



## TOY SELECTION GUIDE

For 3-5 year olds (2017 edition)

Dear Parents,

Holiday time is here and we would like to offer suggestions regarding toy selection for your children. The following toys and games were chosen because of their ability to promote skill development and they are fun to play! You may need to use your judgment when choosing the most appropriate level of an activity relative to your child's age, attention span and complexity of the task. Your child may require assistance and/or supervision to play a specific game. Just a reminder too, some of the toys may require supervised use due to small parts, especially if younger siblings are present.

Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy the playtime that you share with your children!

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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Extra special thanks to our toy testers for the past several years! Kayla K and Dani K.

**Vendors**- The following is a list of local vendors and catalogue sources from which you may find these activities. Many of the catalogues are designed around special themes or age groups (ex: scientific, novel toys, etc.).

Check your local stores or their websites first; they are stocking more unique toys and games than ever before. For example: CVS, Target, Toys R Us, Walmart- now stock a wide selection of Crayola and Melissa & Doug (M&D) toys. Michael's, Walmart and Target have some craft and science kits.

- !!! [www.specialneedstoys.com](http://www.specialneedstoys.com) (games, toys, sensory)
- @ [www.ForSmallHands.com](http://www.ForSmallHands.com) (kid size toys, cooking, self-help, home and yard items)
- \* [www.hearthsong.com](http://www.hearthsong.com) (lots of gross motor, vestibular and toys w/ LEDs)
- ^ [www.YoungExplorers.com](http://www.YoungExplorers.com) (science and movement oriented)
- + [www.Mindware.com](http://www.Mindware.com) (best collection of tracing, dot-dot, mazes, graphing, science, food kits)
- # [www.museumtour.com](http://www.museumtour.com) (educational toys primarily, a few for 4-5 year olds)
- ++ [www.beyondplay.com](http://www.beyondplay.com) (sensory, fine motor, gross motor)
- & [www.ttgo.com](http://www.ttgo.com) (Toys to Grow On)
- \$ [www.onestepahead.com](http://www.onestepahead.com) (mini household play tools, larger toys, fitness equipment, Minecraft toy sets)
- % [www.lakeshorelearning.com](http://www.lakeshorelearning.com) (lots of preschool toys, play food)
- = [www.Chinaberry.com](http://www.Chinaberry.com) (unique, new toys)
- { [www.OrientalTrading.com](http://www.OrientalTrading.com) (educational and craft materials)
- { } [www.Learn365.com](http://www.Learn365.com) (educational and craft materials)
- \$\$ [www.orbfactory.com](http://www.orbfactory.com) (magnetic, sticky mosaic games and crafts)
- @@ [www.greentoys.com](http://www.greentoys.com) (quality toys made from recyclable materials)
- !! [www.fatbraintoy.com](http://www.fatbraintoy.com) (educational toys and games for 1 yr +)
- \*\* [www.LearningResources.com](http://www.LearningResources.com)
- ^^ [www.EducationalInsights.com](http://www.EducationalInsights.com)
- == [www.smartgames.com](http://www.smartgames.com)
- K [www.klutz.com](http://www.klutz.com) (innovative, unique fine motor toys)
- { [www.abilitations.com](http://www.abilitations.com) (special education resources; particularly sensory, also fidgets, grippers, gross motor, think-n-roll)

Some items are marked with a vendor symbol as they are available at specific sites or under specific names.

Walmart has a new Spark, Create, Imagine (SCI) line for pre-k through K (colors, shapes, animals, ABCs, etc.)

Target and Walmart regularly sell inexpensive scholastic educational items and fine motor products. For example, felt food, Dr. Seuss flash cards, and alphabet/number sequencing, puzzles, etc.



**Gross Motor**-Refers to large muscle movements. These toys enhance balance, eye-hand coordination and motor planning.

**Inflatable Easel with paints\***

- Anywhere Stair Slide^
- Colorful Hop Sacks\*
- Marble Aim Carpet\*
- Giant Bowling Game\*
- Mini trampoline
- Tricycle
- Gator Golf
- Nerf balls
- Sit 'N Spin
- Big Wheel
- Floor games
- Jump Smart
- oversized foam ball/bat
- play tents, tunnels++
- Floor puzzles
- Train tracks
- Triple Shots
- Fishing game
- Razor Scooter Jr.
- Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat I Can Do That card game & board game
- Play tape (reusable roadway tape for cars and trains)@=
- Dr. Seuss Super Stretchy ABC game
- Alphabet/number large foam puzzles
- M&D My First Sidewalk Chalk Set

**Blockables+**

- Smashpong^
- Disney Jr. Super Stretchy
- Flingshot Monkeys\*
- Throw 'n' Glow Ball\*
- Mr. Bucket
- batting tee
- Zoom ball
- Hippity Hop
- ball pool
- 3-wheel scooter
- Splash bomb
- Giraffalaff Limbo
- Hopscotch rug\*%%
- Dr. Seuss I Can Do That
- Flying turtle/roller racer
- climbing frames, swings, slides
- Jump Rockets
- My First Marble Run+
- Monster Clompers++

**Kablocks+**

- Bounce 'n' Spin Seesaw^
- Floor piano keyboards&&\*
- Rainbow Tri-Climber\*
- Parachute Play\*
- playground equipment
- bowling games
- large cars and trucks
- Hot Potato
- Giant construction blocks
- Drive Around carpet roadway
- Dancing Challenge Mat&&
- mini basketball
- Accordion^
- Tunnels of Fun^
- Bagball (beanbag target)\*
- Bumble Ball
- Mesh collapsible basketball net
- Gymnic Rody Horse
- Walkie Chalk



**Auditory-** Pertains to hearing, auditory discrimination and memory.

Crayola Electronic Tablet^	Busy City Electronic Activity mat^	Thunder Shaker!!!
Electronic Hot Potato	Ocean Wave Bead Drum!!!	Rainmaker!!!
Farm Sound Blocks !!!	Lollipop Drum!!!	



**Visual Motor-** Refers to eye-hand coordination and pre-writing skills.

Triangle Crayons=	Rainbow Crayon Set@	Crayon Rocks@
Roll-On Painters%%	Crayola Wonder markers	Sno-Paints*
Fun to Count Game%%	Bumble ball	Wooden Stencils Kit*
Melissa & Doug Lacing cards	Crayola Wonder paper	giant coloring books
Finger paints	Crayola Paint in brush pens	Crayola Window Markers
Magnadoodles	Crayola Mini Markers	Dot Art & books
Ball & bean bag games	Junior Rubbing Plates++	Club Penguin air hockey
Dot-to-Dot, maze books	Giant Marble Runs	Scratch Art Light Box
Color by number, letter	Magnet or sticky mosaics	scratch art
Young Artist's Toolbox	A to Z Magnatabs++	Alphabet A-Z++
Melissa & Doug Foil Art	Rainbow Scratch Art%%	
Squiggle Writer/Spyro Gyro/Wiggle Writer		
Imaginarium activity kit and bottles (like Dot Art, but the containers aren't as wide)		
Melissa & Doug My First Sidewalk Chalk Set		
Rose Art Sidewalk Chalk paint and Shake 'N' Roll		
Melissa & Doug Water Wow Numbers/letters		
Melissa & Doug Paint with Water		



## **Visual-** Pertaining to vision.

Jumbo Glitter Tube  
Glow Dough

Light Up Aquarium  
Sandscapes

Ooze Tube!!!  
Color Liquid Fun!!



**Visual Perceptual/Perceptual Motor-** Refers to visual discrimination (size, shape, color, patterns, quantity, etc.), spatial relations, figure ground, memory, 2 & 3-dimensional creations.

Shelby's Snack Shack  
Alpha-Bots, Number Bots%%  
AlphaPops  
Frankie's Food Truck Fiesta  
Mega Blocks Match & Build  
Thumpin Thingdoodles+  
Turtle Recall  
Candyland  
Marble Raceways  
Colorform shapes, scenes  
Magnetic shapes  
Guess Who?  
Zingo & Zingo 1,2,3  
Find It  
Smart Games Day & Night  
Bunny Peek A Boo  
giant floor puzzle  
Lucky Ducks  
dominoes  
Spot It  
Buki Books: What's the Difference, mazes, etc.

Tic Tac Tony  
My First Word Builder  
Dot the Dog  
Uno  
Imaginets  
Letter Construction++  
Whac-A-Mole  
I Spy Eagle Eye  
memory games  
Finder's Keepers  
pancake pile up^^  
Clever castle  
Zingo  
M&D pattern blocks  
Memory Mix Up+  
Fun to Count Game%%  
Colorpillar Magnetic Maze%%  
See-Inside Counting Tubes%%  
Colorpillar Magnetic Maze%%  
Where's Waldo? & I Spy bks.  
Oreo Matching

Rainbow Mosaic Pattern Puzzles+  
 Melissa & Doug Animal Pattern Blocks  
 Magnetic Wooden Books++  
 Sorting Socks Matching and Memory Game\*  
 Alphabet and Unlock It Number Match%%  
 Large foam letters/numbers  
 Simple puzzles (knob, inset, interlocking)  
 Learning My Colors (SCI)

Pathfinder  
 Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head  
 Dora the Explorer ABC game  
 Fisher Price Farm, Garage  
 Magnetic construction toys  
 M&D Memory Game  
 BBQ Blitz^^  
 Bunny peek A Boo==



**Tactile**-Refers to games, items that involve texture, pressure, and/or vibration of some type.

Alex Toy Artist Studio  
 Young Artist's Toolbox%%  
 Bristle Blocks%%  
 Alex Bath Writers  
 foam bath soap  
 Touchable Bubbles%%  
 Ball pools  
 Koosh balls  
 bean bag chairs  
 Water play toys  
 Squiggle Writer  
 Sidewalk chalk  
 Tactile Discs++  
 Art Patterns Sand Box++  
 Dinosaur Squishimals++  
 Sand & Water Discovery Kit%%  
 The Mystery Box and Guessing Game%%  
 Crayola Bathtub Fingerpainting  
 Critter and Sun Catcher sandbox toys%%

Pinball Painter Splatter Kit  
 Design Rollers%%  
 Body Doodlers@  
 Bathtub crayons  
 Soap  
 Changing color putty\*  
 Floam  
 glitter gel for bodies  
 Crayola Model Magic  
 Pin Art\*  
 mini massagers  
 Tactile Dominoes  
 Insta-Snow++  
 Slinky  
 Ned's Head

Fish, Fish, Squish!  
 Orbeez  
 Roll-On Painters%%  
 Finger paints  
 sand art  
 magnetic putty  
 Playdoh Creativity Center  
 finger, hand puppets  
 Sponge paints  
 water beads  
 Wikki Stix  
 Instant Snow  
 Speedy Snow%%  
 explore ring{  
 Ruff's house  
 Orbeez  
 Floof (snowman maker)\*



**Body Awareness**-Refers to knowledge of body parts.

- |                                |                    |               |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head         | Guess Who          | Ball pool     |
| Pretty, Pretty Princess        | Silly Faces        | Twister       |
| Housekeeping tools             | play tents/tunnels | dress up kits |
| Finger & hand puppets          | Face Painting      | Nail polish   |
| Body part puzzles              | Dressing dolls     | Hula Hoops    |
| Chicken/Giraffalaff Limbo      |                    |               |
| Yoga & exercise tapes          |                    |               |
| Musical instruments            |                    |               |
| Melissa & Doug - Make a Mood!! |                    |               |



**Oral Motor**-Refers to the muscles, structures of the mouth.

- |                                   |          |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Whistles                          | kazoos   | harmonicas    |
| Crazy Straws                      | Blo Pens | toys you blow |
| flavored chapsticks               |          |               |
| Touchable Bubbles%%               |          |               |
| bubble activities-Bubble Science@ |          |               |



## Vestibular- Refers to movement

Spiro Hop\*  
 Round-and-Round Swing\*  
 Mini trampoline  
 Swings/Sit and Swing#\*  
 Wurlybird Flyer  
 Playground sets  
 Dizzy Disk/Sit 'n Spin/Whizzy Dizzy  
 Anywhere Stair Slide^

Bilibo=  
 parachute Play\*  
 Rocking Seesaw\* SpiroBouncer#  
 Hippity Hop/Hop Balls\*2  
 Up and Down Roller Coaster  
 Scooters@  
 Rockin' 2-in-1 Hammock\*



**Proprioception**-Refers to one's awareness of the body's position in space. Also, includes 'heavy work' items to push, pull, carry, stomp, jump, bounce and/or provide pressure to the skin, etc.

Mini trampoline  
 Jump Rocket#  
 Flingshot Monkeys  
 Floor games  
 Mini massagers/vibrating toys !!!  
 Adjustable basketball hoop/junior basketball  
 Beginning Hammering Kit%%

Limbo  
 Hippity Hop  
 Dance Mat  
 yoga tapes/cards

Sand Digger  
 Stomp Rocket  
 Stretchy toys  
 Super Skipper

Twister  
 Body Sox  
 Sleeping bags  
 Bean bag chair  
 Squiggle Writer  
 Kablocks+

Great Big Outdoor Playball  
 Blockables+





**Fine Motor-** Refers to hand skills. These toys will enhance manipulation, dexterity, bimanual (two-handed) skills, pinch and grasp patterns and finger strength and endurance.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Helping Hands Fine Motor Tool Set (for sandbox, water play) **      | Fluffables+                        |
| Pretend food (Velcro, wood or and plastic) and mini appliances**{}} | Snap-Bots%%                        |
| The Alphabet Zoo%%  | Connectagons*                      |
| Unlock It Numbers %%  | Lite Stax                          |
| Alphabots %%  | Slinky                             |
| sand toys   | Mr. Potato head                    |
| Thumpin'Thingdoodles+   | finger paints                      |
| Bristle Blocks%%  | Thumbs Up                          |
| Miniature Music Boxes@  | Sno-Paints*                        |
| Crafty Cookie Kit@  | Candyland                          |
| Ants in the Pants   | wind up toys                       |
| Work bench  | Crocodile Dentist                  |
| Duplo/Mega blocks   | housekeeping toys                  |
| Construction toys   | easel/chalkboard                   |
| Colorforms  | Delightful Dino Eggs*              |
| Take-Apart-Airplane/Truck+  | Wikki Sticks                       |
| musical keyboard, piano, etc.                                       | Wok & Roll                         |
| finger/hand puppets%{}}   | Bubbleizer                         |
| Dolls to dress  | Dinosaur Squishimals +             |
| bath toys/crayons   | Lite Brite/Lite Art                |
| Tea sets  | Robot hand claw                    |
| Pop-Up Pirate   | Rainmaker=                         |
| Marble 7 Aqua Runs+   | Drill by Design                    |
| Tinker Toys   | Pin Art/ Pin Print                 |
| Action figures  | Kaleidoscope@                      |
| Honey Bee Tree/Kerplunk   | Letter Construction++              |
| Snow ball maker*  | Take the Cake game                 |
| Glow Easy pattern painter   | Crazy Cereal^^                     |
| Fantacolor Junior   | Button Art                         |
| Beginning Hammering Kit%%   | Fisher Price classic record player |
| Rainbow Mosaics Pattern Puzzle                                      |                                    |

M&D Sort and Snap Color Match	Decorate-a-Great-Snowman Kit*
Wall Coaster Marble Run* Wonder Maze#	Boating Set and Bubble Bath Whisk=
Alex Toy Artist Studio Pinball Painter Splatter Kit	M&D magnetic Animal Puzzle Book
Getting Ready to Write Gumball Grab%%	Unlock it number match%%
Don't Let the Bugs Fall (large size Jenga)&	Mini muffin match up**
Sneaky Snacky Squirrel/Shelby's Snack Shack/Frida's Fruit Fiesta game	
Velcro plastic or wood food with knives and other accessories	Snap-Bots%%
Chicken Socks (Klutz)	M&D Color Blast
M&D Water Wow	BBQ Blitz^^
Holiday Poppers*	Happy noise maker@
Miniature music boxes@	Motorized Spin Art%%
I Can Buuild It%%	

### Misc. Sensory:

Rainmaker= Rainstick@    Light Show stick =    Scented dough  
 Scented pencils (Michael's)    Lite Stax  
 Sensory Tubes%%    Going Light Ball=  
 iLooms LED Balloons (Walmart), blinky LED Balloons (balloons have latex)  
 Draw in the tub (Alex)    Scented Gel Pens%% , pencils and markers  
 Flavored chapsticks

### Math:

Pop for addition and subtraction++	Fisharee+	Fun to count%
Unlock it # match%%	Zingo 1-2-3	Spot it 1-2-3
Number bots%%	Gumball Grab%%	

### Alphabet:

Alphabet learning locks%%	Dino Alphabet	Alpha Pops**
Alphabet zoo%%	Alpha Bots%%	Spot it ABC
Alphabet soup**	Crazy Cereal^^	Dino Alphabet (SCI)
Frieda's Fruit Fiesta Game		

### Handwriting:

Zingo

# Enjoy!