

Meaningful Children's Gifts for the Holidays



The best kinds of gifts for children are the ones that

- Fully engage their sense of discovery and drive to master new skills.
- Allow them to be active participants, not just passively entertained.
- Children can decide on their own to use in many different ways.
- Allow for interactions with others in positive, meaningful ways.
- Encourage the development of language, thinking and motor skills.
- Don't cost a lot of money; kids' brains are the only "high-tech" needed!
- You can make at home with the child's help.
- Satisfy the child's inherent need to play!

Gifts for infants (0 to 18 months):

Mobiles with movement and music, to excite the ears and eyes.

Nesting cups and boxes: for the baby to take out and put in, over and over.

Floating toys for bath time play.

Classical and world music CDs: it's never too early to enjoy great music!

Board and cloth books: babies love to be read to right from the start!

Gifts for Toddlers (1 to 3 years):

Rolling toys to push, pull and toddle behind.

Simple inset puzzles with a few large pieces.

Play-dough: both commercial and home made (call us for the recipe).

Blocks, Legos and other open-ended construction materials.

Baby doll, clothes and accessories (e.g. bottle, bib, brush, etc.).

Board books with lots of pictures and only a few words on a page.

Gifts for Preschoolers (3 to 5 years):

Arts and crafts supplies: crayons, paint, scissors, paper, glue, etc.

Theme-based toys for the child to act out scenes from her imagination, e.g. garage and vehicles; kitchen with accessories, etc.

Puppets and puppet stage (you can make your own stage from a large box).

Lotto, matching, and card games for the child to enjoy playing with others.

Story books with colorful pictures, appealing stories and simple, repetitive language (increasing in difficulty as the child grows).

Gifts for School Age Children (5 to 12 years):

Magnetic numbers and letters.

Supplies for a child's hobby or craft interest.

Museum and gallery passes for the child and family; a trip to the library.

Dominos, card and board games to learn rules and cooperation.

A variety of books and magazine subscriptions geared to the child's ability and interests.

Most important of all – *the best gift you can give to your child is the gift of your time!* We have lots of great ideas – just call us at **Rochester Hearing and Speech Center (271-0680 x 1253)**.

Talk.
Read.
Succeed.

