WHAT IS A TOY LIBRARY?

The Minneapolis Toy Library is a mobile toy lending program which seeks to reduce waste, foster child development, and build community in the Minneapolis area.

The Minneapolis Toy Library grew out of an eco-minded parent's struggle with wanting to stimulate her child's development but also with wanting to be conscious not to buy toys that would eventually lead to more plastics being discarded into the environment. Always looking for ways to keep things simple and build community, this mom stumbled upon a brilliant idea: toy libraries.

Toy libraries have been established throughout the world with a wide array of foci.

After sharing the idea with some friends, the Minneapolis Toy Library picked up momentum and is now run by a dedicated group of volunteers.
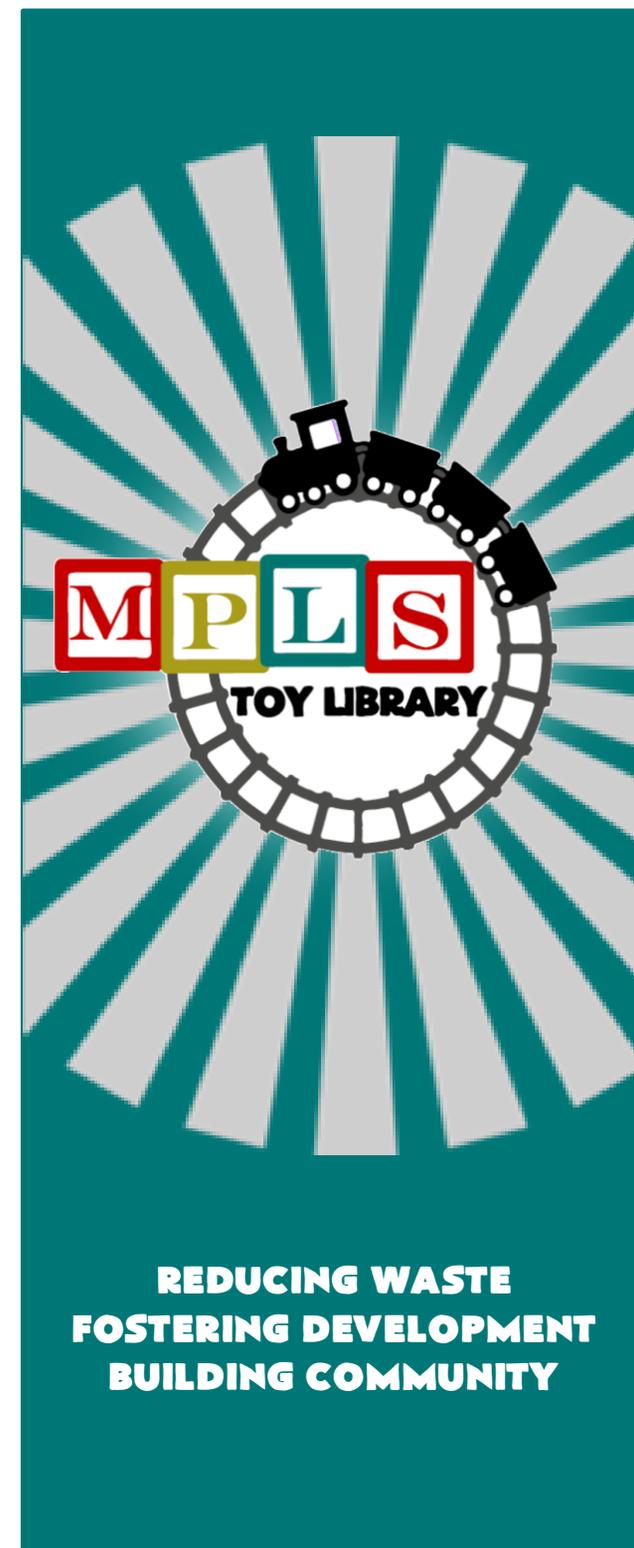
CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Minneapolis Toy Library is currently a mobile lending program, meaning that we offer the library at a couple lending events per month, usually held at local libraries.

For a schedule of upcoming lending events, please visit our website at mplstoylibrary.org.

We openly welcome feedback and invite new members to join our organizing team! Please contact us to learn about more ways to get involved!

MPLS TOY LIBRARY

**REDUCING WASTE
FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING COMMUNITY**

TOY COLLECTION

The library's collection is made up of newly purchased toys in addition to gently used donations.

We offer toys for children ages birth to 5 years.

We know that children learn through play, and our goal is to foster child development through the checking out of our toys. As such our collection features many educational toys to stimulate learning. We also purchase toys with the environment in mind. Many of our toys are wood or recycled plastic and feature nontoxic paints.

The toys are organized into learning domains including the following areas: literacy and language, science and sensory, math and cognitive, manipulative, large motor, fine motor, blocks, board games, dramatic play, music, and puzzles.

Library volunteers are happy to help you select toys appropriate for your child's age and stage of development.

TOY LENDING

The toy library offers lending events twice a month, typically held at Minneapolis libraries. Members of the toy library are allowed to check out **5 toys per family. All items are due back in 3 weeks.**

TOY CARE

All toys are members' responsibility while on loan. We ask that members please treat library toys and packaging with all reasonable care and return toys in their bags/boxes in a clean and dry condition.

It is the borrower's responsibility to clean toys before returning them. Please use a mild solution of soap and water. **Do not use bleach, detergents or abrasive cleansers. Do not submerge wood toys in water.** Use a damp cloth or a sponge to wipe clean. If items are broken or lost, please notify the volunteer on site so it can be evaluated, fixed or replaced.

LATE FEES

Toys are given a one week grace period. If they are not returned by the 5th week, there is a fee of $1 per toy per day. Please notify the toy library by email if you cannot bring the toys back by the due date.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Minneapolis Toy Library welcomes members from the metropolitan area. We are currently offering 6-month trial memberships while we develop our program. During this time we will look for member feedback and may make changes to policies and practices.

At the present time, the toy library is donation-based and volunteer-run. **The suggested donation for our 6-month membership is $10.** However, you decide the amount that you can afford to donate to become a member. All donations go directly to building the program. We are currently focusing on becoming a nonprofit and finding a permanent space.

DONATIONS

We happily accept donations of new and gently used toys for children birth to 5-years-old.

We are currently seeking wood toys and puzzles. **We cannot accept stuffed animals; toys that are broken, showing significant wear or are missing pieces; or toys recommended for children over 5 years.**