

Toys to Promote your Child's Development

Choosing developmentally appropriate toys that will encourage your child and nurture their overall development can be challenging. By understanding how toys can enrich, and challenge your child, will assist you when selecting toys.

- *Toys that can be used in various ways can develop imagination, problem-solving and logical thinking skills.*
- *Find toys that will grow with your child. Look for toys that will have different uses and be fun in different ways at various developmental stages.*
- *The more children have to use their minds and bodies to make something work, the more they learn. Your child is looking for a connection with you, not toys.*

Here is a list of possible toys divided by four areas of development:



Language - Your child develops language as you talk about what they are engaging in.

- Mr. Potato head
- Blocks
- Farm set/ dollhouse
- Books

Cognitive- Toys enhance your child's persistence, attention span, memory, and ability to focus. Think about your child's level of development, understanding, and capabilities when selecting toys. Toys should be fun, challenging but not too difficult.

- Shape sorters
- Puzzles
- Legos
- Cause and effect toys



Social-Emotional- Toys can be played with independently or shared with a peer or caregiver. Providing opportunities to learn how to take turns, share, and cooperate with others.

- Vehicles- Cars, trucks, trains
- Pretend play-dress up, house, store, school
- Dolls, stuffed animals

Motor- Manipulating toys will help build on your child's big and small muscles. Playing with the same toys over and over again helps your child to refine their movements over time.



- Art- crayons, markers, scissors, stickers, paper, playdough
- Balls,
- Riding toys- tricycles, bikes, rocking horses
- Slides
- Trampoline