

BU Toy Library

Spring 2013



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Friends of the BU Toy Library Partners with Children's Country Cottage

Marissa Balderi (undergraduate student, Department of Exceptionalities) and Nicole Charpentier (graduate student, Guidance Counseling and Student Affairs, SHARE Coordinator) piloted a series of visits to the Children's Country Cottage on behalf of the **Friends of the BU Toy Library** program. **Friends of the BU Toy Library** is a group of Bloomsburg University students who want to deepen their understanding of child development and play while gaining valuable experience interacting with children of all developmental ages and abilities. Their efforts are supported by the BU Toy Library which affords them access to award-winning children's literacy materials and play resources as well as tool kits, guidebooks, tutorials, and totes. Marissa, Nicole, and **Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan** (Psychology) developed literacy and play activities centered around the child care center's themes (bugs/insects, pond life, circus, baby animals) while also emphasizing early literacy skills such as letter knowledge, vocabulary, and narration. A representative of the Children's Country Cottage wrote, "Thank you both for your hard work and enthusiasm at our center! We, the children and myself, enjoyed all the fun activities and books you involved us in. We would definitely be interested in doing this next year, I feel the children benefitted greatly."

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BU Toy Library Partners with Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic

With funding from a Cherokee Pharmaceutical Community Grant, the BU Toy Library had the privilege of supporting faculty, staff, and students affiliated with the University's Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic. Funding from the grant made possible the purchase of four laptop computers. One year ago, these computers played a central role in an advanced psychology major's community outreach initiative to teach computer literacy skills to elderly citizens at adult daycare facilities. This year, the laptops have found a new purpose. Cindy Yocum, one of the clinic's supervisors wrote, *"You have no idea how valuable those laptops are as a tool for my clinicians to use either as a tool prior to a therapy session and/or within the session to engage and to facilitate teaching of speech and language skills for our students ranging from Kindergarten through 12th grade."* The BU Toy Library salutes the Speech, Hearing, and Language Clinic for serving the children of our community with a genuine commitment to excellence. We are honored to serve you!

"I just wanted to thank you SO much for introducing us to the Toy Library. It saved a lot of money and time for me to be able to easily assess the materials and the kids loved it!"

"I just wanted to let you know how much my colleagues and I have enjoyed having the toy library available to us. I worked with a blind client this semester, and the toy library provided me with the necessary tools to modify my therapy materials."

"I wanted to thank you for the amazing resource of the toy library and how much it has supported our program...When I was assigned a kindergartener with Autism on my caseload, I was unsure what kind of lessons to plan. When you brought a *Piggie and Elephant* book, with the characters, to talk to our class in the beginning of the semester, I knew it was something I needed to try. She absolutely LOVED the book, laughing throughout the whole thing. Since then, I've come to the toy library multiple times...Occasionally, I would just come over and browse because I needed inspiration! Thank you so much!!"

