
Bilby Toy Library News

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BERKELEY VALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Play Power

The Benevolent Society developed a program called PlayPower. Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre purchased the workshop package for the ages Birth to 3 years PlayPower workshop. It is hoped to run a workshop Birth to 1 year and then a workshop 1 to 3 years. We are trying to gauge interest. PlayPower uses the latest research in infant and toddler brain development. It helps parents to understand why play is necessary for a child's healthy development; understand how infants and toddlers grow and develop; identify everyday moments and routines as opportunities for learning and bonding. At the workshop you will receive a spiral bound book of colourful cards full of ideas. Please let us know in the office whether you would be interested. Places will be limited.



Toy Ideas

As you may be aware the toy library is an unfunded activity of Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre. The only money for the library comes from your membership fees and the occasional small grants we make application for. When we do get some funds to go towards toys it would be nice to have an idea of what types of toys/dressups etc you would like in the library. So if you come across a catalogue or magazine or even internet picture of a particular toy bring it in and we will keep a file so we can know what you would like when we can buy.

The Magic Rainbow Dress Up Library

In the Toy Library we have the Magic Rainbow Dress Up Library that was started by a number of mums in the local area. Your membership covers both the toys and dress ups.

With the dress up library there are also four (4) back drops available that you can use at a child's party or even to use for them to have a theme of play. The backdrops were painted by the group of mums and the themes are: Beach Backdrop, Underwater Backdrop, Night-time backdrop and a Trees Backdrop. Each backdrop has a sewn pocket to enable hanging with curtain rods.

So if you are having a birthday party or just for the kids to use at home ask to be shown our backdrops.

Ideas for Keeping Track of the Pieces

I found this handy tip on the Beechworth Toy Library website and thought I would pass it onto families who maybe having difficulties with lost pieces.

Count pieces with the child – making it a game or activity – same colour, size, etc.

Do periodic counts during your borrowing time.

If a piece goes missing, put the toy away until the missing piece is found.

Restrict the area of play for Toy Library toys – eg. only in bedroom, etc.

Don't take the toy out of the house/yard.

Pack toy away regularly – and do a count.

Don't take out all the parts such as small pieces.

Have a toy library bag on a hook in the house and when you go to toy library get in the habit of taking this bag with you. eg. a shopping bag – keep all the loose bits in here such as the mesh bag, little pieces, found pieces, suggestions for purchases or comments, cash for overdue/lost pieces (50c per toy per week or part thereof/\$2 per piece refundable upon return).



Make sure all the pieces are there before returning

Comment

It has been a pleasure to offer the services of a toy library to this area for over the past nine (9) years. We have met many lovely families.

We would like to hear from you as to what it has meant to your life being a member of the toy library, any suggestions you may have and other comments about the service we provide to you.

This information can be done anonymously by posting a letter to PO Box 5145, Chittaway Bay 2261. Or email us at bvnc@idx.com.au or via fax to 43882081.