

SPLAT NEWSLETTER

SWITCH PLAY LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

SPRING 2012 (NO. 9)

Welcome to the spring 2012 edition of the SPLAT newsletter. We have had a busy start to the year meeting lots of new children and their families, helping them choose toys and get playing.

City of Edinburgh Council Sure Start
SPLAT@ Keycomm
1c Pennywell Road
Edinburgh
Tel: 311 7130
www.keycommac.ic.org
janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk



TECH TALK

Is your child getting bored with their toys?

- * Phone & arrange to visit us Mon-Fri 9.30-5 and choose two new toys,
or
- *Phone & ask us to visit you to exchange toys

There are so many ways to access technology now and children seem to be encountering ICT earlier, through TV, PCs, ipads, ipods, and high tech toys. Experts agree that all children, especially pre-schoolers, should have carefully limited, or minimal "screen time".

However, there is some ICT which can help children with limited control of their movements get instant rewards for their actions.

We have switches which can be connected to a laptop or desktop and software which is graded, so children can get an instant sound and picture reward for a switch press. Lots of resources are free to download or play online too. There are also some interesting apps, if you have an ipad. Check out our list of apps for learning and leisure on the keycomm website (click on "using the ipad") or have a look at the

Tots'n'tech website from the US (<http://tnt.asu.edu/home>).



Remember
AS WELL AS LOTS OF TOYS, WE HAVE LOTS OF STORY BAGS TO SHARE AND SWITCH ACTIVATED SOFTWARE TOO.

NEW TOYS

I BEEP, MAKE WATER FILLING SOUNDS, RINSE AND SPIN. JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!!

FOUR COLOURS SPIN, DANCE AND A LOVELY BREEZE TO KEEP COOL TOO!



LIGHTS, VIBRATION AND MUSIC... ALL FROM GENTLY TOUCHING THE MIRROR



ADAPTING TOYS



Remember we can also adapt toys that you have at home. You may have some battery operated toys that your child enjoys, but which they can't switch on or struggle to control. If its possible, we can often adapt them quickly and easily. We have recently adapted a toy radio, a singing chamelon, a play phone, battery operated fairy lights and a singing teddy .



TOY HOSPITAL!



Toys do get broken too and we are delighted to have very clever "toy doctors" who have volunteered their time and skills to repair and renew toys. We do ask that you take care of our toys, but if they get damaged or broken, do please still return them and we'll rush them to toy hospital for some specialist TLC from Steven or Mike!