

CYPRUS

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National toy library association	N/A
Web link	Information about toy libraries can be obtained from the general website of the Youth Board of Cyprus at www.youthboard.org.cy
Contact person	Maria Kazamia Costara kmaria@youthboard.org.cy Anna Loizou lanna@youthboard.org.cy
Networking	Member of the European Toy Library Group
Toy Library Information	
Number of known toy libraries	6
Services offered	The toy libraries are open to the public. They offer the chance to young children and disabled persons to be entertained, to spend their time creatively, to socialize and be part of a group, to develop their skills and broaden their horizons through play. Trained staff members supervise the children's play and also provide help when needed. Toy libraries own a great variety of games, especially instructive ones which can both entertain and educate. Toys are also loaned out.
Administration	The Youth Board of Cyprus runs toy libraries in Cyprus. It is the state body responsible for youth issues and its aim is to secure the progress and prosperity of all young people in Cyprus, irrespectively of their religion or ethnic origin. The Youth Board is solely responsible for the staffing of the toy libraries as well as for their general management and operations. The funds used for the operation of the toy libraries come from the Republic of Cyprus as part of the Youth Board's annual budget.
Communities served (clients)	Toy libraries serve young children aged between 4 and 12 years, irrespectively of race, religion and national origin, as well as disabled persons up to the age of 18 years.
Qualifications of toy librarians	No information at this time
Conferences	No conferences are organised by the Youth Board
Meetings	No information at this time
Training	The Youth Board of Cyprus is responsible for the selection of the toy library staff. Once selected the staff is informed by the Youth Board of Cyprus about its duties and tasks.
Specific courses offered are: N/A	
Brief history of toy libraries	Toy libraries in Cyprus were created and founded by the Youth Board of Cyprus, since 2004. The positive response by the public has urged the Youth Board of Cyprus to create at least one toy library in every district around the island. They are all situated in central locations and thus they are easily accessible, especially by children with fewer opportunities. The goal of the Youth Board of Cyprus is to open new toy libraries. In particular, the next toy library to be opened will be placed in the General Nicosia Hospital, and consequently offer the chance to young patients to entertain themselves and escape the cruel hospital reality.
Mission	The mission of toy libraries in Cyprus is to offer their services for free and for that reason they are open to the general public. Their target group is children up to the age of twelve irrespectively of race, religion, national origin, and handicap.
Events	All toy libraries around Cyprus organise various events throughout the year. For instance they organise a Christmas event just before Christmas day as well as an Easter event before the Greek Orthodox Easter. Moreover, they organise events on the occasion of the World Play Day. Many children from the local communities actively participate in these events. Not only do these events entertain young children but they also give them the chance to be actively engaged in their

	organisation. Children who participate in the Christmas events also receive small presents.
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