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Toy Loan Program News



Featured Toy Loan Staff member:
Rafael Navarro, Coordinator



Our new Toy Loan Coordinator is not so new anymore. Rafael has been coordinating the program since October of last year. He comes to Toy Loan with lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn as much as he can. As far as his likes, he enjoys traveling. He received his Bachelor's Degree in International Cultural Studies at Brigham Young University—Hawaii. He minored in Japanese and also speaks Spanish and Portuguese. Besides living in Hawaii for four years, Rafael also lived in Japan for two years. He previously worked as BYU-Hawaii's Vice-President of Service where he coordinated many successful events. One of these projects was a summer camp with disabled children which was sponsored by Kristi Yamaguchi and Scott Hamilton. Another was the MDA-Hawaii's Annual Fundraiser Silent Auction where more than \$40,000 were raised for muscular dystrophy research. So far, he says he has enjoyed every minute of being the Toy Loan Coordinator. So next time you see him, say "Konnichiwa" and he just might teach you a little Japanese.

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Featured Toy Loan Center:
Cypress Park



Cypress Park Toy Loan was opened in August of 2005 and the neighborhood children have been enjoying the toys ever since. Center Manager, Michael O'Connell is proud to provide so many different services to the community such as a continuation high school program, aerobics classes, Jr. Aztec Fire Fuels Program and the L.A. Bridges - Gang Intervention Program. Another service that the Center provides is an on-site City of L.A. Personnel Representative to accept City employment applications. Toy Loan is also going strong and helps the community by providing toys to all the children that come to the center to take advantage of all the other services. Toyrarian Blanca Ramirez says that the children that come on a weekly basis have learned to be patient with each other and responsible with the toys. She sees the benefits of



(Toyrarian, Blanca Ramirez)

the Toy Loan Program and enjoys being a part of the participant's lives. Although they are very limited in their space at this small youth and family center, they take advantage of every square inch and share the fruits with all that walk through their doors. We wish them well as they keep helping all who need it in the Cypress Park community.

Best Practices

Encourage a healthier environment at your centers by:

- Making sports equipment available to the children.
- Organizing team sports after school such as soccer or basketball.
- Including girls in sports activities and have equipment they would also enjoy.
- Serving healthier snacks at Honor Parties instead of cake and cookies.

Children & Play

(Rainy Days)

We all know the phrase "April showers bring May flowers" and with our current state of weather, we should expect a lot of rainy days ahead. In essence, the weather limits outdoor activities and playtime for children. This is where we instill the values of "old fashion" fun. Stay inside and have a ball! Here are a few ideas for indoor activities:

***Scavenger Hunt-** Children love to hunt for treasure. Hide their favorite snack or toy around the house. Write clues to plant strategically around the house and lead the children to the "treasure."

***Dress Up-** Fill a box with outdated or unwanted clothes and accessories. Allow

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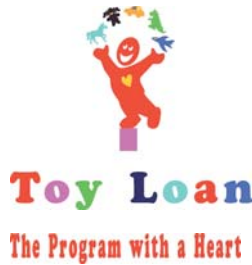
Los Angeles County Toy Loan Program
2615 South Grand Avenue, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90007-2608

Phone: (213) 744-4344

Fax: (213) 743-9998

E-mail: toyloan@ladpss.org

<http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/toyloan/default.cfm>



Addressee

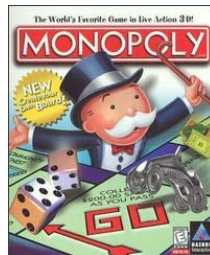
Rainy Days... (Continued)

the children to rummage through and create costumes.

***Charades-** Write down a few movies, songs, characters, animals or whatever you choose. Put the paper inside of a hat, allow them to pick randomly and let each child take a turn miming before an audience.

***Lights, Camera, Action!** - Use a camcorder or voice recorder to tape their story. They can tape their own talk show and interview each other. This can be kept as a keepsake for when they become adults!

We often forget how essential the imagination can be. "Old-fashioned" becomes more and more important as the world continues to speed ahead with technology and video games. This is all during a time when the only conversations held between a parent and child are taking place over a cell phone or via email. Fun never goes out of style. Your children will never be bored as long as you encourage their creativity and imagination.



Did you know?

- Over 3,200,000,000 little green houses have been "constructed" since the game of MONOPOLY ® was introduced in 1935.
- Parker Brothers rejected the game of MONOPOLY ® when it was first presented to them, citing 52 fundamental playing flaws.
- Over 150 million MONOPOLY ® sets have been sold worldwide.

Q & A

Q- What is the total amount of money in a standard MONOPOLY game?

A- \$15,140

Q- What is the name of the character locked behind bars?

A- Jake the Jailbird. Officer Edgar Mallory sent him to jail.

Special Reminder:

TLAB Elections will be held at the following TLAB Meeting on March 29. Please fill out ballots and mail in to Toy Loan Headquarters as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Valentine's Day		2/14/07
Evans Consumer Information Fair		2/14/07
Friends Serving Friends—Annual Homeless Feed		2/24/07
L.A. Marathon		3/4/07
TLAB Meeting		3/29/07

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) 744-4347 or via email at toyloan@ladpss.org