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Toy Loan Program News



2007 Toy Loan Program Summer Fundraiser Campaign Update

The DPSS Toy Loan Program launched its 2007 Summer Fundraiser Campaign on June 15 and encourages all Toyrrarians to organize special fundraising events and toy-drives to generate donations. Remember that all donated toys to a Toy Loan Center become property of that Center! So keep soliciting donations and report your totals to Toy Loan. Don't hesitate to call us and ask for more Play-ground barrels or donation cards.



Play the Right Way!

Ever experience difficulties trying to find the perfect toy for children to play with? Often time's people are stumped when it comes to choosing the perfect toy for a child's interest or needs. There are six types of play, which outline the various play behaviors associated with toys. Through child development research and toy knowledge "play" has been separated into the following six types: active, cooperative, creative, dramatic, manipulative, and quiet.

Active play is playing that involves movement and physical activity. Balls, bikes, and jump ropes are the type of toys that are perfect for an active player. Cooperative play can take place almost anywhere. In any environment where children learn from watching other children play and interacting with them socially,

cooperative play is taking place. The most common cooperative play activities are board games, and make believe/pretend play.

Creative play explores a child's imagination and makes something out of nothing. Creative play includes such things as; painting, sculpting play dough, and creating crafts. Dramatic play involves pretend and make believe. Role playing, using props to create a new environment, or creating scenes and situations with dolls or puppets are forms of dramatic play.

Manipulative play contains hand-eye coordination and other motor skills. Coloring, paper crafts that need to be "put together," and puzzles are perfect exercises for this type of play. Lastly, there's Quiet play. It's the playing that keeps a child's mouth shut but their minds open. It includes such activities as reading, looking at pictures, or knitting.

Essentially, we need to provide an environment where children can focus on their toys and playthings and really get down to the work of being a child. After all, play is the work of children!



Children & Play

(Back-to-School Safety)

As summer vacations come to an end, students across the country are readying themselves for the start of a new school year. With all of the excitement this time brings, safety may not be the first subject that springs to mind. The

American Red Cross encourages parents to take time to talk with their children about safety before school starts. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 24 million students nationwide start their school day with a trip on the school bus. Although NHTSA reports that riding on a school bus is nearly eight times safer than riding in a passenger vehicle, an average of 11 school-aged pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles each year. Whether they walk, ride the bus or travel by car, teach your kids these few tips to ensure they get to and from school safely.

Tips for School Bus Riders

- Line up facing the bus, not along side it.
- Do not play in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Carry all loose belongings in a bag or backpack.
- Never reach under the school bus to get anything that has rolled or fallen beneath it. The bus driver may be sitting too high up to see you.
- After getting off the bus, move immediately onto the sidewalk and out of traffic. If there is no sidewalk, try to stay as far to the side of the road as possible.
- Wait for a signal from the bus driver before crossing the street. Walk at least 10 steps away from the front of the bus so the driver can see you.
- Never cross the street or play behind the school bus.

Tips for Pedestrians or Bike Riders

- Never walk alone—always travel with a buddy.
- Pay attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards along the way.

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Back-to-School... (Continued)

Never cross the street against a stop light.

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Avoid ill-fitting clothing that could get caught in spokes or pedals or restrict movements, and wear reflective colors and material to be more visible to street traffic.
- Walk your bicycle across all intersections.

Tips for Car Drivers and Passengers

- Everyone in the car should wear a seatbelt, as they lower the risk of injury in the event of a crash by 45 percent.
- Make sure babies and young children are in safety seats at all times, and that safety seats have been properly installed.
- Read your car's manual for safety precautions specifically relate to the car and its airbags.

Remind teenagers to take extra precautions if they are driving to school or riding with another teenage driver.

Look for more helpful tips at www.redcross.org.

Did you know?



REALLY HOT WHEELS. The success story starts with one man's idea to speed up the industry. In 1967 Elliot Handler, one of the original founders of Mattel, decided to add axles and working wheels to the static wheel diecast model cars of the times. What was developed was a prototype gravity-powered car that could run at a record-breaking 300 mph downhill. The secret to such high performance racing action was low friction wheels made of styrene which were hung on torsion bars. Handler took one look at this new, ultra-fast car and exclaimed—"Wow, those are hot wheels!" thus also naming the new product.

Special Reminder:

Monthly Reports are due the fifth day of the month. Please contact Toy Loan Headquarters if you need additional copies or have questions.

Upcoming Events

Stephen Sorensen Grand Opening	9/22/07
TLAB Meeting	9/27/07
H. Claude Hudson Health Fair	9/28/07
St. Vincent's Health Fair	10/6/07
Columbus Day 	10/8/07
KTLA Kid's Day at Exposition Park	10/20/07

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have suggestions on how to improve the program, best practices, recommendations for potential new Toy Loan centers, or any topics of interest for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4344 or via email at toyloan@ladpss.org