

Soutron Transforms Connect Child Care Resource & Referral Lending Library Services

TRAVELING RESOURCE & LIBRARY INFORMATION SERVICES (TRAILS) TOY INVENTORY ASSETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR EASY CHECKOUT

INTRODUCTION

Connect CCR&R is a program of River Valley Child Development Services, a community service organization that works with parents, childcare providers, businesses, and community organizations to help promote the availability of quality childcare services in West Virginia.

They offer childcare providers access to valuable training and supportive services for programs, such as the Traveling Resource and Library Information Services (TRAILS), made available through the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Services.

CHALLENGE

Connect offers a variety of educational opportunities for childcare providers, through credentialed training programs and workshops on assorted topics of interest that support continued learning and advances the childcare profession. Free resources such as educational learning toys are available through their Traveling Resource and Information Library Services (TRAILS) to childcare providers in West Virginia.

The TRAILS team had been using an asset management system to manage their inventory of learning toys, creating printed lists for the providers to browse.

The system lacked online check in and check out functionality that childcare providers could access and use to select toys that best fit their programs.



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It is as easy to use as shopping on Amazon!”

Ashley Smith
Early Childhood Specialist
TRAILS



Those printed lists may have become outdated by the time the provider reviewed it, in addition the list had no photos or descriptions of the toys – the caregiver might have to research what the item was separately online.

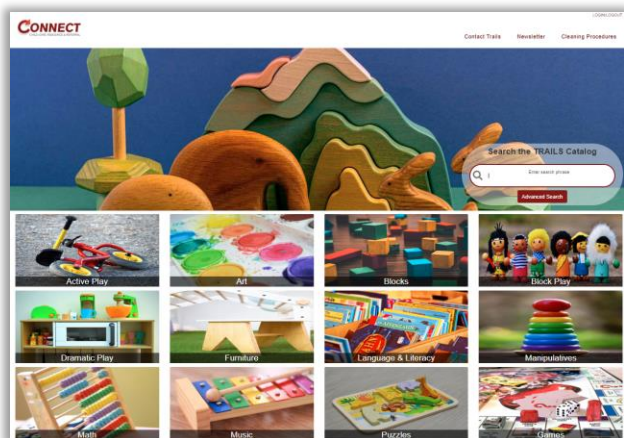
The method before the Soutron system was available required the TRAILS team to guess what might be appropriate for a specific location instead of permitting the location to specify exactly what they wanted from a reliable Soutron database of available toys or items. The "guessing" approach presented significant limitations for both the childcare center and the TRAILS staff as they had to just imagine what the childcare center might find useful at a particular time.

The providers may wish to select items which were not stocked in the TRAILS van for a particular trip. Staffing limitations could also prohibit the childcare staff from leaving their positions tending the children to peruse what was in the van for a particular delivery trip by the TRAILS staff.

SOLUTION

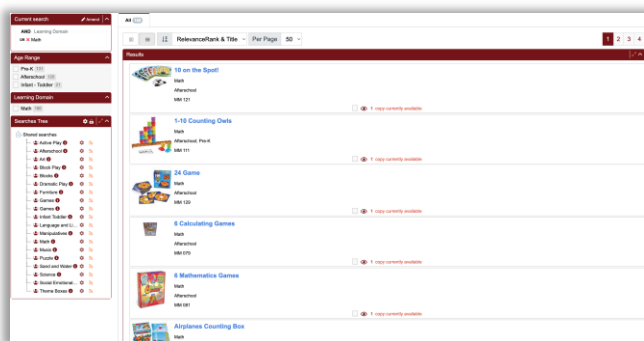
The goal of the TRAILS program was to provide a lending library for educational toys and associated materials. While seeking an appropriate data management tool to use for management of their specific materials, they sought out and selected the Soutron system as an excellent match for their material management needs (including database maintenance, circulation, and reservations on specific items in the collection).

With the help of the Soutron implementation team, the TRAILS team quickly created an online catalog display, with descriptive toy photos, where providers can explore the entire TRAILS inventory and view clear images of the items to verify exactly what that item looks like. The Soutron system provides one central place for childcare providers within the TRAILS system to offer easy access and management of the Trails inventory of available items.



With the newly available real-time inventory, providers can browse by toy category, search and request toys, place holds for toys that are checked-out, in addition to basic check in and check out functionality.

Active play, Art, social/emotional toys, science, math toys and more are available to for the childcare provider to browse and check out:



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RESULTS

The TRAILS team used to load up their van with their best guess as to what toys a provider might want to use and were limited to van space as far as what they could include. Plus, sometimes they would arrive at a providers location only to find that due to staffing, the provider could not come out to view what was available.

“Now they can search and reserve an item, we pull it, stock the van and deliver,” states Ashley Smith, Early Childhood Specialist at TRAILS. “We tell our providers that Soutron is very user friendly. It is as easy to use as shopping on Amazon!”

“Soutron has changed how we use our inventory and enabled us to provide a whole new level of service,” states Nikki Johnson, Early Childhood Specialist with TRAILS. “Now we have our toys segmented into age groups like pre-K, afterschool, infant/toddler in addition to segmented by learning domains such as math and science, which makes it easy for the providers to search and find available appropriate materials.”

To find out more about Choices Child Care Resource & Referral, their community service organization, and the work they do, visit the new Soutron Search Portal. www.soutron.com/connectccrr

To find out how you can migrate to or develop from scratch a fast, secure, cloud based library and asset tracking system to support your organization, start a conversation with Soutron Global today:

www.soutron.com