



Top Ten List of Children's Toys

1. **Building Blocks** – This is an essential toy that no child should be without. Blocks come in many sizes, are available in different textures, alphabet letters, or made from plastic so they are waterproof for tub time. They help children develop their fine motor and attention skills as they learn how to build and stack. A basic set of wooden blocks can take your child from baby to toddler.
2. **Books** – Books are the proven best way to build language and attention skills. They stimulate your child's brain and reading to them every day helps develop pre-reading skills. Books also give you an opportunity to have some important one on one bonding time with your child. Keep in mind that simple is usually best when your child is young. Buy books with few words, and pictures on each page so they are not too overwhelming for your baby. Board books made from cardboard are best for small children. Choose books that are basic with pictures of animals or people in them.
3. **Balls** – Balls of many sizes and types help your child develop their gross motor and social/turn taking skills and are fun!
4. **Shape Sorter** – This is a great item to teach your child fine motor, attention and problem solving skills as they learn to sort the different shapes and push them into the right spot in the container. They also help your child learn about spatial awareness as well as the added bonus of learning shapes.
5. **Board Puzzles** – These can range from simple 3 piece puzzles for babies to larger puzzles for older children. They are a great tool for developing your child's fine motor and attention skills as they learn to manipulate the pieces and fit them together. Puzzles with knobs on them are easier for smaller babies and children to grasp. They will help them learn about spatial awareness and logic as they figure out how to construct the puzzle.
6. **Stacking Toys** – This classic toy helps your child learn about size and sequencing, as they figure out how to manipulate these rings and stack them in correct order. Sequencing is an important pre-reading skill, which children need to develop in the process of reading a story from beginning to middle to end. It is also a great fine motor activity.
7. **Lego (Duplo, Mega Blocks)** – Come in different sizes for different ages. They are good tools for developing fine motor skills, logic and spatial awareness as kids learn to construct towers, houses and anything else they want! This is a toy that will spark creativity in your children, as it stimulates their imagination and their brains.
8. **Mr. Potato Head** – The possibilities for language development are endless as your child makes their individual potato head, and learns all about the different body parts while doing so. This is also a good activity to promote fine motor skills as children pick up the pieces and push and pull them into Mr. Potato Head's body.
9. **Playdough** – This material helps to strengthen and develop the muscles in the hand and fingers as kids learn to pound and flatten the dough. These are important muscles for pre-printing skills, and help to develop the all important pincer grip which is needed for everyday activities such as picking up things, doing up buttons, zippers and later, holding a pen or pencil. You can add sensory stimulation to this activity by buying scented playdough. It is also available in just about every colour and is another way to help your child learn their colours. This is a great activity for parents to do with their child, as it is a way to encourage language development as they talk to their child about the creations they are making. There are some great recipes for homemade playdough that you can make with your kids.
10. **Tea Set/Farm Set** – This is a good toy which develops a variety of skills in children. They encourage children's fine motor, language and social skills, as they learn to pick up the cups and match them to plates and/or the cows, pigs or other pieces in these sets. Playing with these toys stimulate their imagination, as they "farm" and have tea parties with you and their friends.

