about 25 conferences in 30 years, and will do so twice in 2015. Although we've been in many states -- California, New Mexico, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Ohio – we still have more paths to walk, people to meet, places to play.



Founding member and active educator Rhoda Redleaf leads a USA-TLA workshop in Minnesota

The emphasis on play for the sake of play has not changed as far as topics and what our speakers know best. They come from many backgrounds and shed varied professional lights on how play and quality toys engender health and well-being in children. The self-driven nature of play seems most inspiring. Yes, children will learn (most of them anyway) how to read and write and interact, but play allows them to carve the path that works best in their brains and emotional makeup. We keep repeating the message of play for play's sake because there is such a tendency to direct the flow of experience in those younger than us. As adults we do that directing without thinking so we must be deliberate in allowing our children time to figure out their playtime for themselves. What we as professionals can offer are the tools and rich environments to evoke quality playtime for learning and making connections in the world.

As you know, play and toy libraries are worldwide so we wanted to share that important fact in the beginning. At our first conference in 1985, at least two international representatives – Mari-on Hobbelink from the Netherlands and Julie Creighton from Canada – discussed play, toys and toy testing, in Julie's case. Steve Kanor from Enabling Devices whose toys sell worldwide, led a workshop on how to adapt toys to varying abilities. Once one gets into the details, the subject of play, toys and play environments mushrooms. Thirty years later there continues to be aspects of the subject to learn and study.

A recent conference - in October 2014 – took place in Los Angeles, the motherlode of toy lending worldwide. While we were celebrating USA-TLA's 30th anniversary, the Los Angeles Toy Loan was celebrating its 75th! Twenty-five toy librarians were in the audience, about half of all the toy librarians serving the L.A. program. L.A. offers an vast collection of toys and games that fill the shelves of a large warehouse and circulate to 52 sites throughout the county delivered in their own "Toy Loan" van! The program is vibrant and growing under the leadership of Marcia Benitez.

USA Toy Library Association 30 Years and Counting!

Marcia is one of 40 professionals who have been recognized by USA-TLA over the years for key roles in expanding the scope and influence of toy lending. The Jane Donelson Player of the Year Award singles out the best of our national community of players. People like Sally deVincentis, Rhoda Redleaf, Martin Stone, Susan Moore-Myers and Gayle Kranz, all of whom founded the USA-TLA so that professionals doing credible work around play could connect, have received this award. Many others instrumental to expanding the network - - people like Nina Hillery, Elaine Adler, Donna Giannantonio, Sue Kirschner and Burnie Horton – continue to give deeply of their time and resources.

Many award recipients were and are integrally involved in international toy lending, either through study or hands-on learning. Connecting play with children all around the world remains a national imperative of the USA-TLA. We celebrate the connectivity fostered by the ITLA. Hopefully we will meet face-to-face one day soon. In the meantime, we relish our written and cyber communications from you all!



Marcia Benitez from the Los Angeles Toy Loan shows the Honor Code to Judith Iacuzzi from USA-TLA



Judith Iacuzzi
(USA)
Executive Director

The “Toy Libraries” program in Cyprus is run by the Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC).

The “Toy Libraries” program in Cyprus is run by the Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC), which is the appropriate governmental body responsible for youth affairs. YBC was established in 1994 as a legal entity of public law. Our main goals are:

- The promotion of progress and prosperity for all young people of Cyprus, regardless of religion, ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation etc.
- The enhancement of young people’s active participation in the social, economic and cultural development of our country.
- The promotion of a positive lifestyle through the youth’s engagement in various activities.
- The provision of effective solutions to current youth problems and
- The representation of Cyprus at European and international fora.

The current work program of the YBC is implemented through the following 4 Sectors:

- EU “Erasmus+” Program.
- Youth Infrastructure Projects Sector.
- Prevention and Counseling Services Sector.
- “Youth Initiatives” and International Affairs Sector.



Easter candles made by the children of Larnaca Toy-Library

The “Toy Libraries” is one of the 5 programs of the Youth Infrastructure Projects Sector. They are organized places with toys, where children 4-12 years old and children / adolescents with special needs can play, individually or in groups, with the participation of specialists, as well as their parents. Toy-Libraries are specially designed and organized facilities, equipped with carefully selected, high quality toys. The children have the opportunity to develop basic knowledge and psychomotor skills and to socialize through playing with children from different socioeconomic backgrounds and origins, along with children with special needs.

Today, there are 6 Toy Libraries all over Cyprus: 2 in Nicosia, 2 in Limassol, 1 in Larnaca and 1 in Famagusta area. Their operation is according to the International Toy Library Association Standards. Approximately, more than 200 children visit the Toy-Libraries daily.

On May 28th all Toy Libraries celebrate the World Play Day by organizing various playful activities. During Christmas Days, Santa Claus visits the Toy Libraries, giving presents to the kids. At the same time various entertaining / informative events take place on a monthly basis.

Our Toy Libraries operate daily, including weekends, throughout the year, except for public holidays and August. The entrance is free and the operating hours are between 15:30 – 18:30 (between October and April) and 16:00 – 19:00 (between May and September).



Anti-racism poster of Paralimni Toy-Library “All different-all equal”



Invitation for a recycling campaign in Limassol Toy-Library



Invitation for the Easter events of all Toy-Libraries

Toy Libraries in Cyprus

The contact details of the Cyprus Toy Libraries are the following:

1. Nicosia Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)22376401, Fax: (+357)22374773

Map: <http://g.co/maps/phuq3>

2. Kaimakli Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)22430401, Fax: (+357)22430414

Map: <http://g.co/maps/7ss6y>

3. Limassol Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)25570585, Fax: (+357)25662088

Map: <http://g.co/maps/7d8sx>

4. Agios Athanasios Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)25729129, Fax: (+357)25721726

Map: <http://g.co/maps/2f44q>

5. Larnaka Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)24650022, Fax: (+357)24653334

Map: <http://g.co/maps/2v8us>

6. Paralimni Toy-Library

Tel.: (+357)23744455, Fax: (+357)23744456

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/q9fKk>



Nicosia Toy-Library



Kaimakli Toy-Library



Agios Athanasios Toy-Library

Victoras Kountouris
(Cyprus)
Youth Officer

World Play Day 28 May 2015

A time to celebrate the value of play

25 years of the International Toy Library Association



On 28 May 2015 World Play Day celebrates the role toy libraries play in supporting the child's right to play.

For 25 years toy libraries have worked together through the International Toy Library Association to encourage play around the world.

Last month you should have received an email update on World Play Day 2015. If you didn't, you can find a copy of the email on our Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/qb3elq9>)

On 28 May 2015 World Play Day celebrates the role toy libraries play in supporting the child's right to play. For 25 years toy libraries have worked together through the International Toy Library Association to encourage play around the world.

We hope planning for your flash mob is well advanced and we look forward to hearing about your event either on the ITLA Facebook discussion group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPD.ITLA>) or email reports to info.itla@gmail.com.

Each year Dr Freda Kim, the World Play Day Founder provides a message for World Play Day. Her 2015 message is below. We thank her for her leadership and hope you take her call to "dance well, sing well and play well on May 28th 2015!!" to heart.

World Play Day Message

The importance of PLAY in the lives of everyone cannot be emphasized enough. This year the International Toy Library Association celebrates its 25th anniversary and it is my hope that the World Play Day celebrations around the globe on 28th May will make an important contribution to this 25th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to support the ITLA Board in their efforts to make this year's WPD an especially good one. I am also pleased to support the Association's continued and great efforts to have the WPD included in the UN calendar. Perhaps these efforts will be helped by the fact that the Board has chosen to use the same song by Pharrell Williams for their flash mobs as the UN chose for their Happiness Day on March 20 2015.

I would like to take the opportunity through this message to thank all those delegates who made the great effort to attend the 13th ITLA Conference in Seoul last year and contribute to the wonderful heart warming experience that it was. Those of us in Korea who spent 3 years preparing for that conference were most gratified by the enthusiasm and knowledgeable input of all those who participated to make it such a wonderful five days. For me it was the culmination of my over 30 years of work for Toy Libraries in Korea and internationally. Now I really feel retired! And have put aside all other titles, assignments and mantles, choosing to be known only as the Founder of WPD. So for me this is a New Beginning!

The International Board also saw a new beginning at the 2014 conference. With the exception of the president all board members were newly elected. The new WPD coordinator is Debbie Williams (Australia) who can be contacted at info.itla@gmail.com.

This is the 7th WPD Message I have written and for those of you who are interested the 1st to 6th messages can be found on the ITLA website www.itla-toylibraries.org (click on World Play Day on the home page and you will find the history of WPD, Reports and messages)

World Play Day 28 May 2015

A time to celebrate the value of play

25 years of the International Toy Library Association



I have just read through the past messages to remind myself of what I said and to see if there are points that should still be emphasized. What I find is a clear statement that our priority is to “Celebrate and contribute to the richness and value of play in the world.” This has been underlined each year with these salutations:- Play, play, play, Please Play, Just Play, Happy Play May 28th and Just Play on World Play Day.

What I think we can learn from these findings is:

1. We need to allow play to happen in the simple ways that we observe in children. A good friend of mine remarked when watching children play in their absorbing way, “If only adults could release the PLAY that is inside them” and
2. We need an event such as WPD to show the world what a good thing play is!

This brings to mind the paperboys of years ago who would stand on street corners and shout “READ ALL ABOUT IT!” Well, please do! Please go into the ITLA website (www.itla-toylibraries.org) and learn more about PLAY.

You will have received information about this year’s WPD suggesting we go to public places with “flash mobs” using the music of Pharrell Williams’ Happy Song. Together with this a short rendition of the WPD Song with a placard of the WPD Logo can also emphasize the reason for the event (the score for the WPD Song is found by scrolling down in the website to the end of the WPD messages) The good thing about this Song is that you only need 3 words of English! WORLD * PLAY * DAY and for the rest you can use your own language. Also we would love a recording of your renderings to put on the website. (Japan produced a very lively rendering of the WPD Song for their Asia Conference in 2013 with digital keyboard, guitar and pop singer)

So, dance well, sing well and play well on May 28th 2015!!

Freda Kim

WPD Founder



ITLA's President with Freda Kim

Debbie Williams
World Play Day Coordinator

Report from European Toy Libraries' Meeting in Geneva

The 19th Meeting of the Group of European Toy Libraries (ETL) took place in Geneva.

The 19th Meeting of the Group of European Toy Libraries (ETL) took place in Geneva from April 17th – April 18th, 2015.

15 participants from 10 countries were present in Geneva. The meeting was again very motivating and once more, the participants informed about the work in their countries. These reports are always a very important part of the meeting. The exchange of experiences is very much appreciated and gives new ideas and also helps us to understand each other better and this is a primary purpose of any international organization.



ETL Meeting in Geneva

Another point was the question of how to improve the PR for toy libraries. We also discussed what could be done in order to improve the contacts with the countries that are not able to join these annual meetings because of lack of time or because they do not have the financial possibilities to take part.

This year one point on the agenda was how to deal with challenges, such as

- Demographic changes
- Electronic games
- Migration

These topics were discussed in different groups and the results will be discussed next year.

Besides the work, there is always time to discuss, to drink a glass of wine and eat together.

A visit to a local toy library is also an important part of these meetings.

The next meeting of ETL will be in Bruges in Belgium.

If you want to read more about ETL, please look at our website:

<http://www.iacrianca.pt/index.php/setores-iac-al/european-toy-libraries-etl-eng>



Let's look at toys and games

These are not new toys/games but I have found them to be particularly useful and enjoyable.

They can be adapted and used at different stages of development.



Ratuki Game

RATUKI (manufactured by Hasbro)

Ratuki is a card game for players who have a good grasp of number from 1-5. It is fast and fun and takes only 15 minutes for a game. Alternatively it can be a very useful resource for teaching number concept.

PLAY Materials: The game consists of 5 sets of different coloured cards showing different representations of numbers 1-5. These include pictures of fingers; 'sticks'; dots; number symbols and number names in English.

The objective is to win as many cards as possible.

Each player has a set of cards and uses this throughout the game. Players choose 3 cards from their set and hold these. They keep replenishing their supply from their set of cards.

Someone shouts RATUKI and play begins. Any player who has a '1' or RATUKI card can start the game by putting that card down on the table. Any player can then add to any pile by playing a card that is one number higher or lower than the cards on the table. THERE ARE NO TURNS - it is a free for all. If a player plays a 5 (any representation) he can snatch that pile and start a new one. Whoever has the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

Why play RATUKI?

*It is an excellent way for children to become familiar with the different ways number can be represented.

*It requires quick thinking.

*Games last only \pm 15 minutes.

*It can be adapted to play at a very simple level where players have the opportunity to look at the cards and match the different representations of a number, e.g all the fours or order the numbers 1-5 in all the different representations.

HISS (Manufactured by Gamewright.)

Young children, who can match colour, can play this game at a simple level before they are able to follow the rules for scoring, They would then be well prepared for the more competitive game.

The Aim of the game is to build snakes that must have a head, at least one middle section and a tail, matching colours to join the parts. Each time a player adds the card that completes a snake, he can take all the cards for that snake. The longer they are, the more score can be obtained. The player with the most cards wins.



HISS Game

Mary Clark
(South Africa)
Play for All Toy Library



WELCOME!



Scotland - Midlothian PlayBase

Midlothian PlayBase Resource Centre is a charitable organisation working in partnership with and funded by the local council's Early Years department. PlayBase is a toy library with a difference. We work mainly with Early Learning and childcare groups and education professionals. Our resource centre provides a wide range of educational resources aimed at encouraging and supporting a child's learning through play. The resources aim to support all areas of a child's development and offer a broader learning through play experience.

In partnership with our local council's Early Years teaching staff we offer advice to practitioners on all aspects of the Early Years curriculum and model good practice through information sheets, resources and displays.

We have a diverse membership base which includes; Nursery and Primary Schools, Playgroups, Partnership Centres, After School Clubs, Child-minders, Additional Support Needs groups, Parent groups. We currently have over 80 groups using our service supporting over 2,000 children's learning through play.

Benefits of PlayBase

1. Access to a variety of good quality resources.
2. Age and Developmentally appropriate resources.
3. Affordable and Accessible service.
4. Informed examples of good educational practice.
5. Low carbon footprint (borrowing instead of buying).



We observe Early Years national + local policies and support the Scottish Government's objectives of high quality play opportunities in every community. Our resource selection is informed through our partnership with Early Years professionals and supports the implementation of the Early Years curriculum.



P L A Y B A S E

Rhonda Donaldson
(Scotland)

midlothianplaybase.org

<https://www.facebook.com/midlothianplaybase>



WELCOME!



South Africa - 'One Stop Toy Library'

In 1998 while employed by the Education Department, I encouraged Thabo Vuyo LSEN School to start a Toy Library that is still fully functional. I realise the communal benefits this initiative has had and hence the desire to run my own toy library. At the Conference in Korea the desire to start a Toy Library was enhanced even more strongly.



So, on my retirement in September 2014, I embarked on an initiative to start my own Toy Library. Coupled with all the theory I learnt from workshops attended with Cotlands, I went in with all guns blazing. I had an intensive action plan to ensure that I didn't miss anything. It came as a little surprise that this would not be so easy. The most important thing was to secure a place that is safe and accessible for the children who will benefit from the toy library.

Thus far I have met with the SANCA CEO who organised a meeting with the Stakeholders dealing directly with children and youth. We then formed a Partnership. The Team consists of the SANCA Community Builder, the Cell C Youth Empowerment Program Facilitator, an I Can motivator, educational psychologists for psycho-social therapy and Tswelopele preschool.

Laurel Magubane
(South Africa)
Founder of the One Stop Toy Library

World Play Day!



We need your help!

What topics or information would you like to see included in the newsletters?

Send us your inputs to mediacomunication.itla@gmail.com!

Thank You!

Next Issue:

- World Play Day news
- Meeting more new members

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Look us up on

