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**Free Tips For Your Child's Success**

**By Frank W. Thatcher Jr.**

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Getting free tips for a child's success is something most parents/guardians are interested in. Most want their child's academic growth to improve every school year. Most sincerely care. Unfortunately some don't, but that's a completely different article. For now, I want to focus on improving the reading abilities of our children immediately.

This summer is flying by and soon our children will be back in the classroom with the eager teachers and their fellow classmates. My concern as an educator, with over twenty years of invaluable experience, is the loss of reading and comprehension skills over the summer months simply due to lack of reading. Children need to read in order to keep up their skills. They must read on a consistent basis to not only maintain but to also improve their skills. Just as any skill or talent, if it isn't used, it will slowly diminish. Do we really need our children's reading abilities to begin to waste away as they enjoy the summer months? I don't think so. Our society can't afford this to happen either.

I frequently compare reading skills to that of a runner's skills. A person that wishes to maintain or improve his or her running ability must run almost on a daily basis. What takes much time and effort to achieve however, can be very quickly lost if that runner takes some time off. Basically, to maintain the skills, the runner needs to run on a consistent basis. This is exactly what we are looking to achieve with our children and their reading skills. We want them to maintain and even improve their skills. This can be accomplished by reading consistently.

Perhaps not every day, but consistently.

OK, now I have opened up a very large can of worms, haven't I? Don't get discouraged. Many questions do arise, all of which can be answered. Questions such as: How much time should my child spend reading? How many days a week? What should my child read? The most frequent question: What can I do to get my child to sit and read when he or she can be rather resistant to the idea? Contact me at <mailto:frankw@eticomm.net> and I will respond.

There are no quick easy answers. Below I have suggested materials and for the purpose of this article I will tell you this much, all strategies depend on many different factors specific to your child's needs. I can and will give you needed suggestions and FREE advice on these matters by email. Contact me at <mailto:frankw@eticomm.net> and I will make every effort to help you out. Some suggested materials: Hooked on Phonics at <http://paperl.com/clk/raussungendenschertz> and/or Homebound downloadable coloring and story books for kindergarten and primary (4–8 years) at <http://hop.clickbank.net/?frankw/homebound> Both are excellent resources. As I said, so much depends on your individual child and his or her personal characteristics, levels, abilities, and needs. Contact me for support!

Frank Thatcher is an experienced educator specializing in many areas such as behavior modifications, emotional challenges, and parenting skills. He has assisted many in setting goals and experiencing success. For FREE advice relating to Your needs, contact Mr. Thatcher at <mailto:frankw@eticomm.net> Visit <http://www.onlineshoppersmarket.com> for great resources!

## **Ten Things You Should Know Before Buying**

**By Michelle Andrews**

Your young child's playtime is his first real learning experience, and toys can act as catalysts in your child's growth. The benefits of educational toys are many and varied, and by choosing the right toys, you create an environment that is fun and conducive to learning vital skills.

But currently it is hard to find what you need if you do not know what you are looking for. With a million toys on the market today, it is tough to pick out the best combinations of fun and learning. However, every beneficial toy should be fun, safe, and help the child develop and exercise some skill. When faced with so many choices, asking yourself some simple questions about your child's development can help you make the best selection.

## Free Tips For Your Child's Success

The following is a list of characteristics you should look for in a good, educational toy:

- 1.Sensory attraction: How many senses will the toy occupy? Does it respond to and with lights, sounds, or movement? Is it colorful? Does it have a smell or a texture?
- 2.Activation method: Will the toy provide a challenge without frustrating your child? Will it be a fun and rewarding experience?
- 3.Self-expression: Will the toy allow your child to express himself, be creative, and make choices?
- 4.Success potential: How many "correct" ways are there to play with the toy? Can play be open-ended with no right or wrong responses? Will the toy adapt to your child's ability and style?
- 5.Ways of use: Can the toy be used in many different positions? Can it be used in different kinds of play?
- 6.Popularity: Is it a popular toy? Can it be tied-in with other media such as storybooks, television or movies?
- 7.Flexibility: Does it have adjustable volume, speed, and level of difficulty?
- 8.Opportunities for interaction: Does the toy provide a chance for you or other children to be involved? Will it build social skills?
- 9.Individuality and growth: Will the toy engage your child in activities that indicate the child's developmental age and growth? Does it reflect the child's interests?
- 10.Safety and durability: Is the toy durable, considering your child's age and strength? Is it safe?

So, giving your child the right toys will be benefit for all. Your child's play time is not only a time of fun and development for them, but can also be a great way for you to relax and enjoy your child's company. With educational toys, you can follow, supervise and direct your child's development, and find great thrill and amusement in their playtime activities.

Michelle Andrews, a former middle school teacher who now stays home with his three children. He wrote "Parent's Guide on How to Raise a Smart Child by Choosing the Right Educational Toys." Visit his Website [EducationaltoysGuide.com](http://EducationaltoysGuide.com) at



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