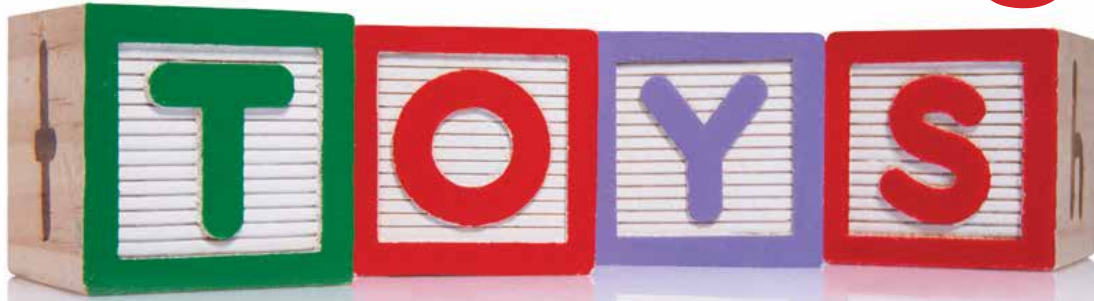


Choose the Right



A rule of thumb: Less is more. The less a toy does, the more opportunity a child has to create and learn from it. Simple toys are easier for children to use, require less supervision and last longer.

1. Safety First

Toys should match a child's developmental level and age. Toys should be clean and should not contain unsafe, toxic or flammable materials, sharp corners or small, detachable parts.

2. Long-lasting

To survive a child's repeated handling, a toy must be made of stable and solid materials.

3. Easy to Use

A child must be able to work a toy by himself in order to enjoy it. Generally, simple toys are the easiest to operate.

4. Entertainment Value

Ideally, a child should find a toy fun to play with now and as she grows. Look for toys that a child can play with in many ways.

5. Educational Value

Play teaches a child to think, create and imagine. Choose toys that allow for pretending, role-playing, problem-solving and practicing skills.

6. Social Value

Children learn important social skills, like cooperation, negotiation and compromise, by playing with other children. For older children who are more likely to share, choose toys that they can use with others. For younger children, have enough toys so that sharing is not necessary.

What are some good toys?



For infants: rattles, busy boxes, stacking toys, shape sorters, soft baby dolls, board books



For toddlers: balls, push and pull toys, stuffed animals, crayons, play dough, simple puzzles



For preschoolers: dolls, rubber or plastic animals, vehicles, blocks, art materials, balls



For school age children: board games, construction sets, doll house, roller skates, puppets, art materials



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