



Gorutha Toy Library, South Africa

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2013

Dear Friends

The ITLA Board will be holding its Interim Board meeting from 14 -17 April in Lisbon. One of the questions we will be asking ourselves is "What do toy libraries, members and National Associations expect from ITLA?". In other words, what would you like ITLA as the International Association of Toy Libraries to do?

We aim to provide information about toy libraries and related topics via our website and newsletter; we make sure that an International Toy Library Conference is held every 3 years and our members benefit from discounts at the Conferences; we promote World Play Day which is a vehicle for advocating for play and toy libraries.

What else would you like us to do?

The 13th International Toy Library Conference, is due to take place in Seoul, Korea from 18 - 22 August 2014. Various aspects of the Conference will be finalised at the board meeting after which the Korean Conference Committee will be putting together the necessary information for publication.

You need to start saving now!!

Good luck with your plans for World Play Day which will be celebrated in only 8 weeks' time on 28 May!



Try to involve as many partners as possible and make WPD 2013 another successful opportunity to promote toy libraries and the importance of play.

For more ideas, have a look at the WPD reports featured on the ITLA website, in the WPD section.

Warm greetings,

The ITLA Board

Luxembourg's Ludobus: The cheap ticket to playing



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Luxembourg's Ludobus: The cheap ticket to playing

The Ludobus is a project of educator Jean-Claude Pellin which originated from his work in a youth house of the Luxembourg Red Cross. This project is supported by the National Youth Service (Service National de la Jeunesse).

The Ludobus has been up and running in Luxembourg since October 2011. It stops at the various youth houses of the Red Cross, where open youth work is offered. These houses are the contact point for youth and young adults between the ages of 12 and 26 years. The Luxembourg Red Cross manages 11 such youth houses that all work in close cooperation with the Ludobus.

The project has two main objectives:

Firstly, it should familiarize the young generation with a game culture which has been partly lost. It should here be noted that up to now there has been no games library in Luxembourg in which you could meet for group games or rent a game. The bus is used here as a working tool. As an "eye catcher" it arouses the interest of young people and offers them the opportunity to informally discover the joy of playing.

In the second phase, the project will be developed further: Visitors to youth centers will be taken to other institutions, the social game thereby being used as a medium to ensure cross-group understanding. The Ludobus would be used here in varied ways. The ideas range from working with children from different primary schools, playing with other young people who are hospitalized long-term, to playing a game of chess with an elderly person in a nursing home. This way, it is possible to offer cross-generational work that broadens young people in the process of growing up while strengthening their social skills.

For more information click on www.ludobus.lu

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Toy Libraries in England and Wales: A personal report

At the Annual General Meeting (general assembly) of NATLL in November 2010 members were told of a deteriorating financial situation and the measures being taken to deal with it. Three staff members had been made redundant, the Good Toy Guide discontinued, the journal was in digital form only and a strategic review undertaken. Training and the Quality Assurance scheme were doing well. It was hoped that the association would 'break even' financially in the current year although finding funding was becoming more difficult.

When it became clear that all funding would cease in April at the beginning of the financial year the association's trustees called in the administrators in February 2011. All staff apart from the CEO and financial officer were dismissed and the association merged with the National Children's Bureau in July 2011. www.ncb.org/play-matters
The Scottish part of the association became independent www.smartplaynetwork.org

Members heard about all this when invited to a consultation seminar in September 2011. Current objectives were to develop the relationship with the NCB, to re engage with members and to develop a sustainable business plan.

There is now an unelected advisory board that met in November 2011 and February 2012. There were plans to re launch the Good Toy Guide as a web resource, in partnership with www.fundamentalsuk.com. A member's helpline was to be run by the NCB and training offered though none of the previous trainers were involved, as well as access to insurance and members pages on the website, with an e-journal twice a year.

As far as I know none of these things have been achieved. Once the association went into administration the trustees and members had no voice and were not informed before decisions were made. There is now no democracy. Some regional and district associations of toy libraries still meet and support one another, some of them are involved with the NCB toy library Play Matters organisation, others are not. There are those who say that all traces of the old association must disappear before a new one can come together.

Pauline Henniker will leave NCB/Play Matters this month and there will be a final meeting of the advisory group in July. Play Matters will remain as a small part of the NCB for a year and if it is not viable will be wound up.

Pat Atkinson 12th June, 2012
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Malaysian Care Toy Library

The Malaysian Care Toy Library and Parents' Resource Centre in Kuala Lumpur started in 1982 when there was a dire lack of services for children with special needs. Currently, it serves over 90 library members and provides referral/information service to about 100 families a year. Services for children with special needs, though, have increased over the years. Unfortunately support services for families are still very much lacking.

Malaysian Care Toy Library aims to increase accessibility to support services by replicating a similar model in different locations around the country. The services provided include provision of resource materials such as toys, books and videos, information, support and guidance for families of children with special needs.

Over the year 2010-2011, Malaysian Care has replicated two toy libraries for children with special needs in different locations: MaKasih in Selangor and Handprints in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Besides providing toys and resources, these toy libraries also include other programmes such as drop-off programmes and playgroup activities. Activities include Gym/Gross Motor, Music and Movement, Songs and Stories, Arts and Crafts, Fun with Senses and Free-play.

Through play, children learn to interact with one another and develop social and communication skills. The drop-off programme is critical as it provides a few hours respite care for the children with special needs to release the parents to have some personal time.

In the near future, we are planning to set up a Community Mobile Library with the aim of providing educational resources, toys and support to all children and families in the poor communities residing in low-income areas.

For more information about the toy library services, please email toyrd@malaysiancare.org

Submitted by Khor, Aina

An extract from: Bruno Bettelheim, *The importance of play*

"John Locke wrote that "because there can be no *Recreation* without Delight, which depends not always on Reason, but oftener on Fancy, it must be permitted Children not only to divert themselves, but to do it after their own fashion."
How wonderful it would be for our children if we adults would heed the advice of this great philosopher!"



Playgroup Activities



Social Interaction

The contents of this Newsletter differ from the contents of the website in that we try to publish only original stories about toy libraries and national associations, as well as original toy and book reviews.

So, please send any stories you may have to Maxine at news.itla@gmail.com