

Handout 7-1:

Toys for Your Child's Age and Stage

Don't forget all children develop at their own pace. They will continue to enjoy toys from previous ages, but will play with them in increasingly complex ways.

Child's Age	What Your Child is Doing	Toys to Encourage Learning and Fun	Things Parents Can Do
3 years to 6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very active; moving around - Can hop, jump rope, catch a large ball (by end of period) - Trying out adult roles and enjoying pretend play - Problem solving - Enjoying peers and small group activities - Shows strong sense of self as an individual: "NO" and "I can do it myself" - Can dress self (by end of period) - Seeking out new information about the world: "Why?" - Uses complete sentences and phrases - Vocabulary of 2,600 words by end of period - Shows interest in print and writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Things to climb on, wagons, riding toys - Farm and village play sets, small cars/trucks, trains - Blocks - Art supplies like paint, clay, chalk, playdough, markers - Puzzles and games - Books and pictures - Musical instruments - Balls and jump ropes - Lacing boards (to practice shoe-tying) - Toys with buttons and snaps (to practice dressing skills) - Dolls - Toys that mimic adult roles, like kitchen accessories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play pretend with them - Play games with simple rules - Talk to, and listen, to your child - Read and tell stories - Sing songs and make music - Take walks - Answer their questions - Climb, run, and jump together - Provide your child with opportunities to play with others - Set up basic rules for safety - Model how to resolve conflicts peacefully and how to cooperate with others

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