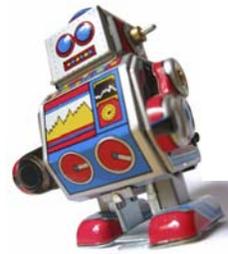


Play @ Your Library!



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
2228 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084
518.456.2400

We Got New

Who: **Guilderland Public Library** (No-not the North Pole!)

What We Did: Youth Services Librarians selected and ordered new toys & instruments to be used for **Baby Playtime** and **Storytime** programs.

Where Did We Get the Toys: **Constructive Playthings** (assorted toys and instruments) (<http://www.constplay.com/>) and **Tinker Tots** (10' playchute parachute) (<http://www.tinketots.com/>)

Who Paid: The **Friends** of the Library generously paid \$510 for new toys! We made them a thank you card with pictures of children playing with the new toys. The card was signed by Librarians and families at Baby Playtime.

Why We Did It: We've had a lot of children attending our Baby Playtime program and we were using old or donated toys. We also wanted to purchase new toys that are easy to clean the germs away and lead free. The toys and instruments we bought are age-appropriate (under 3 years old), easy to handle, easy to clean and fun!

Storage: Finding space is always tricky but we got rid of some old toys – ones that were well used, not meeting lead standards or just too hard to clean. We have two separate bins that contain identical sets of toys. This makes it easier to clean the toys when you have back to back programs. We also made sure to keep all the packaging the toys came with that indicate the item # (recall purposes), lead free and phthalate free products.

Cleaning Procedures: We put out lingerie bags for "Dirty Toys" that need to be cleaned. After playtime the toys are washed in soapy water, rinsed, then disinfected by soaking them in a diluted bleach solution – 1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water or 1 tablespoon bleach to 1 quart of water for 10 to 20 minutes. This time is specific to plastic toys. Remove the toys from the bleach solution and rinse well in cool water. Then we use our utility closet to hang the bags and air the toys.

What's Baby Playtime: **Baby Playtime** is held every other Monday at 11 am. Play is an important part of early childhood development. We set aside the storyhour room, filled with toys, just for caregivers and their little ones! This time is for children between the ages of 0 to 36 months, and caregiver who'd like to get out of the house to enjoy the company of other moms, dads, and caregivers while their babies play and make new friends. No registration is required, they just drop in!

Get Your Play On!

For more information, contact Josalyn Wilder (wilderj@guilpl.org) or Debbie Sternklar (sternklard@guilpl.org)