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MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY LAUNCHES NEW TOY LIBRARY SERVICE

Mid Murray families can explore a world of free fun and learning following the launch of the new Mid Murray Toy Library service.

Created in partnership between Mid Murray Family Connections and the Mid Murray Council Libraries, the new Toy Library will this month be available at the Blanchetown and Morgan libraries.

The service provides families with free access to a variety of inclusive, educational toys, games and puzzles to meet the developmental needs of children aged 0-8 years. It aims to assist families in providing fun learning experiences and promoting children's development in language, numeracy, social interaction, creativity, muscle development and more.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the Toy Library will assist families by providing quality items for loan that will bring parents and children together in play.

"Exploring through play with toys, games and puzzles is one of the greatest ways children can learn more about the world around them and develop essential skills for life," Mayor Burgess says.

"It's also a great way to create stronger connections between parents and their children, and children with others including their peers.

"However, it's not always practical or accessible for families to have lots of toys and games that change regularly as a child develops. That's where the Toy Library comes in. It's a fantastic, free initiative that allows children and their families to borrow and test out new toys, and change them regularly to maintain interest and meet a child's ongoing developmental needs.

"It also gives parents and caregivers an opportunity to meet and connect with others to expand their social and support networks, and to learn more about the ages and stages of child development.

"Not only does the Toy Library promise families lots of fun and learning, it also offers a local and practical solution to reduce the clutter and expense of keeping children entertained and stimulated."

Come and explore all the Mid Murray Toy Library has to offer at our official launches at the **Blanchetown Library on Thursday, 16 June at 11.30am** and at the **Morgan Library on Friday, 17 June at 2pm**. For more information, contact the Morgan Library on 8540 0090.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales
P: (08) 8569 0100 | E: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au