

**REMINDER WPD 2008-04-24**

**Dear Everyone,**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> is WORLD PLAY DAY. Yesterday I met a little girl who is in primary school. She wants to go back to Kindergarten. Not because she doesn't like school; not because she isn't smart. No! Because she wants to PLAY. How smart she is. Smarter than her teachers, smarter than her parents. Smarter enough to know that PLAY is good for her. I often quote Bill Cosby, a well known American T.V. personality. He says, "Children should play, that is what they are born for. They are on this earth to play."**

**Many, many years ago my sister was scolded by a passing neighbour for poking her tongue out through the window. "Oh, no" said my mother taxing her over creative mind, "Oh no madam!" She was touching the glass with her tongue!" (And this was before the days of organic cleansers) Last week our extended family was at an evening reception and we were about to leave. One little grandchild urgently requested of her mother if she could run back and touch the ice-model which was the centerpiece of the reception. She hurried off and was enthralled as her flat hands touched the cold, slippery surface; this is how children play.**

**PLAY has power to heal, power to engage, power to strengthen, power to instruct, power for the body and power for the mind.**

**World Play Day is an activity of the International Toy Library Association (ITLA). ITLA has a website at [www.itla-toylibraries.org](http://www.itla-toylibraries.org) Please go into this website and learn more. You will find information from many countries, information about the upcoming ITLA Conference in Paris this year, reports on former conferences, articles by professors and other scholars and much more about WPD. You do not have to join anything to PLAY. Anyone can PLAY. And anyone can write to me with pictures and comments about their WPD activities and I will include it in my report in Paris in October 2008.**

**Play is for all ages. WPD is for all generations to experience play together. In addition to singing the WPD Song (see website) wherever you are, try also making a "safe" toy. Send us the answer to the question "What is a safe toy?" Or better still, send your comments and pictures to CNN News – be an "I Reporter"**

**PLAY WELL**

**Freda Kim, WPD Co-ordinator for ITLA**