Community Playlink

Newsletter
Dec 2026 /issue 1

We're still here!

The past 12 months have been challenging, particularly following the withdrawal of the small grant we previously received from the Council. Much of what we do is made possible by the dedication and commitment of our staff, whose continued support has been instrumental in helping us reach this point.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us through this difficult period. The generosity shown through crowdfunding, donations from other charities and contributions from individuals has made a real difference and helped ensure that we can continue our work.

We are pleased to confirm that we have sufficient funding to sustain us well into next year. We will continue to explore grant opportunities while maintaining our popular playtime sessions, enhancing our range of toys and, most importantly, providing ongoing support to everyone who uses our services.

Despite the challenges we have faced, we remain committed to what we do and are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us continue to make a difference.





New Toys

We have recently purchased some new dressing up costumes as well remote-control cars and even a large Tetris game for our Party Loans.

We continue to grow!

We welcome another 24 families who have enrolled in August and September.



Christmas opening

We will close on **19th December**
We will re-open on **5th January**

We wish you all a really great Christmas.



Can you help?

We are in need of appropriate toys for children aged 8 years and above. Ideally the toys should encourage play rather than anything electronic. If you can help it would be much appreciated.

Which Toys should my children play with?

The question we are asked most frequently, is what toy should I get for my child? The use of toys in stimulation and education is invaluable and our team have sought to help by providing a simple guide showing appropriate toys for children at different stages and ages. This is displayed on the notice board outside the office.



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Playtime sessions are special

Singing time at the end of each session is becoming a highlight for our team. The parents/carers are really participating as we play a couple of parachute games together. Initially the children and adults raise and lower the parachute. The children then collect an instrument to use whilst the adults are given a song sheet.

On numerous occasions we have had everyone joining in with the 'Hokey Cokey' or 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' and it feels like a good coming together time with lots of smiles and laughing.

If you want to join a playtime session just let the team know by contacting us;

cplteam@community-playlink.com

Telephone; 02380 335362



Did you know?

47617
Families helped

50 years
Serving Southampton

4000+
Toys in our library

100%
Free to join

Having a children's Party? – why not try our party packs

£15
small soft play bag



£25
Large soft play with mats



+ £20
Add a large 10 toy bundle



A Christmas Appeal

Our FREE toy-lending service and FREE playtime sessions are made possible through the generosity of donations and the support of our community. Unlike many similar services, we do not charge for any of our activities. We strongly believe that every child and family should have an equal opportunity to access and benefit from the services we provide, regardless of their financial circumstances.

If you are in a position to make a donation, however small, your support would be greatly appreciated and would help us continue providing these valuable services to our community.

Every donation makes a difference!

To donate, simply scan the QR code below, which will take you directly to our donations page. Thank you for your kindness and for helping us make a difference.

What toys should my children play with?

Playful Beginnings

What children 0-12 months might play with

Play helps your baby learn, grow and connect with the world around them.





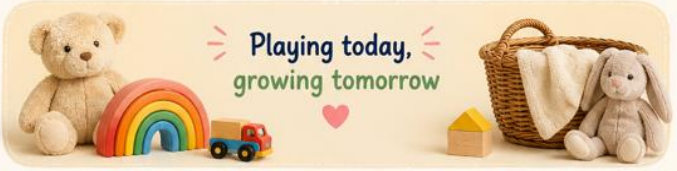
Play today, thrive tomorrow

Playful Explorers

What children 12 months to 3 years might play with

Play helps your toddler learn, grow and discover every day.





Ready, Set, Play!

3 to 5 Years





Discover, Create, Grow!

5 to 8 Years



Play today, imagine tomorrow!



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The Power of Play





P is one of our valued children who is 3 years old . She is having various tests and is very delayed in her walking. When she first started coming along to our play sessions, she wouldn't even stand up. A Physio came to observe her in the group, and we started encouraging her to reach for things on a table which encouraged her to push herself .

Over the summer our outside sessions saw her standing more regularly to reach in for the animals in the water tray or to find shells in the sand box. When we cheekily started moving items around the box further away from her, she started to take a few steps around the table to catch these items which was great to see.

Over time P has started walking a few steps unaided and I was amazed last week when she managed to negotiate herself to stand up and raise one leg to get herself seated on a rocker. It is lovely to see her confidence grow in the play sessions and such improvements with her movement.

CPL in the community

CPL are out there in the community and promoting the service for the benefit of all. Greg and Juno took part in the Southampton Marathon Festival and raised £185 for the charity.

In September Trustees and friends took part in the British Science Festival taking the opportunity to introduce the Toy library and Playtime sessions to others. If you would like to volunteer or help us in our fundraising then please get in touch.







Thank you

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated and contributed to keeping CPL alive following the withdrawal of support from our city council. We are grateful to our committed staff and friends who recognize our value to our local community.