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How To Buy Infants' Best Educational Toys?

By Argo Wibowo

Buying educational toys for infants can be difficult, because infants seem to do so little that

educating them right after birth might strike you as a bit rushed. However, the fact is that your baby is learning at a great speed, taking in everything that is around, and picking up habits, information and words.

Research shows that many disabilities and learning disorders in young children can be avoided by providing them with appropriate cognitive stimulation as early as possible. By giving your infant the right stimulation, you can ward off such problems and groom your baby for pre-school and the challenges that follow.

Every parent wants the best of everything for their child, but sometimes it is hard to know what is best when there are so many choices and opinions. Choosing toys for your child can be stressful because of the sheer number of factors you have to consider before making a buy, and the staggering variety of options you have. However, selecting good educational toys plays a very significant role in your child's development, and as such cannot be disregarded or treated casually.

Here are some tips you need to know to understand more about your infants' best educational toys.

Guideline for Your Toyshop

Remember these guidelines as you toyshop for your baby:

1. The visual perception of infants is limited, so make sure to buy toys in bright, contrasting colors.
2. Activity centers and crib mobiles fascinate newborns. Some mobiles come with an adjustable height option so that you can make sure the mobile is in your baby's visual range.
3. Babies up to six months old have very limited motor skills and love high-pitched sounds. Chimes, rattles, teething rings, colorful pictures and soft blocks will stimulate your baby at this age.

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4. For babies between six to nine months old, you can buy building blocks, activity boxes and cubes, stacking ring cones, and bath toys. Try to vary the textures of the toys.

5. Between the age of nine months and a year, babies are old enough to enjoy and learn from toys such as nesting cups, push and pull toys, large crayons, spades, and stacking blocks.

6. It always helps to keep in mind that you do not need fancy and expensive toys to stimulate your infant. You might bring home a very trendy toy for your baby only to find that baby finds the packaging far more interesting. Your young child just needs stimulation and a way to express their creativity, and this can be done with homemade toys as well.

Michelle Andrews, a former middle school teacher who now stays home with his three children. He wrote "Parents Guide on How to Raise a Smart Child by Choosing the Right Educational Toys." As a former teacher, he understands how critical it is to choose toys that play a significant role in childrens

development. Visit his Website

<http://www.inspringthings.com>

The Best Holiday Gift for Babies

By Dian Dewi

The Best Holiday Gift for Babies by Dian Dewi

Still wondering what kind of gift you should give the baby of your life this holiday season ? Should you give picture books ? Toys ? Clothing ? Shoes ?

Wonder no more ! Choosing a gift for a baby should be simple. Just ask yourself what delights a baby.

There are many things which delight a baby. But toys are undoubtedly at the top of the list. Children, even at a very young age, have already been delighted with good toys. Playing with toys is baby's work. And if you shop wisely, not only the baby will get fun toys which you feel good about giving. She will get the educational ones too.

So why not give a nice baby educational toy this holiday season to the baby of your life ?

Choosing an infant toy which is fun, safe and educational sounds simple, but in reality it is not that simple. Go to any toy store and you will know what I mean. Today's market seems to be saturated with baby toys, all marketed as baby educational toys. Deciding which toy to buy is becoming an art that not everybody are skilled in doing.

Here are few tips to make your shopping for baby educational toys easier:

How To Buy Infants' Best Educational Toys?

First, the toy has to meet safety standard. This means that you have to adhere to manufacturer's recommended age. Don't buy toys which are intended for older children, even if you think the baby is genius. For safety reason, don't buy any toy which has these followings : sharp parts, small parts which can easily be put into the mouth and swallowed, and long string.

Second, buy toys which are durable and have a good play value. Aim for a toy which can be played in many different ways and at the same time can grow with the child. Get the good quality version of toys of this nature because they are worth it.

Third, if you plan to buy more than one toy, try to get toys which address as many as key developmental area as possible. What are the key development areas we talk about here ?
Gross motor skill. Toys which encourage gross motor skill development including kicking and throwing are good to buy. The examples of such toys are play gym and small balls.

Hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Toys to be manipulated, including toys for poking, grabbing and turning are good for babies older than 3 months. Examples of such toys are play gym, and toys with an activity center.

Spatial awareness. Toys which are good for this purpose includes baby building blocks, stacking rings and nesting cups.

Senses: touch, sound, vision and possibly smell. In order to stimulate senses, get infant toys with these following features: bright contrasting colors, lots of different textures, different sound and possibly different smell.

And finally, I can hear you saying: "Yes, stacking rings are good. But surely I can't get those five dollars plastic stacking rings at the discount store for a holiday gift". I know what you mean. You want the gift to be special.

If you want a unique toy , special stacking rings for instance, you have a better chance of getting them by going to specialized online toy stores. They usually have one-of-a-kind-toys. In the case of stacking rings, I find that some stores carry special stacking rings made from fabrics. One of the adorable stacking rings I found is the stacking rings which form an animal figure. So the top ring has ears and eyes, the middle one has hands, and the bottom one has legs.

So don't waste your hard-earned dollars buying 'ordinary toys'. Get baby educational toys for your baby.

Happy shopping !

Dian Dewi works as a researcher, is a busy mother of two young children and is the webmaster of Best Child Toys, a website which provides information on how to choose good child toys including baby educational toys.



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