



## Media Release

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### **Toy Libraries support the child's right to play on World Play Day**

World Play Day on May 28 celebrates the role Toy Libraries play in supporting the child's right to play.

Play helps children develop physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. Despite play being a basic need for children, its value is not well understood in society. With an emphasis on academic achievement and the growth of screen-based games there is less unstructured play.

World Play Day was founded by the International Toy Libraries Association (ITLA) to celebrate play and encourage everyone to get involved. May 28, 2015 is also the 25th anniversary of the founding of ITLA.

In Australia there are over 300 toy libraries, offering members access to a fantastic range of quality toys.

Anlina Jones, from Toy Libraries Australia, aims to highlight the role Toy Libraries play in encouraging children to play and how families can join in.

"Toy libraries can help by providing families and carers with a great variety of 'tools' for play including open-ended toys that encourage 'free thinking' and imagination," explained Ms Jones.

"They also have many games and puzzles covering a range of ages that provide an excellent opportunity to join in with the children and play," she said.

Toy libraries also have a focus on good quality toys and sustainable 'green toys'.

"Becoming a toy library member is a win for the environment as families share toys and that means less purchases and less landfill," Ms Jones said.

"Toy libraries also aim to support families and encourage togetherness with quality time spent playing with children," she continued.

Toy libraries are not-for-profit community organisations. They may be located in the local scout hall or within the municipal library, have 20 member families or 1000, employ a staff member or rely solely on their members volunteering.

Toy libraries help parents and carers learn about the different stages of child development, and members benefit from opportunities to meet other families and caregivers to share concerns, interact, and make new friends.

For a small annual membership fee, families have access to high quality toys and the option to try before they buy.

Toy libraries welcome everyone to become members of a fun and growing community.

World Play Day is a day to join in the fun and visiting a toy library can help – visit [toylibraries.org.au](http://toylibraries.org.au) for location information and opening times.

For media enquiries, please contact: Yvette Anderson, Ocean Grove Toy Library Coordinator, [coordinator@oceangrovetoylibrary.org.au](mailto:coordinator@oceangrovetoylibrary.org.au)

Toy Libraries Australia

Find your nearest toy library at [toylibraries.org.au](http://toylibraries.org.au)

[http://www.itla-toylibraries.org/pages/world\\_play\\_day/](http://www.itla-toylibraries.org/pages/world_play_day/)