

BU Toy Library

Fall 2011



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Preschool Flood Recovery

When the flood waters receded last September, two preschools were left with little to salvage. One week later, Magic Carpet Preschool and Columbia County Child Development Center's Head Start temporarily relocated in the Wesley United Methodist Church on Market Street. The day before they welcomed their students to the temporary space, the BU Toy Library emptied its shelves and delivered hundreds of toys to the preschools. The children enjoyed the wooden train sets, building blocks, puzzles, magnetic games, dollhouses, puppets, and craft supplies while they awaited thousands of dollars worth of brand-new toys and books complements of the Psychology Association, National Student Speech Hearing and Language Association (NSSHLA), and a private donor. Many thanks to the Melissa and Doug® Toy Company and the Kaplan Early Learning Company for helping us to maximize our donations!

SOLVE Office

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UPDATE: Four Grants Expand the Library's Resources

TALE Teacher-Scholar Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan)

BU Bibliotek created a bibliotherapeutic library informed by Janoff-Bulman's cognitive theory of traumatic stress. Advanced psychology majors enrolled in Developmental Psychopathology (PSYCH337) developed literacy theme kits for dozens of theory-related picture books. Insofar as reading together is one of the most familiar and comforting rituals of childhood, funding also was applied to the purchase of dozens of books that have been recognized for their value in promoting family literacy. Visit www.bloomu.edu/toy_library to view a list of book titles in the BU Toy Library's book collection.

Margin of Excellence Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan, Dr. Sheila Dove Jones, Dr. Yanhui Pang, Ms. Nancy Edwards, & Ms. Jean Downing)

Diversity and Kinship Literacy Play created opportunities to teach early literacy skills while celebrating human diversity and highlighting human kinship. Students enrolled in Early Child Development (PSYCH211) helped to construct corresponding literacy theme kits for dozens of children's books. Monies also were used to purchase dozens of repetition and rhyming books for pre-readers, emergent readers, and children with speech and language delays or disorders. Visit www.bloomu.edu/toy_library to view lists and descriptions of these books.

Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan)

Alphabet Literacy Play honors the diverse ways that pre-readers and emergent readers process information related to early literacy skills—letter recognition and phonemic awareness. Several Chapter 202 Phi Kappa Phi students answered Dr. Duncan's invitation to participate in a workgroup to design and assemble the alphabet theme kits. Each kit introduces the alphabet vis-à-vis one of Gardner's eight forms of intelligence. In addition, monies from this grant were used to create an Ellison Prestige Die Cut Center. Visit www.bloomu.edu/toy_library to learn more about the Ellison Prestige Die Cut Center.

Presidential Strategic Issues Grant

(Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan & Dr. Sheila Dove Jones)

With funding from a 2011 Presidential Strategic Issues Grant, the **BU Toy Library Virtual Center of Excellence** has made progress toward building a state-of-the-art online forum for sharing theories, research, resources, and best practice standards to promote individuals' physical and psychological health through literacy and play. Upgrades to the website over the past 6 months have been due to the expertise of **Marcus Valeriano** (graduate student in the Masters of Instructional Technology program) in collaboration with the Office of Communication. Visit www.bloomu.edu/toy_library.



Above: The BU Toy Library makes its debut at TreeFest with a tree decorated by SOLVE Office staff and students.

Announcing....

The Ellison Die Cut Center

With funding from a National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Award and a Bloomsburg University Margin of Excellence Award, the BU Toy Library now offers the use of an Ellison Prestige Pro die cut machine and an extensive collection of die cuts. Die cuts are valuable tools for teaching and reinforcing a wide range of core academic concepts in an engaging and interactive way. The BU Toy Library's die cuts were selected for their usefulness in creating high quality manipulatives for hands-on learning activities and craft projects related to the library's literacy initiatives.

BU Toy Library members are welcome to use the Ellison Die Cut Center to suit all of their academic, professional, and extracurricular needs. **Please bring your own paper.** Kindly send pictures of your die cut creations and suggestions for expanding the Ellison Die Cut Center to www.bloomu.edu/toy_library.



Left: The SOLVE Office brought the Red Cross' Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign to campus. Using the BU Toy Library's Ellison Die Cut Center, SOLVE Office's student workers constructed dozens of handmade cards for BU faculty, staff, and students to send Seasons' Greetings to American soldiers, veterans and their families.



Left: Magic Carpet Preschool thanks the BU Toy Library and its project partners (Psychology Association and the National Student Speech Hearing and Language Association) for their collaborative flood recovery efforts. See their beautiful banner on display at the BU Toy Library!



With Gratitude

SOLVE Office (Jean Downing, Chris Gay, Tim Pelton, and the student workers!)

Office of Communications (Eric Foster and Jaime North)

Marcus Valeriano (Masters of Instructional Technology, graduate student)

Nina Edgerton (James V. Brown library in Williamsport, PA)

Children's librarians across the Commonwealth for responding to a request for recommendations about children's books on diversity, kinship, and other themes.

Jones Center for Special Education Excellence (Dr. Sheila Dove Jones)