



## Second-hand toys could harm children

A study has found that the plastic used in some second-hand toys could pose a health risk as they don't meet the most current safety guidelines.

Scientists tested 200 used plastic toys they found in nurseries, charity shops and homes from south-west England for nine hazardous elements that can make us ill. Twenty toys contained all nine toxic chemicals!

"Lego bricks from the 70s and 80s are the big fail," said Dr Andrew Turner, of the University of Plymouth, who conducted the study. "Toys in those days weren't tested and now we're using them and handing them down."



*Pictured: A selection of second-hand toys.*

## Free water to be more available!



*A traditional drinking water fountain.*

By 2021, businesses, shops and cafes will all need to offer free water refill points in every major city and town in England.

The scheme, organised by Water UK is aiming to hugely reduce the amount of plastic bottle wastage each year. The amount of plastic waste is a huge concern because it can adversely affect lands, waterways and oceans.

Premier Inn and Costa Coffee, have been the first to sign up to the initiative and will provide water in all of their branches from March 2018.



## Deaf mum sues Little Mix promoter



*Pictured: Little Mix in concert.*

Last year, 8-year old Cate Reynold's mum, Sally, bought six tickets to see Cate's favourite band Little Mix in concert on 1<sup>st</sup> September in Sussex.

Sally is deaf and booked for herself and two deaf friends to go with their daughters who are all able to hear. In order that she and her two friends could fully access the performance, Sally asked the organisers, LHG Live, to provide a British Sign Language interpreter.

At first, she was offered carer tickets and told that she could bring her own interpreter, but she didn't consider that met her needs or amounted to full access.

Under the Equality Act, any organisation supplying a service to the public have to make sure that a disabled person's experience is as close as possible to that of someone without a disability.

A few days before the concert and with no interpreter in place, Sally decided to ask lawyers to apply for a court injunction to force LHG Live to provide a British Sign Language interpreter - the organisers agreed. But the concert started with two supporting acts and the interpreter had not been booked to cover them. Sally Reynolds is now taking things further with the organisers for failing to provide an interpreter, for the whole concert.

"I felt that we were really part of the Little Mix experience," said Sally, "but because it was so good I realised that we had missed out on the first two acts."



*An example sign language interpreter.*

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