



BTLN Newsletter 2010
Issue 2

Birmingham Toy Library Network Newsletter

Welcome to the latest BTLN newsletter.

BTLN Network event

On the 21st October, the BTLN team held a very successful networking event at Harris House; several organisations held a stall such as The Family Information service, The Birmingham Play Care Network and The Pre School Learning Alliance providing information to their fellow practitioners.

A massive 40 practitioners attended the event and gave us the following feedback:

"It was great to meet people from different organizations and find out what services they offer."

"It was a good event with a variety of exhibitors showing useful information. It also gave me an opportunity to network with colleagues from Quality Improvement Programme and other settings."

Sharing Practice

Sara Reynolds at 'Play Matters' (NATLL) thought fellow practitioners might find the Scope website interesting.

Sara said 'the 'Play Talks' article, which is downloadable, is an excellent document for anyone wishing to promote communication through play. We found that although Scope is a charity for disability this article would be valuable for any parent or childcare professional.

<http://www.scope.org.uk/help-and-information/publications/play-talks-0>

Future BTLN dates

12th January 2011 –Network meeting

Upcoming free training for the Birmingham Play care Network Team

Extending Play Workshop

Venue: Stonehouse Gang ASC

Date: 8/11/10

Venue: Sheldon Heath

Date: 9/11/10

Venue: Handsworth Day Care Centre

Date: 10/11/10

Venue: Sanctuary, Castle Vale

Date: 11/11/10

Contact Fatima on 0121 236 2917 to book a place.

Have You Got News You Want To Share?

If you have got any news or any information you would like to share with your fellow toy libraries & children's centre's please contact Katalya Moxham on 0121 464 6349 or email katalya.moxham@stpaulstrust.org.uk to be advertised in the next newsletter.

Birmingham outreach team

Birmingham outreach team for Play Matters are available to support settings, contact Jo Hill at jo.c.hill@hotmail.co.uk



Toy Library News

Refurbishment of Clancy Rooms

By Jane Knopinski, Brambles Children's Centre Toy Library

As anyone who went to the Clancy Rooms prior to the refurbishment will tell you, it was well overdue. So when it was announced that they were to revamp the room I was over the moon.

The one side of the room has been completely re built giving more storage space for Crackers Stay and Play. Gone are the free standing cupboards which have increased the floor space. The stained lilac carpet has gone and been replaced with easy to clean vinyl. The walls have been painted with a calming green and gone is the antiquated radiator, which switched itself off randomly. We now have a brand new heating system, which will be a huge improvement

The toilets have been re configured and there is now a large disabled toilet with good baby changing facilities.

All in all it has made the Clancy Rooms a much pleasanter place to work.

Toys 2 Go - The Journey so far.

"Toys 2 Go" is a thriving toy library serving the parents, carers and early year's providers of parts of Bartley Green, Quinton and Harborne. Doddington Green and Keystone Children's Centres run the project.

" Toys 2 Go "has expanded rapidly into the wider community, also serving childminders, local schools and community groups, so that they may enjoy the use of the service we have available.

The Toy Library boasts a substantial stock of good quality toys, including large outdoor play equipment, a sensory section to address specific needs, and diversity boxes developed for childminders and group leaders. The main bulk of toys are aimed at 0-5 years old, but there is a category for older children. All toys purchased comply with Health and safety regulations, and carry the safety kite mark.

Many parents are surprised by the variety of toys that we stock. And as we do not charge for the toy library service, they are even more thrilled when we tell them they can borrow up to four items, free of charge for up to four weeks.

Our opening times: Keystone Children's Centre, Quinton. Monday morning 9am – 11am

Doddington Green Children's Centre, Bartley Green. Tuesday afternoon 1pm – 2.30pm

We would like to be flexible if a group would like to borrow toys at other times, so please ask.

For any further information please contact Beckie Bench on 0121 675 1085.

Would you like your toy library featured in the next newsletter?

Please contact Katalya Moxham on 0121 464 6349 or email katalya.moxham@stpaulstrust.org.uk