

# The Benefits of TOY Libraries

- Educational stimulation with special focus on foundation skills for literacy, mathematics and scientific thinking for young children whose families are living in poverty
- Early intervention with graded toys for children with special needs including disability, foetal alcohol syndrome, problems resulting from birth difficulties, illness, abandonment, trauma and abuse
- Pre-schools with limited finances have access to quality play materials that support the development of the children in their care
- All parents are able to stimulate their children with a variety of toys for each stage of development, at minimal or no cost
- Interactive play between parent and child helps to strengthen the parent-child relationship



- A child's self confidence increases with each toy enjoyed and mastered
- Primary school learners have an opportunity to develop the essential foundation skills needed to improve school performance
- Bored teenagers have an alternative to experimenting with alcohol and drugs

Partly supported by



When ALL-SA (then known as the South African Toy and Leisure Libraries Association) was first established in 1993 there were 21 toy libraries. Now there are over 180 toy libraries nationally.

**The greatest challenges that ALL-SA is attempting to address through toy libraries are:**

- Parents' lack of knowledge about the importance of early stimulation from birth
- The huge disadvantage of children starting primary school without the benefit of attending pre-school programmes or attending pre-schools with poor resources. This can lead to under-achievement throughout life.
- The challenges facing primary school learners who are struggling to cope at school due to insufficient development of essential foundation skills and knowledge. This ultimately impacts on high school performance.
- The lack of child-friendly play spaces in South Africa



**Active Learning Libraries – South Africa**

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## Our Vision: A Quality Active Learning Toy Library within reach of Every Child.



**ALL-SA'S MISSION AS A NATIONAL BODY**  
 To promote the establishment and effective operation of Active Learning Toy Libraries for childhood development through needs- and skills-focused play in support of every child's right to an equal opportunity to reach his or her potential.