

IN 2022...

Rediscover Play... Recover Through Play!

World Play Day 28th May 2022

For World Play Day 2022, ITLA challenges Toy Libraries across the world to help their communities recover through play.

We need to rediscover:

- Traditional Play
- Active Play
- Social Play
- Play in childhood
- Playful communities

Toy Libraries will bring back play for children, adults and the elderly.

Toy Libraries will promote resilience and recovery in these difficult times.



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**World Play Day Founder
Freda Kim's Message**



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This year's WPD theme, selected by the ITLA Board is very ambitious.

A theme chosen, in the words of the ITLA Chairperson 'to encourage the globe to use play to start healing despite the pandemic'.

World Play Day is for the World to Play and acknowledge the value of it.

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A short poem

Written by Freda Kim, for use in one of her Playway books

Talking with a friend, talking with my Dad
Talking with just anyone is FUN, I wish I had
Talking helps me know, talking helps me grow
Talking puts my "inside, outside" where it can show
The little boy was asked what he would like for Christmas and promptly
replied "a Dad who plays with me!"
That surely shows the child was smart
But what an ache was in his heart!



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Several years ago a friend from World War II days wrote in response to my WPD message and used the phrase

*“If only adults could release the
Play that is within them”*

How true!

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Watch a child play today

When children are allowed the freedom to play as they please they do so with total abandonment. They play what they feel, with what is available and with those they like (or choose) OR play alone.

To rediscover play we need to start with ourselves.

- Find a friend to talk with
- How can I find FUN?
- What can I find in myself to help others feel happier?

Recently I was surprised when one of my 22-year-old grandchildren said "but Grandma talking with you is fun!" What can I learn from watching children play? Am I ready? What can I release into this world to make it a better place?

Watch a child play today...
am I waiting?

Join a child play today...
I am ready start now!



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Traditional play

Recent research has found that children are spending more time on electronic devices instead of participating in traditional childhood play, and the pandemic period has reinforced this tendency.

Toy libraries have an important task in their communities: to emphasize that hands-on childhood play has numerous benefits that electronic games can't offer. The impact on a child's learning processes through lack of hands-on play is significant and begins at an early age.

Traditional play offers an opportunity to build fine motor skills, develop observation skills, and grow attention spans. All these support the child's reading, writing and learning as they grow.



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Active play

Environmental factors and policies that influence physical activity play an important role in reversing the rise of childhood obesity, especially in the youth of low-income and high-risk communities.

Obesity was an issue prior to Covid, but pandemic restrictions have further decreased our physical activity and created many other social and emotional problems.

Parks and playgrounds help build active lifestyles and reverse the impacts of the pandemic.

Toy librarians have a special role in helping their communities to RECOVER THROUGH PLAY



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Play in early childhood

Play is an important part of a child's early development. Playing alone or with others helps young children's brains to develop and for their language and communication skills to mature. Simple games of peek-a-boo, shaking a rattle or singing a song are much more important than just a way to pass the time. Interactive play helps children learn to handle emotions as they negotiate, instruct, converse, or take turns in play with others. Cooperative play helps them to understand and build positive relationships with others and to discover concepts and their ideas about their world, test them out and experiment with various materials with diverse textures, tones, colours and attributes. As Albert Einstein stated "Play is the highest form of research "

So let children REDISCOVER PLAY after having lost opportunities for play during the pandemic

