

# TOY LOAN PROGRAM

Engaging a child with special needs may not be an easy job, but the rewards make it all worthwhile. When you play with your child, you help develop your child's skill set, strengthen your relationship, and have fun. In support of playtime, the Koch♦Young Resource Center offers a library collection of several hundred developmental toys available for loan to children receiving services from the KYRC and Lanterman Regional Center. The collection features a range of toys that will help stimulate your child in variety of ways.

**More information about the Toy Loan Program, how the collection is organized, and the toy loan policy is available on a separate information card.**



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

For more information and to register for any of these programs, contact the Koch♦Young Resource Center at 213.252.5600 or [kyrc@lanterman.org](mailto:kyrc@lanterman.org).



# PLAY PROGRAM

for Children Birth to 5 and Their Parents



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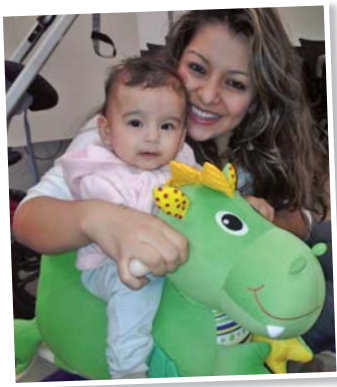




**T**he importance of play in child development is indisputable. Scientific research demonstrates the positive long-term effects of play on the brain and behavior patterns from childhood through adulthood. And for children with developmental delays, quality playtime with parents can lead to dramatic improvements in skills, such as communication, engagement, sensory awareness, cognitive ability and creativity.

Parents are their child's first teachers and playmates and play a pivotal role in providing a stimulating environment for their child. Yet many families in our community, due to financial burden, are unable to purchase appropriate toys for their children, and also lack support in identifying successful play strategies for their children with special needs.

Lanterman Regional Center's Play Program for parents and their children with special needs from birth to 5 provides access to developmental toys, enhances parent-child relationships, and helps parents build their children's skills in a variety of domains.



## BABY PLAY DAYS

*for Children Birth to 2 Years*

Children from birth to 2 years and their parents are invited to come explore and play with KYRC toys and equipment, and get to know other families on scheduled monthly play days. Parents also have an opportunity to ask developmental questions and get expert advice.

"Thank you again for a great play day today. Portia has so much fun and I learned a lot of valuable information, now all I have to do is incorporate this into our routine."

—SHANNON LANDON

## PLAYGROUPS

*for Children 2 to 5 Years*

Playgroups introduce parents to a range of different types of play that will stimulate their children, promote creative thinking, build communication skills, encourage social interaction, and help develop the whole child. Each playgroup runs for multiple sessions during which small groups of children ages 2 to 5 years and their parents explore arts and crafts, music, movement, sensory play, pretend play and outdoor themes. Low-cost activities are introduced that can be done at home. Tips and strategies are provided and demonstrated to help parents make playtime with their child more fun and meaningful.

"Willa loves the play groups and looks forward to it every week. The group is always creative and engaging for the little ones."

—KIM KOEHLER



## ENRICHMENT SERIES

*Ages Vary*

The enrichment series is a more in-depth exploration of a focused theme or topic, such as music or sensory play. Parents attend with their children and learn hands-on techniques from knowledgeable group leaders, while engaging with other families.



## STORYTIME

*Open to All Ages*

Storytime events are held at the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center library for parents and their children. Storytime includes a book reading and various crafts and activities for the children.

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

*for Parents of Children Birth to 5 Years*

Workshops, which are only for parents, are regularly offered on a variety of topics, such as play strategies, speech skills, child development, and useful everyday strategies, such as preparing for daily transitions. Other workshops are provided on demand. If there is a topic you would like to learn more about, e-mail your suggestion to [kyrc@lanterman.org](mailto:kyrc@lanterman.org).

For more information and to register for any of these programs, contact the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center at 213.252.5600 or [kyrc@lanterman.org](mailto:kyrc@lanterman.org).

*Grant funding helps make possible this valuable programming.*

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**SENSORIMOTOR** – Sensorimotor toys involve either sensory activity and input – sound, sight, touch, smell and taste – and/or motor activity and development – pressure, balance, dexterity, body awareness and motion.

**MANIPULATIVES** – Manipulatives are various objects that can be moved or arranged by hand as a means of developing motor skills or understanding abstractions. These include blocks or other materials for stacking, building or sorting.

**DRAMATIC/PRETEND PLAY** – Dramatic/pretend play includes role-playing, puppetry and fantasy play. In this section of toys, you will find props to support your child's imagination, such as dolls, puppets, costumes, pretend food, animals and other props.

**ART/MUSIC** – The toys in this section support a child's creative side and some include supplies for a home art project. This section also has a variety of instruments, some standalone and others part of a kit that has the makings of a home band.

**LANGUAGE OR COGNITIVE SKILL BUILDING** – All toys fit this category to some degree, but some toys have the intent of teaching a specific vocabulary set, such as colors, shapes, numbers, animals, body parts, etc.; or a skill such as grouping items, sequencing, etc.



**CAUSE AND EFFECT** – Learning that our actions impact the world around us is a critical skill and one that promotes language and socialization. Children can begin to explore this concept with simple cause and effect toys – a twist of a knob might make a toy pop up, make sound or lights.



**PUZZLES AND GAMES** – Puzzles and games allow children to master skills such as matching, decoding, sorting, turn-taking, persistence, cooperation and fine motor skills. A game or puzzle might also expand a child's knowledge of a specific topic.

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** – Social competence allows children to be cooperative, express their feelings and empathize with others. These toys are designed to support children who may have difficulty in this area. Sometimes, representative play through book-making, a game, pretend play or puppets can help them better understand social situations or feelings that are hard for them.

## TOY LOAN POLICY

Families can check out two toys at a time. All toys can be borrowed for two weeks and renewed once for an additional two weeks if necessary. The standard library fee of \$1 per day applies to late items. If toys are returned with missing parts, \$1 for each part that is missing will be charged. Toys must be returned in good condition. Additional charges will be applied to toys that are returned damaged. The standard library replacement policy applies to toys. For toys that are lost, payment for the replacement of the toy plus a \$10 processing fee per lost toy will be charged. Library privileges will be suspended until payment is made.

Children receive a prize when they return 10 toys promptly and in good condition. For your convenience, toys may be dropped off or picked up at the same community locations as other KYRC library items. A list of community drop-off/pick-up locations is available in the Koch♦Young Resource Center.

## RECOMMEND A TOY FOR THE COLLECTION

If you would like to recommend a toy to be considered for possible addition to the toy collection, contact the Koch♦Young Resource Center at 213.252.5600 or [kyrc@lanterman.org](mailto:kyrc@lanterman.org).