

---

**Consumer Decision Making Contest**  
*1999-2000 Study Guide*

---

CHILDREN TOYS

---

# LET'S PLAY: Tips for Buying Toys

## Why Toys?

Play allows children to explore the world around them. Through playing with toys or play props, children can acquire essential life skills, like sharing, cooperation, problem solving, language, and mathematics.



## Four Types of Toys for Young Children

1. Social and fantasy play materials like dressing up clothes and tea party
2. Music, art, and movement materials like drum and rhythm sticks
3. Exploration and mastery play materials like blocks and playdough
4. Gross motor play materials like tricycle and swings

## Three main questions to Ask When Selecting Toys



1. Is the toy appropriate?
  - ✓ Is the toy appropriate for the child's age and abilities?
  - ✓ Will the toy interest the child? Why?
  - ✓ Are instructions for use of the toy clear enough for both you and the child to understand?
  - ✓ Can the toy be used in a variety of ways?

2. **Is it safe?**

- ✓ **Have you read the label to see from what kinds of materials the toy was made?**
- ✓ **Are the toy and its part large enough so they will not be swallowed by small children?**
- ✓ **Have you checked to see that the toy has no sharp points, exposed pins, sharp barbs or nails which could injure a child?**
- ✓ **Have you avoided excessively noisy toys which could damage the child-s hearing?**
- ✓ **Will the toy require a minimum of adult supervision?**
- ✓ **Will the toy be safe for all children in your house? Remember, a toy designed for an older child may cause injury to a curious younger brother or sister.**



3. **Is it worth the cost?**

- ✓ **Will your child use the toy enough to justify its purchase?**
- ✓ **Is the toy sturdy so it will not be broken easily?**
- ✓ **Will the toy stimulate your child-s initiative and imagination?**



Also, when buying toys for infants and young children, look out for:

Small toys that are small enough to be swallowed or to become stuck in child-s windpipe.

Sharp edges, especially toys that may break and expose cutting edges.

Loud noises that can damage hearing.

Cords and strings that may become wrapped around an infant-s or young baby-s neck to cause suffocation.

Sharp points that are exposed after the toy is broken.

Propelled objects like guided missiles and flying toys that can injure eyes in particular.

-- Adapted from FOR KIDS- SAKE , U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission