

BU Toy Library



Language and Literacy Resource Center

**We're on
Facebook!**



Fall 2014 issue

Sensory Literacy p. 2

On Campus p. 3

In the Community p. 4

Mission

To advance the academic and professional development of members of Bloomsburg University and the local community by providing access to a comprehensive selection of books, toys, reference materials, training opportunities, and other resources.

Goal and Objectives

Goal #1: Service

Provide faculty, staff, and students access to language and literacy resources to support their research, scholarship, practice, creative activities, community-based programs, and outreach initiatives.

Goal #2: Research

Identify, acquire, develop, and assess evidence-based resources to advance language and literacy skills across the lifespan.

Goal #3: Teaching

Create training materials as well as on- and off-campus presentations to share information about evidence-based resources and practices with members of the BU community and beyond.

3213 MCHS

**400 East Second Street
Bloomsburg University**

**butoylibrary@bloomu.edu
(570) 389-3915**

Open

**Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

or

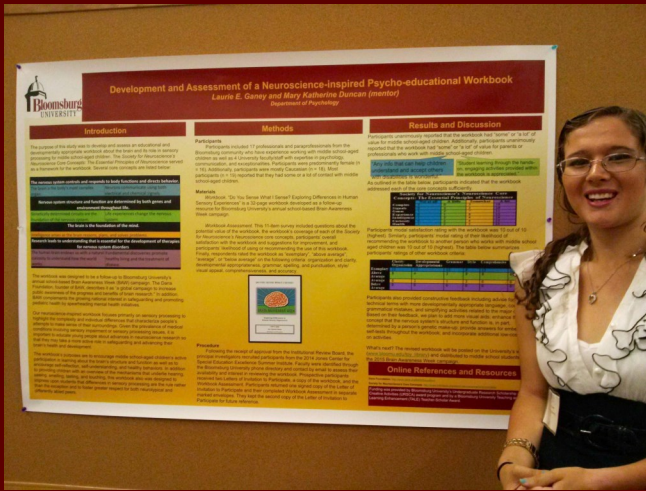
Contact

**Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan
mduncan@bloomu.edu
570-389-4469**

Sensory Literacy

Do You Sense What I Sense?

Exploring Differences in Human Sensory Experiences



With funding from a Summer 2014 **Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activities (URSCA) award** and in partial fulfillment of the requirements of an Honors Independent Study project, Laurie Ganey (Psychology major and Honors Student) co-authored a neuroscience-inspired workbook designed to teach middle school-aged children about how the brain makes sense of all of the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touches that they encounter each day. The

workbook includes fun brain facts, hands-on activities, self-reflection exercises, knowledge assessments, and links to interesting websites. It was assessed by local professionals who work with middle school-aged children and faculty who have expertise in related disciplines. The project was presented at the 2014 PASSHE Undergraduate Research Conference (Lock Haven, PA) and is posted online at www.bloomu.edu/toy_library. We expect that it will be a valuable addition to Bloomsburg University's school-based programming during the Dana Alliance's annual Brain Awareness Week campaign.

Sensory Literacy

Laurie Ganey also co-authored a booklet highlighting the BU Toy Library's collection of books and toys that may help children explore their sensory capabilities and preferences through play. The resources profiled in this booklet were purchased with funds from a **Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TALE) Center Teacher-Scholar Award** presented to Mary Katherine Duncan (Professor of Psychology). Because some of these resources are rather expensive, Laurie Ganey identified or created similar Do-It-Yourself resources that can be fashioned in little time and at nominal cost. The booklet can be found at www.bloomu.edu/toy_library.

On Campus: Speech Pathology Clinic



It was nice to be able to have something tangible for the students and that emulated actual money.

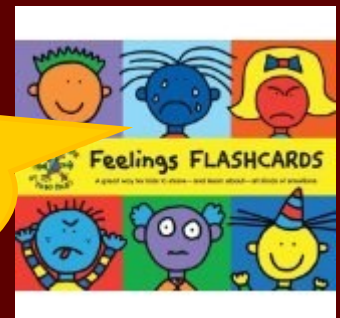


My client really enjoyed the trains and it worked very well with him to practice turn taking skills and maintain appropriate conversation during play.



My student loved this activity. The dogs were also easy to manipulate to teach spatial terms (i.e., under, on, next to).

She is breaking through and is able to tell others now how she is feeling... and not just yes or no responses. She is able to now communicate feelings such as: happy, angry, sad, uncomfortable, excited and bored.



In the Community



"When I put together a preschool program, each class has a "theme" that the children & parents explore through songs, art, games, sensory activities or building models. One week, the theme was "Forests;" we are very good at re-purposing supplies here at the museum, so I built a forest in our activity room from the dozen fake trees that stand around the museum's exhibits. I hung strands of mini lights for stars and turned down the overhead lights, creating a the twilight woodland with 'chair & blanket' caves and a stream the flowed from yards of shiny (donated – you should see our attic) fabric. Into this setting went some stuffed animals & ... the Resource Center's puppets. The children were totally engaged by those props in this environment and the conversations, storytelling, vocabulary building and nurturing that went on all morning with those puppets made me very grateful for the Toy Library."

—Mrs. Kathy Lincoln, Museum volunteer

"I should also mention that many parents decide to recreate the enrichment activities at home and they very much appreciate the chance to "try out" the many kinds of toys available through the Toy Library."

—Mrs. Kathy Lincoln, Museum volunteer

The Children's Museum, located at 2 West Seventh Street in Bloomsburg, PA, is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is "to enrich the lives of people in the region by fostering a lifelong love of learning through enjoyable interactive programs and exhibits that bring out the imagination in every child and the child in every visitor" (www.the-childrens-museum.org).

Mrs. Kathy Lincoln, a volunteer at The Children's Museum, frequents the BU Toy Library: Language and Literacy Resource Center weekly (20-30 visits per year) when she is running the preschool classes or clubs. Mrs. Lincoln notes that she uses the BU Toy Library's die-cut machine, book collection, puzzles, and dramatic play props (e.g., pretend food, train & truck sets, animal figures, and costumes) when developing and implementing structured play activities for preschool children and their parents. She also plans to integrate some of the new large motor skill equipment like the parachute into future programming.

The Children's Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Admission = \$6.50 for individuals over the age of 2 years old.)