

## Toys & Materials: Science & Discovery

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirrors - securely attached to a wall or crib (soft, handheld mirrors at about 6 months)</li> <li>• Mobiles with gentle music or movement</li> <li>• Teething toys</li> <li>• Rattles</li> <li>• Lightweight balls</li> <li>• Textured toys</li> <li>• Activity gyms</li> <li>• Cloth and plush toys</li> <li>• Toys that make sounds when kicked</li> <li>• Squeeze &amp; squeak toys</li> <li>• Simple cars or animals on wheels/rollers (starting at 6 mo.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirrors - hand held or securely attached to wall</li> <li>• Rattles</li> <li>• Lightweight balls</li> <li>• Textured toys</li> <li>• Activity gyms</li> <li>• Cloth and plush toys</li> <li>• Toys that make sounds</li> <li>• Simple cars or animals on wheels/rollers</li> <li>• Nesting, sorting and stacking toys</li> <li>• Pop-up toys</li> <li>• Large beads on rings</li> <li>• Plastic keys on rings</li> <li>• Pull toys with cords (may be used while standing)</li> <li>• Non-toxic sensory activities (e.g, cornstarch and water, play dough, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirrors - hand held or securely attached to wall</li> <li>• Lightweight balls</li> <li>• Textured toys</li> <li>• Cloth and plush toys</li> <li>• Toys that make sounds</li> <li>• Cars and animal figures</li> <li>• Nesting, sorting and stacking toys</li> <li>• Pop-up toys</li> <li>• Large beads on rings</li> <li>• Plastic keys on rings</li> <li>• Pull toys with cords (may be used while standing)</li> <li>• Tunnels</li> <li>• Bubbles</li> <li>• Lacing and stringing toys</li> <li>• Push and pull toys that resemble real life objects (e.g., small vehicles, animals, etc.)</li> <li>• Sand and water toys</li> <li>• Non-toxic sensory activities (e.g, cornstarch and water, play dough, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubes, blocks or shapes in various sizes, forms and colors (e.g., counting bears, foam pieces, etc.)</li> <li>• Magnets, flashlights, scales, magnifying glasses, prisms</li> <li>• Thermometers</li> <li>• Models of solar system, rock/shell collections or kits</li> <li>• Microscopes, telescopes, binoculars</li> <li>• See-through clocks</li> <li>• Simple calculators</li> <li>• Functioning toy typewriters</li> <li>• Simple measuring tools (rulers, tape measure)</li> <li>• Sand and water</li> <li>• Cooking kits and accessories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubes, blocks or shapes in various sizes, forms and colors (e.g., counting bears, foam pieces, etc.)</li> <li>• Magnets, flashlights, scales, magnifying glasses, prisms</li> <li>• Thermometers</li> <li>• Speedometers</li> <li>• Models of solar system, rock/shell collections or kits</li> <li>• Microscopes, telescopes, binoculars</li> <li>• See-through clocks</li> <li>• Simple calculators</li> <li>• Functioning typewriters</li> <li>• Astronomy models</li> <li>• Science kits</li> <li>• Measuring tools (rulers, compasses)</li> <li>• Cooking kits and accessories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubes, blocks or shapes in various sizes, forms and colors (e.g., counting bears, foam pieces, etc.)</li> <li>• Magnets, flashlights, scales, magnifying glasses, prisms</li> <li>• Thermometers</li> <li>• Speedometers</li> <li>• Models of solar system, rock/shell collections or kits</li> <li>• Microscopes, telescopes, binoculars</li> <li>• See-through clocks</li> <li>• Standard typewrites and calculators</li> <li>• Astronomy models</li> <li>• Science kits</li> <li>• Measuring tools (rulers, compasses)</li> <li>• Access to a working kitchen</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Blocks and construction play

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated soft cubes, foam cube blocks and pillow blocks</li> <li>• Containers to drop blocks into</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated soft cubes, foam cube blocks and pillow blocks</li> <li>• Containers to drop blocks into</li> <li>• Rattle/jingle blocks</li> <li>• Nesting blocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated soft cubes, foam cube blocks and pillow blocks</li> <li>• Containers to drop blocks into</li> <li>• Rattle/jingle blocks</li> <li>• Nesting blocks</li> <li>• Stacking blocks</li> <li>• Table blocks</li> <li>• Snap-lock beads</li> <li>• Large, chunky interlocking bricks/blocks</li> <li>• Foam puzzle mats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nesting blocks</li> <li>• Stacking blocks</li> <li>• Table blocks</li> <li>• Snap-lock beads</li> <li>• Large and small interlocking bricks/blocks</li> <li>• Foam puzzle mats</li> <li>• Wooden blocks</li> <li>• Hollow blocks</li> <li>• Notched logs</li> <li>• Sets using rods/dowels and spool-like connector pieces</li> <li>• Work bench screws</li> <li>• Large nuts and bolts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snap-lock beads</li> <li>• Small interlocking bricks</li> <li>• Notched logs</li> <li>• Sets using rods/dowels and spool-like connector pieces</li> <li>• Sets using irregularly shaped or swiveling connector pieces</li> <li>• Sets that build realistic, detailed or transforming models</li> <li>• Sets that teach concepts of simple machines (e.g., wheels and axels, gears, levers and pulleys)</li> <li>• Snap together model car kits</li> <li>• Small nuts, bolts and screws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snap-lock beads</li> <li>• Small interlocking bricks</li> <li>• Notched logs</li> <li>• Sets using rods/dowels and spool-like connector pieces</li> <li>• Sets using irregularly shaped or swiveling connector pieces</li> <li>• Sets that build realistic, detailed or transforming models</li> <li>• Sets that teach concepts of more complex machines</li> <li>• Snap together model car kits</li> <li>• Small nuts, bolts and screws</li> <li>• Cement-based model car kits</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Dramatic play

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small dolls (baby, bean bag, rag dolls)</li> <li>• Small stuffed or plush animals</li> <li>• Music dolls and stuffed toys</li> <li>• Grab-on soft toys</li> <li>• Simple sock-like puppets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small dolls (baby, bean bag, rag dolls)</li> <li>• Small stuffed or plush animals</li> <li>• Music dolls and stuffed toys</li> <li>• Grab-on soft toys</li> <li>• Simple sock-like puppets</li> <li>• Washable rubber baby dolls</li> <li>• Small, simple play scenes like kitchens, farms, gas stations, airplanes, etc.</li> <li>• Simple costumes</li> <li>• Large beaded necklaces, bracelets with low tension elastic (no rings or earrings)</li> <li>• Scarves</li> <li>• Boats</li> <li>• Push cars, motorcycles and trucks</li> <li>• Simple trains without tracks</li> <li>• Rakes, shovels and buckets</li> <li>• Small vacuum like, lawnmower-like toys</li> <li>• House cleaning tools</li> <li>• Kitchen/cooking and tea sets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All examples from the previous age group</li> <li>• Combinations like mother and baby</li> <li>• Simple clothing to dress dolls</li> <li>• Simple sock, mitten and finger puppets</li> <li>• Shoes, hats, snap-on ties</li> <li>• Simple airplanes, boats and cars that are easy to handle</li> <li>• Large trucks</li> <li>• Trains with 2-6 cars that fasten and detach</li> <li>• Vehicles with simple wind-ups</li> <li>• Telephones and mobile communication devices (cell phones, pagers)</li> <li>• Cash registers and play money</li> <li>• Medical kits</li> <li>• Construction tools</li> <li>• Wheelbarrows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All examples from the previous age group</li> <li>• More complex clothing for dolls</li> <li>• Fantasy character/action figures</li> <li>• Life-sized dolls and accessories</li> <li>• Life-sized stuffed animals</li> <li>• Action and fashion dolls</li> <li>• More complex sock, mitten, hand, arm and finger puppets</li> <li>• Puppets with mouth and arm openings for simple thumb and finger manipulations</li> <li>• Play houses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All examples from the previous age group</li> <li>• Unusual, unique dolls and stuffed toys</li> <li>• Hand, arm, finger, jointed or simple string puppets and marionettes</li> <li>• Puppets with hard heads and painted faces</li> <li>• Thematic puppet theaters with curtains</li> <li>• Elaborate doll houses with miniature figures, animals and accessories</li> <li>• Unfinished materials for making costumes</li> <li>• Cars, motorcycles and trucks with moderately complex standard or electric tracks for racing</li> <li>• Electric trains with multiple cars that fasten and detach</li> <li>• Trains with small tracts that are moderately easy to connect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All examples from the previous age group</li> <li>• String puppets and marionettes</li> <li>• Authentic puppet theaters</li> <li>• Theater make-up</li> <li>• Manicure sets</li> <li>• Disguises</li> <li>• Masks</li> <li>• Cars, motorcycles, trucks with highly complex standard or electric tracks for racing</li> <li>• Authentic, adult-like tools and props</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Games and Table Toys

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nesting toys (i.e., shapes that fit inside each other such as measuring cups)</li> <li>• Shape sorters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puzzles with knobs and large pieces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wooden puzzles with 3 to 5 pieces</li> <li>• Simple matching or lotto-type games</li> <li>• Giant picture dominoes</li> <li>• Magnetic fishing game</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puzzles with knobs, simple jigsaw puzzles, large piece floor puzzles</li> <li>• Matching games</li> <li>• Matching dominoes with pictures rather than dots (for 3 year olds); dots okay for 4 to 5 year olds</li> <li>• Games based on chance</li> <li>• Activity games that include movement, dance or drawing</li> <li>• Simple board games that use spinners or cards</li> <li>• Memory or matching games</li> <li>• Number and letter recognition games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper and cardboard puzzles with up to 100 pieces</li> <li>• Traditional card games</li> <li>• Games that involve counting and sorting cards</li> <li>• Simple strategy games (e.g., checkers, connect four)</li> <li>• Simple word games</li> <li>• Dice games</li> <li>• Collector card games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 dimensional puzzles (e.g., puzzle cube)</li> <li>• Jigsaw puzzles with 100-500 pieces for 9 year olds; 500 or more pieces for children over 10 years</li> <li>• Interactive games</li> <li>• Simulation games</li> <li>• Sports games</li> <li>• Trivia games</li> <li>• Strategy games</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Gross motor toys (to promote riding, swinging, climbing, etc.)

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical swings that completely support the child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-pedal ride on toys</li> <li>• Simple, low rocking toys (e.g., wooden boat)</li> <li>• Soft play ramps and pads</li> <li>• Large soft balls</li> <li>• Ball pits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tricycles with pedals</li> <li>• Low rocking toys</li> <li>• Soft play climbers</li> <li>• Low slides with rails</li> <li>• Toddler swings</li> <li>• Large soft balls</li> <li>• Ball pits</li> <li>• Playground balls</li> <li>• Creative movement materials such as hoops, scarves and ribbons (for 2 year olds)</li> <li>• Variety of balls (shapes, sizes, etc.)</li> <li>• Targets, nets or goals for throwing balls into (for 2 year olds)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wagons</li> <li>• Tricycles</li> <li>• 3-wheeled scooters</li> <li>• Child sized bicycles with training wheels</li> <li>• Parachutes</li> <li>• Playground equipment like climbers, slides and unsupported swings</li> <li>• Creative movement materials like hoops, scarves, ribbons, etc.</li> <li>• Variety of balls</li> <li>• Replica sports balls (soft footballs, soft balls, etc.)</li> <li>• Soft bats or clubs</li> <li>• Targets, nets or goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycles with hand brakes</li> <li>• Gymnastics equipment (mats, trampoline, bars, etc.)</li> <li>• Jump ropes</li> <li>• Child size sports balls (footballs, basketballs, baseballs, soccer balls)</li> <li>• Child size racquets, bats and clubs</li> <li>• Child size nets and goals</li> <li>• Croquet equipment</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycles with gears</li> <li>• Kites</li> <li>• Hiking equipment</li> <li>• Weightlifting equipment</li> <li>• Aerobic and dance activities</li> <li>• Adult size sports balls (footballs, baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls)</li> <li>• Adult size racquets, bats and clubs</li> <li>• Net or goal game equipment (e.g., volleyball net, basketball hoop, etc.)</li> <li>• Table tennis</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Arts and Crafts

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, easy to grip crayons and washable markers</li> <li>• Variety of paper</li> <li>• Finger paint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, easy to grip crayons and washable markers</li> <li>• Variety of paper</li> <li>• Finger paint</li> <li>• Blunt-end scissors</li> <li>• Soft modeling clay or dough</li> <li>• Large beads</li> <li>• Collage materials (large buttons, foam pieces, etc.)</li> <li>• Non-toxic glue or paste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crayons, markers, paint brushes</li> <li>• Various sizes, colors, types and textures of paper</li> <li>• Finger paint, tempera paint and watercolors</li> <li>• Easels</li> <li>• Non-toxic glue and paste</li> <li>• Blunt-end scissors</li> <li>• Beads and string</li> <li>• Chalk</li> <li>• Glitter, yarn, pom poms and other collage materials</li> <li>• Tools for clay work (cookie cutters, plastic knives, etc.)</li> <li>• Non-toxic ink pads and stamps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crayons, markers, brushes and colored pencils</li> <li>• Finger paint, tempera paint, watercolors and pastels</li> <li>• Variety of scissors</li> <li>• Self-hardening and polymer clay</li> <li>• Beading/jewelry kits</li> <li>• Soap, candle, and basket kits</li> <li>• Chalk</li> <li>• Glitter, yarn, pom poms, and other collage materials</li> <li>• Sewing kits with large needle</li> <li>• Plaster of Paris, papier-mâché, pottery activities</li> <li>• Leatherwork and tools</li> <li>• Carving</li> <li>• Flower pressing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All those for 6-8 years</li> <li>• Calligraphy</li> <li>• Sketching</li> <li>• Crochet</li> <li>• Embroidery</li> <li>• Knitting</li> <li>• Needlepoint</li> <li>• Puppetry</li> <li>• Doll-making</li> <li>• Metal working</li> <li>• Mosaic</li> <li>• Ceramic</li> <li>• Sewing machines</li> <li>• Screwdrivers</li> <li>• Pliers</li> <li>• Hot glue gun</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Music

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lullabies, simple songs, rhythms, nursery rhymes</li> <li>• Gentle predictable sounds played at low volumes</li> <li>• Music boxes (wound by adults)</li> <li>• Simple bells, rattles and other rhythm instruments/toys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danceable, lyrical music with a range of high and low frequencies</li> <li>• Hand-cranked music box</li> <li>• Musical rhythm instruments</li> <li>• Sing-a-long songs</li> <li>• Rattles and shakers</li> <li>• Bells, chimes and small tambourines</li> <li>• Drums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danceable, lyrical music with a range of high and low frequencies</li> <li>• Hand-cranked music box</li> <li>• Musical rhythm instruments</li> <li>• Sing-a-long songs</li> <li>• Rattles and shakers</li> <li>• Bells, chimes and small tambourines</li> <li>• Drums</li> <li>• Blocks (scraping and tapping)</li> <li>• Triangles</li> <li>• Rhythm sticks</li> <li>• Horns and whistles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folk and cultural music</li> <li>• Silly songs and finger plays</li> <li>• Simple tape/CD players and radios</li> <li>• Microphones and blank tapes</li> <li>• Performance costumes</li> <li>• Rattles and shakers</li> <li>• Bells, chimes and small tambourines</li> <li>• Drums</li> <li>• Blocks (scraping and tapping)</li> <li>• Triangles</li> <li>• Rhythm sticks</li> <li>• Horns and whistles</li> <li>• Cymbals</li> <li>• Xylophones</li> <li>• Keyboards, pianos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folk and cultural music</li> <li>• Silly songs and finger plays</li> <li>• Simple tape/CD players and radios</li> <li>• Microphones and blank tapes</li> <li>• Performance costumes</li> <li>• Pop/rock, rhythm band and group singing music</li> <li>• Portable CD players and headphones</li> <li>• Interpretive dance costumes</li> <li>• Rattles and shakers</li> <li>• Bells, chimes and small tambourines</li> <li>• Drums</li> <li>• Blocks (scraping and tapping)</li> <li>• Triangles</li> <li>• Rhythm sticks</li> <li>• Horns and whistles</li> <li>• Cymbals, xylophones, keyboards, pianos, autoharp, ukulele, flute, violin, horns, harmonica</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folk and cultural music</li> <li>• Silly songs and finger plays</li> <li>• Simple tape/CD players and radios</li> <li>• Microphones and blank tapes</li> <li>• Performance costumes</li> <li>• Pop/rock, rhythm band and group singing music</li> <li>• Portable CD players and headphones</li> <li>• Interpretive dance costumes</li> <li>• Rattles and shakers</li> <li>• Bells, chimes and small tambourines</li> <li>• Drums</li> <li>• Blocks (scraping and tapping)</li> <li>• Triangles</li> <li>• Rhythm sticks</li> <li>• Horns and whistles</li> <li>• Cymbals, xylophones, keyboards, pianos, autoharp, ukulele, flute, violin, horns, harmonica</li> </ul>

## Toys & Materials: Books and Literacy

Birth through 8 months	9 through 18 months	19 months through 2 years	3 through 5 years	6 through 8 years	9 through 12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated foam books</li> <li>• Cloth books</li> <li>• Simple picture books</li> <li>• Board books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated foam books</li> <li>• Cloth books</li> <li>• Simple picture books</li> <li>• Board books</li> <li>• Interactive books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic coated foam books</li> <li>• Cloth books</li> <li>• Simple picture books</li> <li>• Board books</li> <li>• Interactive books</li> <li>• Tactile or "touch me" books</li> <li>• Books with pictures hidden behind windows or doors</li> <li>• Pop-up books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silly stories</li> <li>• Predictable books</li> <li>• Picture books</li> <li>• Self-created books</li> <li>• Information stories that teach new concepts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• books of poetry, comics, fantasy, legends, good magic, myths, funny stories and luck</li> <li>• Information books (science topics)</li> <li>• Books on geography and travel</li> <li>• Simple chapter books and novels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• books of poetry, comics, fantasy, legends, good magic, myths, funny stories and luck</li> <li>• Information books (science topics)</li> <li>• Books on geography and travel</li> <li>• Simple chapter books and novels</li> <li>• Enjoy books on sports, scientific discovery, "how to" books</li> <li>• Series books</li> </ul>

### References

Therrell, J.A., Brown, P., Sutterby, J.A., & Thornton, C.D. (2002). *Age determination guidelines: Relating children's ages to toy characteristics and play behavior*. Washington, DC: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

NOTE: This is not meant to be an inclusive list. This list provides a sample of the kinds of materials and toys that are appropriate for children of different ages.