

Helping children learn through play



## What is Noah's Ark?

Noah's Ark Toy Library and Resource Centre (Noah's Ark) is a charitable organisation and public benevolent institution (PBI) dedicated to supporting children with disabilities to reach their individual potential. This is reflected in its vision statement ...

*"To support the development of children and young people with special needs and their families throughout Western Australia, by providing specialised toys, related services and professional support in partnerships with others".*

Noah's Ark's principal philosophy is helping children learn through play and it provides a range of services and resources to support this philosophy. As a unique library service, Noah's Ark has been lending toys and resources to children and young adults with special needs since 1975. It has now extended its services to include a number of special programs and products which complement the original toy library service. The organisation is recognised as providing an innovative and responsive support service to agencies and parents committed to developing the skills of children and young adults with disabilities.

The toy library provides an extensive range of children's toys, including many adapted for switch operation. It also offers books, play equipment and has a dedicated computer room, with up-to-date technology and a range of stimulating and accessible programs.

Noah's Ark staff come from a variety of professional backgrounds and are experienced in working with children and young people with disabilities and the use of specialised toys and adapted equipment. This enables them to assist therapists, teachers, parents and carers in developing their therapy, education or home programs. The involvement of both the staff and the Noah's Ark Board in professional networking ensures they are aware of trends in education, therapy and family 'best practice'.



The importance of early intervention is recognised and children at risk of developmental delay are promptly referred to an appropriate agency. Noah's Ark then provides ongoing support and resources while families are on the waiting list for government services.

Noah's Ark has professional affiliations with the Disability Services Commission (DSC); Department for Communities; Department of Education and Training; Therapy Focus and the State Child Development Centre. Projects are funded by Movies by Burswood the Western Australian DSC, Lotterywest, Variety WA and the Commonwealth Government's Non-Government Centre Support program.



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