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Toy Loan Program News

2007 New TLAB Executive Board:



From left to right: Alejandro Miranda, Angelica Calleros, Maria Lopez, Veronica Navarro-Aguirre and Paul Martinez.

After many hours of calculating, tabulating and plain old counting the votes, we were finally able to announce the new TLAB Executive Committee. The new Executive Committee is as follows: Paul Martinez, Sr. - Chair, Veronica Navarro-Aguirre - First Vice-Chair, Alejandro Miranda - Second Vice-Chair, Maria Lopez - Treasurer and last, but definitely not least, Angelica Calleros - Secretary. They are all very excited about their new roles in the TLAB and about being able to serve the children of L.A County. We are all one big family and help each other out as much as possible, whenever possible, and this new Executive Committee has committed to doing just that. They all want to do their best and help Toy Loan progress to a new level of toy lending. They will all be crucial in the success of this year's Toy Loan Annual Summer Fundraiser. With their enthusiasm, energy and ideas, we will be able to surpass last year's donation totals. I'm sure that you'll all join us in making them feel right at home. In closing, we would like to thank the out going Executive Committee from last year for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment. We wish our new Committee all the best in this upcoming year.

New Toy Loan Coordinator: Richard Amiel



Please help us in welcoming our newest addition to the Toy Loan & Volunteer Services family, Richard Amiel. He is the newly appointed Toy Loan Coordinator, replacing Rafael who has been promoted to the Volunteer Services Coordinator position. Richard comes to the Toy Loan Coordinator position with lots to offer, his vast knowledge, great enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of humor. Newly married, he has vowed to dedicate as much time to Toy Loan as he does to his wife (but don't let her know that). Richard is a joker at heart and enjoys a good laugh every once in a while. Ask him his favorite joke and it'll probably start out something like this, "Knock, Knock..." So if you ever see a really tall, bald guy talking about Superman, Spiderman or Wonder Woman, it's most likely Richard, our new Toy Loan Coordinator. Say hi to him and make him feel like part of the Toy Loan family.

Best Practices

Getting toys is easy. Figuring out where to store them all is the tough part! Here are some of the best toy boxes to help organize your centers:

- Little Tikes Mission Design Toy Box



- Delta Luv Storage Toy Box



- Lil Bratz Toy Box

- Levels of Discovery Firefighter Toy Box Bench



Children & Play

(Toy Safety)

As the weather outdoors warms up, children love to go outdoors to play. A few basic playground safety precautions have to be implemented to safeguard your kids as they play outdoors. Here are a few questions to ask yourself to ensure that the playground or your backyard playset is a safe place for your kids to play.

Q: Is there adequate space in and around the playground for the kids to safely move around?

A: There should be a 6 foot fall zone around the playset to ensure that your kids do not hurt themselves as they move around. Avoid hazardous spots like thorny bushes, concrete surfaces, pools, or sidewalks in the vicinity of the playset. For good playground safety, ensure that the playset is located in either an enclosed area, or in an area which is free from these dangers.

Q: Is the playset well designed?

A: For adequate playground safety, the playset should be designed sensibly. There should be enough landing space provided for kids sliding down the slides. (continued)

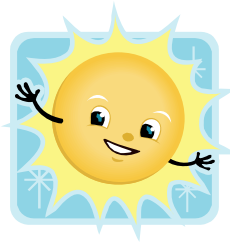
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Addressee:

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Toy Safety... (Continued)

The swings should not be too close to the perimeters of the playground. The sand pit should be away from the slides.

Q: Is the playset installed right?

A: Make sure that the hardware is installed properly by following all the manufacturer's directions. There should not be any sharp surfaces or pointy surfaces on which your child can hurt himself. You can check the hardware to make sure that it is of good quality, and do the once over to ensure that it is installed properly.

Q: What kind of surface should I look for in a playground?

A: Hard surfaces are a strict no-no for playgrounds. These include asphalt, concrete, metal or even grass. Recommended surfaces are mulch, fine sand, fine gravel and synthetic surfaces like shredded rubber mulch. Find out more about [Playground Rubber Mulch](#) from About.com's landscaping guide, David Beaulieu.



Did you know?

- **Twister**—Originally called Pretzel, Twister premiered as a promotional product for a shoe shine company.
- **Mr. Potato Head**—Mr. Potato Head was the first toy product ever advertised on television.
- **Tonka Trucks**—It takes 119,000 pounds of yellow paint and 5.1 million pounds of sheet metal a year to make Tonka Trucks and other Tonka vehicles.
- **Clue**—In the United Kingdom the game is called Cluedo.
- **Barbie**—Every second, three (3) Barbie dolls are sold somewhere in the world.



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.

| <u>Upcoming Events</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Back-To-School Event | 8/25/07 |
| Festival de Salud de las Americas | 8/26/07 |
| L.A. County Fair | 9/09/07 |
| Korean Festival | 9/15/07 |
| TLAB Meeting | 9/27/07 |
| H. Claude Hudson Health Fair | 9/28/07 |

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