

A PROGRAM OF UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES



TOY & RESOURCE CENTER

Come Out and Play at the
Toy & Resource Center!

April 2024 | Issue 10

Have a *Doll-op* of Fun with our Dollhouses!

We spent no time *dwelling* on April's toy of the month. It's a toy that's excellent for helping a child explore creativity, develop imagination, and further skills in other areas of learning such as cognition and communication. At this point, no need for us to *build* any more anticipation: it's our **dollhouses**!

Dollhouses are fantastic and *a-door-able* toys that allow kids to develop dexterity and eye-hand coordination. This is accomplished through moving pieces and parts within a confined space to see how everything fits together. It teaches children about spatial relationships which go a long way toward developing the **E** in **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

Parents and guardians may interact with the objects inside a dollhouse to help develop a child's organizational capabilities through categorization. Use the furniture or dolls inside the house to have children create a sense of order. Questions such as "What items are in the living room?" can help children determine what items fall into what categories.

Children can also hone their problem-solving skills via their imaginative and miniature world through questioning the environment. Questions such as "Can the doll ride their bike down the stairs?" or "Will the bed go through the doorway?" can



help children discover new ideas within the world. Should a child have a *doll-emma*, you can have them confront social conflicts by acting out scenarios and developing solutions for these situations. This can help build a child's ability to express and manage emotions, which can also help extend these emotions to others.

Dollhouses are a fantastic way to help a child understand the world around them. Whether using dolls, animals, or even something imaginative, these items can help develop skills that can extend into our own world!

Children can be on their way to developing the dollhouse of their dreams in no time! Stop by [the Toy & Resource Center](#) today to check out our fantastic collection of toys.

Become a member today for more suggestions for fun and creative play. You can also give the gift of a membership to that special someone in your life.

Enhance Development with this *Doll* of a Site

If you're looking for more information on how dollhouses can benefit the development of a child, the website [When They Get Older](#) has plenty of information on the educational benefits. This website explores the social and emotional lessons children can take from dollhouses, while also conveying how the toys can help develop language skills through vocabulary expansion and narrative development.

This is a great resource for any parent or guardian looking to build foundations for a child. Feel free to explore, and remember that when it comes to imagination, the sky's the limit!

DIY Dollhouses Let Creativity *Floor-ish*

Even if you're unable to stop by the Toy & Resource Center, you can really push the limits of imagination by having children build their own DIY dollhouses! Using cardboard, patterned paper, crates or even shoeboxes, [Artsy Craftsy Moms](#) has plenty of ideas to help you and your little ones create the dollhouse of your dreams!

Don't forget to furnish your DIY dollhouse with DIY accessories as well. For example, cotton balls make great pillows for a sofa, whereas a household sponge can be used as a trampoline! Your young ones will have a blast using their imagination and building a dollhouse can help develop motor skills as well. The only limits are your own creativity, so grab some cardboard and glue and see what children can imagine!





Volunteer Opportunities

The Toy & Resource Center is always looking for volunteers. We need toy library assistants to help our members, clean and disinfect toys, and organize shelves. There's always something to do at the [Toy & Resource Center!](#)

For more information on volunteering [contact Amy Tubergen](#), Community Relations administrative assistant.

Thank You to All Our Partners and Sponsors!

Thank you to our sponsors/partners who make the UDS Toy & Resource Center possible: *Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board, GOJO Industries, Inc., GPD Group Employees' Foundation, Millennium Fund for Children of Akron Community Foundation, RePlay for Kids, The Mary and George L. Demetros Charitable Trust, and R.C. Musson and Katherine M. Musson Charitable Foundation.*

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a sponsor or a partner of the Toy & Resource Center, [contact Lisa Armstrong](#), director of communications, for more information. Through your generosity, we are able to help thousands of children learn through play.



"We provide and support inclusive, life-enriching options through person-centered programs and advocacy."

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