

MATCHING TOYS TO YOUR CHILD

Child's Age	What Your Child is Interested in	Toys to Encourage Growing and Fun	Things for Parents to do
0 - 18 months	Using hands and mouth	Rattles, squeak toys, cuddly toys, bright pictures	Play with your baby-make faces and noises
	Exploring "the world"	Crib exercisers, push toys, take-apart toys, mobiles, non-breakable mirror, rings, nesting toys, bells, books with pictures and rhymes	Play pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo Sing Hold and cuddle your baby Keep your baby safe
18 months - 3 years	Moving around	Riding toys, toys to push and pull, balls and wagons	Play with your child-run, bounce, catch, tag
	Building	Blocks, sand, dirt, water	Take time for pretending
	Problem-solving	Puzzles, games, take apart toys	Tell stories and listen to your child's stories
	Trying out adult roles	Dolls, dress up clothes, puppets	Join in your child's play, following his/her lead
	Creating	Paint, clay, play dough, crayons, chalk, musical instruments	Teach rules for safe play
	Learning new ideas	Books, tapes, CD's	
3 - 6 years	Moving around	Large things to climb on, sleds, wagons, riding toys	Spend time pretending
	Building	Farm and village play sets, small cars, trucks, blocks, trains, construction sets	Play games using simple rules
	Trying out adult roles	Dress up clothes, puppets and stages, toy telephones, playhouses, props for playing store, doctor, mail carrier, or any other role	Take time for talking and listening Read stories and tell stories
	Creating	Paint, clay, play dough, chalk, feathers, stones, shells, any assortment of scraps that have color and texture, paste, paper, cardboard	Take long walks Climb, run, jump, skip with your child
	Problem-solving	Puzzles, games, toys to build with	Set up basic rules for outdoor safety along with other rules for safe play
	Learning new ideas	Books, tapes, CD's, radios, picture collection	