



Beyond a Toy Library - a sustainable approach

The 15th International Toy Library Conference

Johannesburg, South Africa

When Ayanda and Sipho look through the looking glass of a toy library, what do they see?

They see different types of toy libraries in various communities. Delegates will undertake a day trip to view models in action.

When looking around the African landscape, Ayanda and Sipho find different types of play material and toys:

- Bought toys
- Repurposed toys from recycle material and loose parts
- Adapted toys to meet the needs of children with disabilities
- Indigenous games and toys linked to specific cultures



They find a telescope and discover the future of toys:

- Digital toys
- They explain to us what skills children need to develop to play with these 'futuristic toys':
 - ✓ develop their early learning developmental areas by learning through play
 - ✓ require excellent communication, science, technology and mathematics skills to learn how to 'code'
 - ✓ **Gives them a handy tip:** children need adult supervision and limited time when playing with digital toys



Ayanda and Sipho meet up with the wild animals along the way



The buffalo tells about the wonderful research that has been done regarding:

- Play-based early learning
- Digital toys versus play
- How play is important for all children, not matter their abilities are
- How toy libraries promote cultural diversity

The elephant shares with them how a toy library can alleviate the socio-economic crisis impacting education and early learning



The lion shares his diary with them, showing them a chronicle of events of 'what my toy library looks like in my community'

The rhino lets them explore his photo album which is a pictorial documentation of a toy library



Not to be outdone, the leopard takes them on a trip in her mobile toy library

They then meet up with a giraffe who lets them play and explore all kinds of toys

