WORLD PLAY DAY
Report on South African WPD Celebrations 2021
World Play Day 2021: 
Play is healthy

After being forced to play at home due to Covid last year, toy libraries, schools, and other organisations came out in full force to celebrate World Play Day this year. We proudly share some highlights from the day with you.

South African Statistics

- 3533 children
- 274 adults
- 28 people with disabilities

The next few pages will show you what World Play Day looked like around the country.

Organisations featured:
- Cotlands
- CLING in the Vaal
- KwaMbonambi Library
- Langenhoven library, Somerset East
- LETCEE
- Neo Preschool
- One Stop Toy Library
- Penreach
- Roots to Wings Boutique Preschool
- Slovo Centre of Excellence
- Uzwelo Home
While some TLASA committee members attended ITLA’s online play session, others were able to participate in active play on World Play Day. TLASA partnered with one of our members, Cotlands’ Mkhondo Toy Library, to celebrate WPD at Uzwelo Home. This children’s home houses 46 children between the ages of 2 and 19 years old, with the majority of children being teenagers.

The older children took part in a Minute-to-win-it tournament facilitated by the TLASA team. The tournament consisted of two rounds, each with four activities. Children were split into four groups for the first round, and then placed into new groups for the second round, depending on their score during the first round. On the next page we provide detail of the activities of the tournament. The teenagers initially loved the competitive nature of the games, but as they became more invested in the play, winning became less of a goal and we just played to have fun.

For the younger children we organised a jumping castle, group games and the Cotlands team used the toys from their toy library to provide free play opportunities.

Staff from the Home soon joined in the fun and said that they had forgotten the value of play both for themselves and for the children. Subsequently they have organised in-service training for the caregivers on the value of play.

We loved the day at Uzwelo Home and we are proud that our WPD celebrations have lead to a more continued focus on play for the children!
TLASA's WPD Activities: Minute-to-win-it

**ROUND 1**

**Box shake:** Tie the box onto their back. They have to shake their body to get as many as possible of the lids out of the box in 1 minute. Person with the most lids out is the winner.

**Paper race:** They have to try get to the other line as quick as possible. They cannot touch the ground, only stand on the two pieces of paper. They put one down, climb onto it, put down the second, climb onto it, get the first page and move it in front of them, etc. First person to the other side is the winner.

**Cookie on face:** Lie on the ground on their back, hands by their sides. Put the cookie on their forehead. Move face muscles to get cookie into their mouth. If it drops off their face they have to start again. First person to get it right is the winner.

**Back to back:** Divide into pairs. Stand back to back, link in arms. When timer starts, they have to sit down and then stand up together as many times as possible in 1 minute.

**ROUND 2**

**Block balance:** Each person has an ice cream stick in their mouth. Put one block on the stick. Balance the block on the stick for 1 minute. If it falls off or if the stick drops, they are out. After 1 minute, those who are still balancing their first block, must put a second block onto the first block and balance for 1 minute. Continue until there is a winner.

**Backwards ABC:** Starting at Z, they must say the alphabet backwards from memory (without writing anything down). The person who gets the furthest is the winner.

**Water bottle flip:** Hold a half-full bottle of water by the lid, bottle hanging down. Flip (throw) the bottle so that it lands standing up. It has to do at least one rotation, but can do more.

**Stone face:** Divide into pairs. They stand facing each other, always maintaining eye contact. Each of the pair must try to make the other laugh by pulling faces or doing funny things. First person to laugh is out.
TLASA's WPD Activities: Group games

**Hoola hoop caterpillar:** Divide into groups of 4. Use 3 hoola hoops to form a caterpillar. Without using their hands, they have to navigate around obstacles to see who gets to the end the quickest. Every time a hoola drops, they have to start again. The group who finishes first all get a small prize.

**Tied together:** Divide into pairs. Each child has a piece of string connecting their two hands, but also connected to each other. They have to figure out how to get unstuck without undoing the knots or cutting the string. Every pair that succeeds gets a small prize.

**No-Hands cup stacking challenge:** Divide into two groups. Each person in the group holds onto one of the strings attached to the elastic band, and as a group, they use this device to pick up the cups (by expanding and contracting the rubber band) and place them on top of each other in order to build a pyramid. The group who does it the quickest all get a small prize.

**Hoola hoop ring:** Divide into two groups. Everyone in the group stands in a circle, holding hands. See how fast everyone can climb through the hoola hoop until it gets back to the starting point. The group who does it the quickest all get a small prize.

**Jumping and rock, paper, scissors:** Divide into two groups. Each group stands at one end of the drawn circle tracks. One person per group starts jumping in each cricle as quick as possible. When they are face to face with the person from the other team in adjacent circles, they play Rock, paper, scissors. The winner gets to continue hopping, while the loser has to run back to their team and tag the next person to start hopping. Continue until one group has reached the other side of the track.
WPD Activities

TLASA would like to thank all the organisations that took part in World Play Day 2021. Below is a list of activities played throughout the country on World Play Day 2021.

**GAMES**
- Frog jumping
- Sack Racing
- Hoola-hoops
- Tug-of-war (Rope Pull)
- Bowling Balls
- Poster making
- Fantasy play
- Puzzles
- Paper racing
- Egg and spoon race
- Stilts
- Construction blocks
- Art
- Messy play
- Gross motor activities with tires
- Croc in the pond
- Spelling bee
- Hopscotch

- Jumping castle
- Soccer tournament
- Athletics
- Indigenous games
- Puppet shows

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**
- Distribution of fruit packs (oranges and apples) & activity packs on how to use these items for play based learning experiences - It included a story on oranges, words games, fractions, gross motor activities, arts and crafts, patterns for pre writing skills.
- Play advocacy in community around the toy library:
  - What is safe play (activities and spaces)
  - Productive leisure to keep children safe
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Thank you for taking the time to read our WPD Report 2021.

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