

BU Toy Library

Spring 2014



We've moved!

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BU Toy Library welcomes Practicum Students

This semester, the BU Toy Library served as a practicum site for two undergraduate students—Emily Haines (a Psychology major) and Ashlie Hess (a dual degree student majoring in Psychology and Speech Language Pathology). Together, Emily and Ashlie designed, implemented, and assessed two outreach initiatives for the BU Toy Library (see Pages 2 and 3 for more details). Through their efforts, the BU Toy Library is now more connected to the surrounding community than ever before! Special thanks to Jaime North, Marketing Specialist and Web Editor, and his team for capturing so many of the special moments of this semester through the updating of the BU Toy Library's website, the creation of a blog, and the making of a promotional video. Blog posts can be found here: <http://bloomuexplore.blogspot.com/search/label/early%20childhood%20education>

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(Fall and Spring semesters)
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Summer 2014 Hours
TBA

or

Contact

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Outreach Programs

Friends of the BU Toy Library

The goal of Friends of the BU Toy Library program is to strengthen children's early literacy skills (e.g., letter knowledge, vocabulary, and story-telling) through shared reading and play. Using the BU Toy Library's online literacy play tutorials as a guide, Emily Haines and Ashlie Hess (BU Toy Library practicum students) created a series of fun and engaging early literacy lessons. Equipped with books and toys from the BU Toy Library, Emily and Ashlie visited five preschool classrooms in the Bloomsburg area—Children's Country Cottage, Magic Carpet Preschool, 5th Street Head Start, and Town Park Head Start (two classes)—during the Spring 2014 semester. At Children's Country Cottage, Emily and Narali Tagliavore (Honors Program student, SOLVE Office volunteer) focused on the early literacy skill of vocabulary development using the toy library's *Elephant and Piggie* series. At all other locations, Emily and Ashlie focused on a new literacy skill each week and adapted their lessons to each preschool's weekly theme.

Right: Ashlie and Emily developed a literacy play activity (i.e., Rhyming Hullabaloo) to support children's phonological awareness, or their understanding of words' sounds and syllables. This game catered to the preschools' themes of rhymes, nursery rhymes, and Dr. Seuss. This interactive game got the children up and moving by encouraging them to hop on words that rhymed with a target word.



New Grant-funded Programs



Say Y.E.S.

(Youth Engaged in Service)

Supported by a College of Liberal Arts Curricular Enhancement Grant and a gift in-kind donation from the Jones Center for Special Education Excellence, Say Y.E.S. was designed to encourage children to employ their time and talent in service to others. Using the BU Toy Library's *Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II: Youth Outreach Opportunities for Families, Children, and Youth* as a guide, Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan and Ashlie Hess (psychology practicum student) educated children

about some of the needs of the Bloomsburg community and designed outreach projects to involve children in service to others. Projects included decorating grocery totes for patrons of the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard (*above*), fashioning paper mosaic Easter sunrise banners to adorn the walls of residents of the Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community, assembling care packages including handcrafted cards and copies of Margaret Wise Brown's *Goodnight Moon* for guests of the Danville Ronald McDonald House, and making Happy Birthday cards and mobiles to include in diaper bags for new and expecting mothers at Your Loving Choices.

Update

Inspired by St. Columba School's Service Club, a local girl scout troop led by Melissa Bennett undertook a service project to further serve the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. The BU Toy Library donated an additional 15-20 totes to the girl scout troop. The Girl Scouts decorated and filled the totes with one of the food cupboard's hottest commodities—Kraft Mac n' Cheese—for a service project entitled "Say Cheese!"

Sensorimotor Play

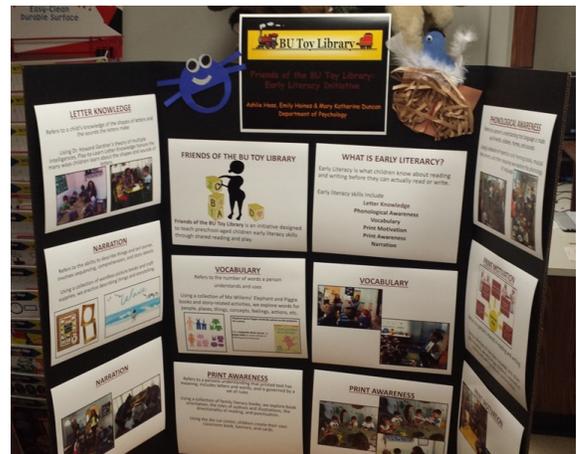
With funding from a TALE Teacher-Scholar Award and support from the Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts (URSCA) program, a senior psychology major (Laurie Ganey) will collaborate with two faculty in the Department of Psychology (Drs. Mary Katherine Duncan and Jennifer Johnson) to create a neuroscience-inspired initiative for the BU Toy Library in partial fulfillment of the requirements of an Honors Independent Study project during the Summer 2014 and Fall 2014.

Coming soon!

From Campus to Community and Beyond!

BU's Kids Fun Fair

Kids Fun is an annual free carnival held in Nelson Field House for children in the Bloomsburg community. Each year, the carnival has a specific theme. This year's theme was "A Farm Visit". Student organizations set up booths related to the theme with activities, games, and crafts for a fun day of community service. Emily Haines and Ashlie Hess represented the BUTL this year with a "Pin the Tail on the Piggy" activity and a large farm scene floor puzzle. All children received prizes for their participation.



Health Sciences Symposium

The BU Toy Library participated in the University's 23rd Annual Health Science Symposium. We presented two posters about the Friends of the BU Toy Library and Say Y.E.S. programs. We displayed samples of our early literacy curriculum, tutorials, books, and toys. We also showcased some of the Say Y.E.S. service projects. Participation provided an opportunity to introduce members of the community to our literacy and play resource center.

BU Toy Library Teams Up with BU Honors Program

"Armed with bundles of books, toys, and teaching materials from the BU Toy Library, BU Honors Students set out for two days of work at St. Theresa Basic School, Black River, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Classrooms were bustling with active three to five year old children. Students from a variety of disciplines were challenged to keep these rambunctious little ones busy for over two hours at a time. Without resources from the BU Toy Library, our teaching and learning sessions would not have had the impact we witnessed. This school is located in a remote area of the island. Resources are scarce. The children delighted in the books, puppets, and art materials that we carried on our journey during spring break. One little one asked upon our return the second day, "Will you read a story to us today?" When assured that story time was on our schedule, he simply smiled and said, "I'm glad." Many thanks to the BU Toy Library for adding this dimension to the Honors Program week of service in Jamaica."

—Dr. Joan Miller



On- and Off-Campus Presentations

Classroom Visits

We would like to thank Dr. Pamela Smith for inviting us to speak to her graduate Speech Language Pathology class of twenty-four students. The presentation offered an overview of updates to the DSM 5 classification of Autism Spectrum Disorder, a review of the BU Toy Library and its resources/programming, and a tour of the BU Toy Library in its new location (MCHS 3213). Student feedback showed that 100% were satisfied with the presentation, 100% believed it was informative, and 96% were very likely to recommend the BU Toy Library. Written feedback included:

“Love the BU Toy Library. Best resource on campus!”

“Please give this presentation to as many programs as possible!”

Jones Center for Special Education Excellence Workshop

Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan offered a workshop entitled *Play Literacy* for professionals in Columbia County. Attendees offered the following comments:

“It gave me ideas to use in my classroom and lots of information.”

“[I learned new ideas for] focusing on children’s strengths rather than their weaknesses.”

“Wonderful presentation! Dr. Duncan’s passion and enthusiasm is contagious.”

Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association

Senior psychology major, Amanda Leaman, presented her independent study research project entitled, “Advancing a Pedagogy of Character through Children’s Literature” at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. Amanda’s work helped to inform the recently updated **Diversity and Literacy Play II** guide available on the BU Toy Library’s website. The guide recommends children’s picture books that include themes related to each of the six virtues and twenty-four character strengths identified in Peterson and Seligman’s (2004) *Character Strengths and Virtues Handbook and Classification* as well as multiple-intelligence inspired story-related activities.