



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2013

A toy library in Metz, France

Dear Friends

The ITLA Board members wish you everything of the very best for 2013. May your toy libraries grow ever more successful and your national associations become ever stronger.

The Board will be holding the Interim Board Meeting in Portugal in April. The meeting is traditionally held more-or-less halfway between the International Conferences.

An important part of the Agenda will be the 13th International Toy Library Conference, which is due to take place in Seoul, Korea in October 2014. Various aspects of the Conference will be finalised after which the Korean Conference Committee will be putting together the necessary information for publication. **You need to start saving now!!**

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 news, no matter how small you may think it is, to us at news.itla@gmail.com

World Play Day will be celebrated in only 18 weeks' time on 28 May!

Start planning soon and involve as many partners as possible.



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

Proud staff members of *Speeltheek Harlekino*, winners of the Toy Library Of the Year 2011 Competition. The finals were held in 2012. This competition is organised annually by Vereniging Speeltheeken Nederland.



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THE DUTCH ORGANISATION FOR TOYS LIBRARIES

Holland is a small country but we have more than 400 toy libraries. Mostly for young children and some also for children with special needs. Toy libraries are found in cities, villages, in schools, institutions. Some work on their own, some with other organisations.

In the Dutch toy library you can get information and advice, but it is also possible to lend the toys and use them at home or in child activities.

They are staffed with volunteers and some with paid staff. But they all have the same goal: to stimulate play. Because they all know that playing is important for everybody.

As a member of ITLA and participant of the meetings of the European Toy Library (ETL) group we keep in touch with toy libraries in other countries.

At this moment 170 toy libraries are members of the national organisation. We keep in touch with these toy libraries through our website, email, newsletter and, of course, our National Toy Library Day once a year. Almost 200 toy library workers celebrate this important day with workshops, toys and, most important, the contact between the toy libraries. They learn from each other and they exchange experiences of all kinds. Every year we work with a theme. In 2012 the theme was: The right to play! We would like to share the story of the toy library that won the 2011 contest, Toy Library of the Year. The theme for that year was: Show your toy library!

Toy Library of the Year

In Speelothek Harlekino, a toy library in Pijnacker (near Rotterdam in the west of the Netherlands) an enthusiastic and creative team is working. For several years the Harlekino team attended the annual national toy library meeting and watched the election of the toy library of the Year: "It would be a real challenge to conquer this title once..."

Toy collection in the spotlight

In 2011 Speelothek Harlekino celebrated its 20th anniversary. The people of Harlekino decided to place their toy collection in the spotlight: classic toys, modern toys and timeless toys. They were pleasantly surprised when the theme for the annual contest in 2011 was announced: Toy libraries: place your toys in the window! This could be the ultimate chance to win the title!

The theme, Place your toys in the window, was expressed in two ways: first, with a special emphasis on the toy collection itself and second, by organizing local children's activities. Regional newspapers paid much attention to the Harlekino activities and in 2011 the toy library welcomed many new members.

Final assignment

In February 2012, Speelothek Harlekino was invited to the finals of the contest, Toy Library of the Year 2011. The assignment for the three finalists was to change a basic table into an attractive showcase. When the results were

announced, a dream came true: Speelothek Harlekino was Toy library of the Year 2011!

Ambassador

To Speelothek Harlekino, the title, Toy Library of the Year, brought honor and publicity, but also included a mission. The winning toy library plays the role of Ambassador of Toy Libraries for one year. It should tell and show people (families, municipalities) what a toy library can do for children: "Good toys give pleasure and stimulate development. Toy libraries bring toys close to many children. Take the opportunity and come in!"

Although this story sounds like a fairy tale, the title was achieved through the joint effort of the whole Harlekino team of employees: a great achievement!

Margot Tacken, Speelothek Harlekino, Pijnacker, The Netherlands

www.speelothekharlekino.nl

Contest: Toy library of the Year

- Organized annually by Vereniging Speelotheken Nederland for its members, some 170 toy libraries in The Netherlands
- Every year a specific theme is specified
- The contest consists of 3 steps:
 - in October/November toy libraries can sign up for the contest by writing a report about the expression of the theme in their toy library (score 1)
 - in December all participating toy libraries are visited by a commission. Criteria: collection of toys, satisfaction of visitors and presentation of the theme (score 2)
 - In February of the following year, three toy libraries that score highest in the previous steps are invited to the annual meeting of toy library employees. There, a special assignment or presentation has to be done. All attendees of the meeting give scores for the assignments (score 3).
The toy library with the highest overall score 1+2+3 wins the contest.

The winning toy library receives a set of toys, a sign with the title of honor 'Toy Library of The Year' and a boost for its Public Relations!

We are very proud of our toy libraries in Holland and we want to work hard to give the toy library a right to exist.

If you want more information about toy libraries in Holland or the National organisation please make contact by email: pr@speelotheken.nl

To all the toy library workers: keep up the good work!

Submitted by **Tineke Kuivenhoven**

President of the Dutch National Organisation of Toy libraries

THE TOY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA - TOYLAN

The Toy Library Association of Nigeria (TOYLAN) was set up by two friends who invited their friends, who believed in play, and their children to join. The association was registered and has been promoting children's play since 2004. The mission statement is "To enhance the TOTAL development of the child through toys and play".

Membership is open to all lovers of children, parents and all who work with children. Some of our objectives are:

- The provision of toy libraries
- To organise seminars and enlightenment campaigns amongst the public

Toy Libraries in Nigeria are mostly situated in preschools as it is not very common to have toy or book libraries in communities. As an organisation, we promote children's play through the school system by incorporating play into their daily activities. Naturally, children do play in Nigeria but mostly they invent their own games with or without play equipment. The toy libraries in schools provide mainly cognitive play to reinforce the teaching process: play is structured or teacher initiated. However, during recess or breaks, children invent their own games and toys.



BOOK REVIEW

Carlson, Frances M.

Big Body Play: Why Boisterous, Vigorous, and Very Physical Play is Essential to Children's Development and Learning.
Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2011.

"Drawing from evidence-based practice and the latest research, this book explains the multitude of benefits of big body play for young children's social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Also learn how to organize the physical environment, set rules and policies, and supervise the play."

Submitted by: *ITLA Media Assistant - Maxine Fine*

TOYLAN has two registered libraries: one in a children's hospital and the other in a home for challenged children. Other activities that we are involved in include providing free play for children in the community on annual national holidays.

One of the common children's games is called SUWE. It does not require any material and can be played anywhere as long as there is flat ground. A rectangle is drawn on the ground and divided into ten sections with five on either side. The sections are numbered 1 to 10 and each child will take turns to hop on the numbers on one leg with a stone as a dice to throw into a hole. This game teaches balance. The child is out of the game as soon as he or she stands on two legs. This game is common in other part of the world.

Submitted by **Adefunke Ekin**



STORIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN FEBRUARY

- Toy Libraries Today in Turkey - Isik Kamaraj
- Luxembourg's Ludobus - Jean-Claude Pellin
- Malaysia Care Toy Library - Aina Khor

Remember to send stories of your own to share with international colleagues.

We would also much rather have original Book & Toy Reviews, than those found on the Internet

Send to Maxine - news.itla@gmail.com