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Are Toys For Men Or For Boys?

By Mr Hanna

With so many new "toys" around nowadays it's hard to figure the aim of the toy market.

My 9 year old son Jack got a visit from Santa recently. Santa was very good to Jack - he got him an iPod and a PSP - the exact same as I got. I grew up playing games and totally love the PSP - it's like the toy I dreamed of when I was younger, and now that I have my iPod I don't know how I suffered the bus to work without it.

But how old do you get before you forget about kids toys and move on to big boys toys? It only seems like yesterday that I was shopping at kids stores for Jack. The last present I remember going into town to get him was one of those kids easel things for doing his paintings (one of these things:

<http://www.elc.co.uk/category-530>

). And now, only a couple of years later he's playing with the same things as me.

Is he growing up too fast? Am I not growing up fast enough? Or is it just society that is moving so fast for us that age differences are starting to disappear into the past?

Can technology become the bridge over the generation-gap? Will the future bring the ultimate toy/gadget that will be the essential of everyone young and old? I'm continually astounded nowadays at some of the new products that are constantly hitting the market. Yesterday I was browsing online and came across the new Sony "walkman phone" (

<http://www.sonyericsson.com>

). This is where I see

it all going - the "everything in one" phone. The new walkman phone does more than just a phone - it's also your iPod, and your PSP. The walkman phone has the same amount of memory as my iPod

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(2Gb) and can do everything my iPod does - it comes with a USB cable for downloading from your computer, and can hook up to play your MP3s in your car, just like the iPod. It also plays games - games of better quality than the games I grew up with!

I thought that the PSP was what I dreamed of having when I was a child, but it was actually one of these things - a gadget that is everything you want, and fits right into your pocket. What next can technology produce to astound me?

I think that Jack will be showing me the next thing that technology has to shock me. When I was a child there were adult things, and children things. But not today - now we have the same things; and Jack can beat me at any game when we link up our PSPs, and he also showed me how to put my music from my computer to my iPod. Maybe the question isn't whether technology will bring kids into the same level of adults, but does it put children on a much higher plane to us??

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Smart Children And Smart Toys

By Jessica Davis

Play would always be attached with the term "toys". Toys are the source of fun for children kids and even adults too. If used well, they could be aids in achieving learning and fun both at the same time. What could smart toys do? How could smart parents use these toys for the development of their children?

There are very helpful points that could help out in making your child even smarter:

* Each child has his or her own preference of toys. Let your child express him by deciding on what toys is fun for him or her. With this, it will be easy for the child to think creatively and use the toys.

* Childhood is a time to build bonds of friendship among peers. Interaction toys would be of great help as children get along with their peers. Toys like sport game toys would allow them to meet and socialize with children of the same age.

* Toys could boost the self-confidence of a child. There are these toys which when used could promote the reliance to one's self by a child or children. These come through construction toys. When a child builds it, he also builds the faith in his skill that this building may not be destroyed.

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* Thinking independently is thinking smart for children. As they play using toys that will enhance their thinking and logic skills such as puzzles and mazes would be of great help in polishing one's head.

* A bit similar with interaction toys are relationship toys– these help the communication skills of children. We know how important communication is, therefore, these set of toys would really be smart. These are really aid a child to meet people talk and listen and in the end, build links.

Toys are made not merely to be played with without purpose but we must see to it they learn and bring out the smart young people from them through smart choices of toys. Toys are here not to be used as early symbols of violence.

Jessica Davis is a freelance writer for the Baby Times. She writes a regular column which is published every Thursday. Her latest 'favorite pick' is

<http://www.babygeniusproductions.com/>



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