

SPLAT NEWSLETTER

SWITCH PLAY LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

SPRING 2011



Welcome to the spring edition of the SPLAT newsletter. We have had a busy start to the year and we'd like to give a special welcome to the new families and professionals that have joined our service. We hope you are all getting good use out of our toys and equipment. In this edition you will see some of our new arrivals to the library as well as hear about our ongoing projects and you will also receive some helpful tips and advice.

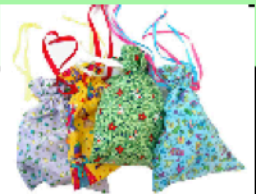


Sure Start
City of Edinburgh Council
Number 8

Special points of interest:

- * exchanging toys
- * story bags
- * adapting toys
- * play tips

story bags



We have a great range of story bags to introduce shared reading experiences with your children. We have recently updated our story bags with a new colour coded system. Bags with a red label are for children who require short stories with very simple language with lots of repetitive tag lines. Bags with a green label are a little longer in length and have less repetition. Why not pop in and see what we have available. Also if you have any suggestions for books you would like story bags created for then please let us know. Contact Keycomm on 0131-311-7130.

Is your child getting bored of his current toys?
Would you like to give your child some new experiences?

Don't forget to contact us to arrange an exchange of their toys.

Toys are loaned for two months and there are various ways for you to exchange them:

- * Pop into Keycomm and have a look at our library and choose two new toys
- * Phone to arrange for our speech therapy assistant Barbara to come to your house to exchange the toys
- * Ask a visiting professional if they are able to exchange them for you.
- * Come to our plasma play session and exchange them there.



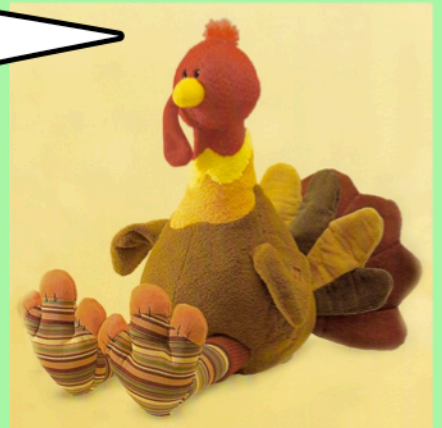
NEW TOYS

Hi, I'm Hip Hop Randy.
When you press my switch I
sing jingle bells and move my
hips, head and mouth.

Hi I'm Thomas, I can
move, play music and blow
bubbles. You could have
lots of fun with me.



Hello,
I'm Trudie the Turkey. When
you press my switch I sing the
'chicken dance' move my feet
in and out and bob my head. I
can really make you laugh!



ADAPTING TOYS



Remember we can also adapt toys that you have at home. You may have some toys that your child enjoys but they have difficulty accessing some of the features, you can phone to arrange for us to adapt them. We have recently adapted a lovely singing elephant.

Adaptations can:

- * Allow for discovery
- * Increase a child's opportunity to be successful
- * Address the individual needs of a child
- * Promote and facilitate enjoyment, personal power and control.

Top Tips for Playing

Some useful hints for playing with your child:

1. **Reduce distractions** - Turn off anything noisy in the room, e.g. T.V or radio.
2. **Positioning** - some children may need specialist seating so that they are in a safe, supported position that facilitates hip, trunk and head and neck control.
3. **Play face to face** - position yourself so the child can look into your eyes, this helps you to notice their facial expressions and level of interest and shows the child you are interested in what they are doing and saying.
4. **Take turns** - imitate whatever your child does, sound, facial expressions, gestures, actions (providing it is an acceptable behaviour). Then wait for the child to join in.
5. **Give choices** - your child may be able to communicate choice by looking at the one he/she wants, reaching for it, pointing to it or naming it.



Some Useful Websites

www.scope.org.uk/earlyyears/
Has a very useful pack called Playtalks which contains some fun ideas to promote communication through play.

www.playtalkread.org
lots of ideas for games, songs and activities including some baby karaoke!

Plasma Play Sessions

Our Plasma play sessions are great fun for both the SPLAT children and their siblings:

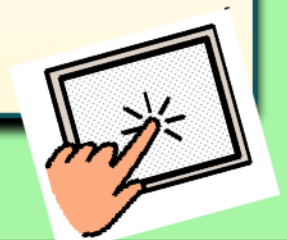
They are from 2 -4pm on the second Friday of every month and the next sessions are:

- *Friday 8th April
- *Friday 13th May
- *Friday 10th June

2-3pm for children under 5

3-4pm for older children

Call our secretary Janet to book a place on:
0131 311 7130



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Switch Play Learning and Technology