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Book Review: Gifts for Baby – Toys, Clothes & Nursery Accents to Make with Love

By Merry Vincent

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By Joanne O'Sullivan

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With Christmas fast approaching, there is still time to create a thoughtful gift, for the special baby, in your life. This book includes projects for, both, those who sew and those who enjoy crafts, alike.

In addition to easy to follow instructions, and colorful photos of each project, the book also covers topics such as choosing the right gift, tips on fabrics and embellishments, common stitches, gift presentation ideas, safety issues, and a helpful, standardized baby sizing chart. Templates for each project are included, as well.

Another interesting feature of Gifts for Baby is the fact that Ms. O'Sullivan has included several examples of "welcoming the new baby" traditions, which cover various cultures, and time periods. Did you know that in Cambodia strings with money attached are tied around a baby's wrist as presents? Or, in Ancient Greece new parents placed a piece of woolen fabric over their door, to announce the birth of a baby girl? A wreath made of olive branches was placed over the door, if the child was a boy.

All of the projects are practical. These gifts will be used, not stored in the top of a closet. Many of them are educational, in nature.

Projects included:

- ~Window Dressing Flower Garland
- ~Heart-Felt Booties
- ~Baby Kimono Top w/ Embroidered Trim
- ~Big, Fun, Soft Baby Blocks and Balls

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- ~Royal Treatment Washcloth and Towels
- ~Pretty and Practical Portable Changing Pad
- ~Moon and Stars Cradle Sheet
- ~Star Bright Applique Top
- ~Beaded Baby Booties
- ~Buttercup Fleece Stroller Blanket
- ~One-of-aKind Snap Tops
- ~Baby Bee Hooded Towel
- ~Twinkly Star Toy
- ~Just Ducky Toy Tote and Floor Pad
- ~Baby's Best Friend Stuffed Scottie Dog
- ~Four Seasons Felt Activity Book
- ~Dots and Flowers Decoupage Shelf

- ~Good Little Eater Oilcloth Bib
- ~Sweet Little Socks
- ~Vintage Tea-Towel Lavender Sachet
- ~Color-Slice Felt Rattle
- ~Flying Friends Mobile
- ~Nursing and Play Pillow
- ~Good Times Rolling Toy Basket
- ~Elfin Slippers
- ~Little Ladybug Sunhat
- ~Sweetheart Shade
- ~Baby Pixie Hat
- ~Baby Bunting
- ~Fairytale Treasure Chest
- ~Baby's First Counting Book
- ~Snuggle Bunny
- ~Super-Absorbent Diaper Bag Pouch
- ~Toile Keepsake Box
- ~Playful Pony Bookends
- ~Star Attraction Frame
- ~Fleecy Jumper
- ~Fleecy Baby Pants
- ~Changing Table Organizer
- ~Cute-as-a-Button Changing Table Tray
- ~Little Bird Baby Album

Merry Vincent is a freelance writer, living in northern Michigan. She is an avid reader, and content editor of the Reading Channel at: <http://www.bellaonline.com/Site/reading>

Give Them Baby Toys, Babies Are Born To Play

By Terry Ross

A baby is born to play. A baby will respond right from birth to brightly coloured toys, bright moving objects and sounds. Introducing baby toys to the nursery right from day one will help to stimulate your newborn baby and enable him to develop more quickly.

Like children, babies learn fast, they rapidly develop new skills through listening, watching and touching. Toys stimulate a baby's desire to learn, help them learn quickly through new experiences, help them develop an imagination and recognise different sounds.

In the first few months your baby will develop his basic senses of sight, sound and touch. Choose baby toys that will provide a range of experiences including colour, shape and texture. Have a brightly coloured mobile in the nursery where your baby can see it and study it while lying in his crib / cot.

Very quickly your baby will be able to grab things and will be looking for a whole range of new touching experiences. Go for learning toys, baby toys that will inspire your baby's imagination, toys that will enable your baby to associate touch with sound and shape.

Baby's just love to explore and it won't be very long before they are able to move towards objects that interest them. You can use interesting toys to grab your baby's attention, use baby toys to encourage your baby to learn to roll, learn to crawl and eventually learn to walk.

Baby toys can keep your little one occupied for hours toys generate interest, make your baby think and will help them to learn once they come of school age. You quite often hear people moaning about how lack of stimulation has meant that they no longer learn as quicker. The same goes for your baby, if your baby lacks stimulation at an early age they will develop more slowly and maybe never catch up. Baby toys will help them learn and develop all the skills they need.

Are you fed up with all those endless hours of crying? If you are, baby toys can help you out. Stimulate your baby using baby toys and other new learning experiences during the day, encourage your baby to use his mind and take an interest on everything that is going on around him and the odds are that your baby will sleep better at night.

In these modern times there is a baby toy for nearly every learning experience. Baby toys have been developed to help your baby learn. Take full advantage of those that have gone before you and learned what your baby will like most and let your baby enjoy trying to understand their new world through the magic of baby toys.

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