

# Setting up a Beach Toy Library

Beach toy libraries are community-based initiatives that allow families to borrow a variety of beach toys rather than purchasing them. These libraries promote sustainability and reduce the need for new plastic items. If you are looking to set up a beach toy library in your local area, this guide is for you!

- Find a location for your beach toy library, ideally a short walk from the seafront. You will likely need someone to 'host' the toy library, e.g. a local business or information centre.
- Contact the landowner and/or local council to get permission to install the toy library
- Source funding if needed. Have a look at small grants from marine conservation charities.
- Make a container for your toys to be stored in, for example a wooden chest. You could also consider creating some signage to explain how the toy library works.
- Stock the toy library! Ask for donations from local beach cleaners and families. Beach cleaners often find a lot of beach toys that have been discarded, and many of them are still in great condition!
- Make sure someone takes charge of ongoing maintenance for the library, including tidying up and removing broken toys.
- Promote the toy library! Share on social media and ask Tourist Information Centres and holiday accommodation providers to promote the toy library.

