

WISH LIST FOR TOYS, GAMES AND EQUIPMENT

The Children's Mission of St. Paul and St. James was founded in 1995 as an outreach program of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James, a historic congregation in downtown New Haven. We have grown rapidly and now have four major programs. Our *Light and Peace* programs (Tuesday evenings during the school year, and three weeks in July) are based on worship and Bible stories. Our *Mustardseed Club* programs are secular, and include Mustardseed Afternoon Club (a five-day-per-week afterschool program for 25 children in grades K through 5) and Saturday morning Mustardseed Club, a drop-in program for children accompanying their families to the church's food pantry. In order to operate our afterschool program, we are in need of high-quality, sturdy, durable toys and games to stimulate the kids' imaginations and help them build skills in problem-solving, manipulation, and cooperation. The wide age range of our children and the heavy use the toys receive have made this process a challenge to our creativity and our budget. The following items would be gratefully welcomed as a way of enriching our program.

Toys for imaginative play

Baby and child dolls (boy and girl, non-white)
Doll clothes and accessories
Wooden dollhouse, furniture and figures
Pretend food (the sturdier the better)
Housekeeping toys (brooms, iron, doll beds, etc.)
Doctor/vet equipment
Dress-ups: police, firefighter, astronaut, doctor
Brio (or compatible) wooden train items
Small wooden cars, trucks etc.
Wooden traffic signs, trees, other landscape items
Wooden buildings (fire station, gas station, etc.)
Wooden farm animals
Sturdy vinyl or resin farm or zoo animals
Sturdy vinyl or resin dinosaurs
Hand puppets

Games, puzzles, manipulatives, equipment

Jump ropes, hula hoops, soccer and basketballs
Easel/blackboard
Child-size wooden table and chairs to seat 4
Large rocking horse
Board and card games for ages 5 through 10
Wooden blocks (all kinds)
Interlocking gear sets (Quercetti or compatible)
Wooden marble runs
Duplo-compatible interlocking blocks
Lincoln logs and/or compatible sets
Colorforms (extra boards would be useful)
Tinkertoys
Books of mazes, word squares, etc.
Imaginative coloring books such as the *Anti-Coloring Book* series or abstract designs

PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE NO USE FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF TOYS OR GAMES:

- Toys that feature movie or TV characters, promote brand-name items, or display any commercial or promotional agenda
- Used items in poor condition or with missing parts; obvious cast-offs
- Battery-operated toys of any kind
- Toy weapons of any kind
- Barbies or other dolls or toys that depict a distorted image of women
- Muscular or robotic action figures or other toys that depict a distorted image of men
- Toys made of brittle plastic or other materials that will not stand repeated heavy use
- Model kits, individually packaged craft projects, or paper-based toys to cut out and assemble (not generally workable with a group of children)
- Large metal trucks and similar items (we do not have an appropriate space)

Waldorf-type toys are especially welcome because of their sturdy construction, durability, and potential for open-ended imaginative play. They can be found at www.playcottage.com, www.magiccabin.com, and www.islandtreasuretoys.com. Some of these items are also available from [Beulah Enterprises](http://BeulahEnterprises.com). Another good source for simple, durable toys and games is www.backtobasicstoys.com.

Thank you so much for your interest in helping our programs. Please feel free to call 785-8248 if you need any further clarification.