

VISability, the VIPS Parents Newsletter

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VIPS Teachers' Toy Recommendations

Age recommendations for toys are typically listed by each manufacturer but should be taken as suggestions. Depending on your child's level of development and physical and cognitive skills, a toy recommended for a three-year-old might be appropriate for a much younger child and a toy recommended for a three-month-old might be appropriate for an older child.

VIPS is not endorsing any seller – we have used Amazon links for convenience. When you decide to purchase from Amazon, please consider going through AmazonSmile, which is exactly the same as ordering directly through Amazon, but offers a percentage of your purchase cost to a charity of your choice. And, of course, we would love for you to select Visually Impaired Preschool Services, Inc. as your charity.

Recommended by David Sterne, Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision/First Steps Supervisor, VIPS Indiana

The Oball Wobble Bobble Ball

Features

- Bright colors to attract the visual attention of children with low vision
- Different textures to touch and explore
- Vibration to provide increased sensory input
- Music and sounds to motivate children to play and move
- Ideal for children with developmental ages of 3 months to 3 years



A brightly colored ball is shown that has different sized raised circles on the surface.

This multi-sensory toy has been a favorite with some children on my case-load this year, and it's easy to see why. Just a simple shake of the ball activates the music and vibration and encourages use and development of cause and effect skills. It can also be used to help develop turn taking and social skills in addition to orientation and mobility. This is ideal for children with developmental ages of 3 months to 3 years.

Available for \$29.94 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Oball-28387-Wobble-Bobble/dp/B076JB-S2PR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Oball+Wobble+Bobble+Ball&qid=1632270242&sr=8-1

Melissa & Doug's Poke-A-Dot Books

Features

- Have sturdy pages
- Helps develop a child's fine motor, visual scanning, and cause and effect skills
- Available in a wide range of topics such as alphabet, animals and pets, Christmas, dinosaurs, shapes and emergency vehicles
- Available in different sizes and price ranges

I first learned about this series of books when some were donated to VIPS Indiana a couple of years ago. I discovered that many children enjoyed scanning each large board book page for the plastic buttons or dots to "pop." Since then, families have shown me smaller versions of these books they bought, with photos instead of illustrations and at least one button on each page.

I would recommend starting with a smaller book (10 pages, 6 x 6 inches) for very young children (the recommended developmental ages are from 12 months and up), like the one pictured, since they feature simple photos of objects with high contrast, simple backgrounds. The smaller books range from \$6.99 each to sets of 3 for up to \$25.95 through AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/s?k=Melissa+%26+Doug%27s+Poke-A-Dot+-Books&ref=nb_sb_noss

The larger books (20 pages, 9.25" x 7.25") feature illustrations with some pages having moderate visual complexity (more going on in the background) and are a great next step. The larger books range in price from \$11.99 to \$30.95 each, and all are available on AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/ALPHABET-EYE-SPY-Poke-dot/dp/1601693737/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Melissa+%26+Doug%27s+Poke-A-Dot+-Books&qid=1633029037&sr=8-2

Recommended by Tracy Webb, Developmental Interventionist, VIPS Louisville

The Bright Starts Press & Glow Spinner

Features

- Provides visual, auditory, and tactile stimulation
- Develops fine motor skills
- Designed for children 6 months and up

This toy has worked well for children on my caseload. With one push of the star on top, children will enjoy the lights and sounds of the spinner.

It is available for \$12.98 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Bright-Starts-Press-Glow-Spinner/dp/B07G9WKV9D/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Bright+Starts+-Press+%26amp%3B+Glow+Spinner&qid=1633038885&sr=8-1



A toy is shown that has a push handle, like with a top. As the handle is pushed down, balls spin inside a clear base, and colorful lights flash.

The Fisher-Price Laugh & Learn Magic Color Mixing Bowl

Features

- Easily activated lights and playful songs about letters, numbers and colors
- Removeable pieces that are BPA free
- Encourages pretend play
- Includes volume control switch for children sensitive to sounds
- Appropriate for ages 6-36 months

This is a fun, light-up, pretend mixing bowl with play ingredients for exciting

baking play! Children can place and remove objects in the bowl and explore each of the six play pieces that includes a BPA-free chocolate bar safe for mouthing, rattle egg, milk bottle, set of 2 measuring cups, pretend cherries and a spoon for "stirring." Toddlers will enjoy the lights and sounds as they pretend baking by stirring, pouring and pushing buttons to activate the sounds. Sounds and phrases introduce children to the alphabet, numbers, colors, and color mixing.

It is available for under \$16 from Amazon Smile with link below.



A child's light-up mixing bowl is shown, with cute, colorful accessories, including a spoon for stirring, measuring spoons, a toy egg, toy chocolate bar.

https://smile.amazon.com/Fisher-Price-Laugh-Learn-Mixing-Musical/dp/B07X6WGGJW/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Fisher-Price+Laugh+%26amp%3B+Learn+Magic+Color+Mixing+Bowl&qid=1633039780&sr=8-2

Recommended by Amy Nichols, Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision, VIPS Indiana

Plan Toys Braille Alphabet Tiles and Plan Toys Braille Number Tiles

Features

- Alphabet tiles feature an upper case side and a lower case side with both print and braille versions of the letter
- Tiles are made from sustainable rubber wood and coated with a non-toxic finish.
- All colors are made from vegetable dyes
- Encourage visual interest for children with low vision.
- Appropriate for ages 2 years and up.

These are two of my favorite toys for our little ones. Each piece has a braille symbol that represents each letter in the alphabet or each number.

Plan Toys Braille Alphabet Tiles are available for \$40 from AmazonSmile with link below.



Tiles, with smooth, rounded edges, are shown that feature a colorful alphabet letter embossed on each one. Below the letter, is a little rectangular indentation that has the braille for each letter.

https://smile.amazon.com/PlanToys-0567100-Braille-Alphabet-A-Z/dp/B00I3VWSIA/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=Plan+Toys+Braille+Alphabet+and+Number+Tiles&qid=1633049684&sr=8-10

Plan Toys Braille Number Tiles are available for \$22.95 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/PlanToys-Braille-Numbers-1-10/dp/B00BO-Q2MUU/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=Plan+Toys+Braille+Alphabet+and+Number+Tiles&qid=1633049684&sr=8-5

Amy also recommends Glo Pal cubes. See their description under Paige Maynard's recommendations below.

Recommended by Paige Maynard, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Developmental Interventionist, VIPS Louisville

Glo Pals

Features

- Available in 4-packs of yellow, blue, purple, green, and red
- Each Glo Pal lasts a minimum of 16 lighted hours (about 30 days)
- Each has a story about what makes it unique
- They have posable arms and legs,
- Easy to grasp and easy to "attach" to another object

These light-up sensory toys glow a single color when placed in water. They use non-replaceable, but recyclable, batteries. GloPals were created by the mom of a child with autism to help him overcome his fear of water. Creat-

ed as a classroom project at Mississippi State University, a portion of every purchase is donated to Children's Hospital of Mississippi.

Glo Pals cost \$10 plus shipping with link below.



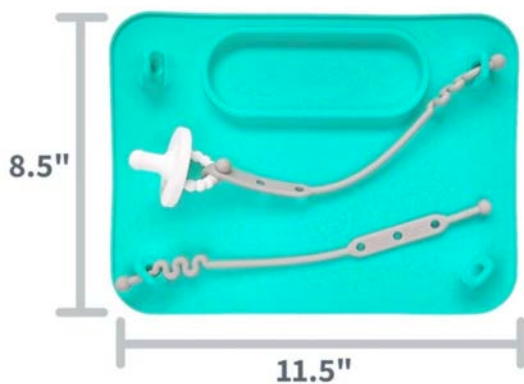
A picture of Glo Pals shows brightly colored little squares that light up in water. Some of them have arms and legs that can be bent.

<https://glopals.com/collections/all>

Busy Baby Silicone Mat

Features

- Made of food grade silicone
- About the size of a sheet of copy paper;
- Has two safe, durable straps for attaching objects allows objects to be kept within your child's reach and free from germs from objects thrown to floor
- Can be placed on a vertical surface as well as horizontal ones
- Adheres to any smooth surface.



A picture of a bright green silicone mat shows how the mat has a rectangular "bowl" at the top. On each corner is a place where a toy can be fastened on a tether so that the child cannot throw the toys on the floor.

I envision a child using this mat to provide contrast on a clear wheelchair or stander tray, with toys being attached for exploration and to teach the child object permanence and orientation. It can also be affixed to a vertical surface like a window to promote sitting up, standing, or other upright skills.

This placemat was designed to withstand the child's tugging, pulling, and prodding while remaining stationary due to four silicone suction cups on the bottom designed as part of the placemat. It is safe for baby to play on, eat off of, and do everything else babies do while exploring their surroundings. It is available for \$24.99 at link below.

<https://busybabymat.com/products/baby-silicone-placemat>

The Bubble Fidget Toy

Features

- Highly portable
- Tactile and colorful
- Made of washable and reusable silicone
- Encourages fine motor skills

This toy consists of rows of silicone "bubbles" that can be pressed, just like you pop bubbles on bubble wrap. Turn it over to the other side, and it's ready to play again. It is easily tucked in a diaper bag, purse, or backpack, and can be attached to a keychain. It comes in many shapes, styles and solid and variegated colors. It is great as a texture for weight bearing, could be used on a light box and also is a good tool for exploring finger isolation, turn taking, and modified braille play. It is made of reusable and washable silicone.



Round, colorful pads are shown that have silicone "bubbles" that can be punched down; when the toy is flipped over, they can be popped back up.

The Bubble Fidget Toy is widely available in many superstores, dollar stores,

or on Amazon, ranging in price from \$5-\$30 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Sensory-Special-Reliever-Silicone-Circular-ity/dp/B08PQG9LWP/ref=smi_www_rco2_go_smi_4368549507?_encoding=UTF8&dchild=1&ie=UTF8&keywords=bubble%20fidget%20toy&qid=1627929988&sr=8-40

Recommended by Rebekah Dunda, VIPS KidsTown Preschool Classroom Assistant

SpinAgain stacking toy

Features

- Six discs of bright colors and different shapes
- Promotes hand-eye coordination
- Teaches cause and effect
- Encourages motor dexterity and visual tracking
- Made of strong, BPA free, coated ABS plastic
- Appropriate for ages 12 months on up.

The bright colors and differently shaped discs are pleasant and motivating to see, feel and hear spinning down the corkscrew pole. The toy is available for \$29.95 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/s?k=Fat+Brain+Toys+SpinAgain+Kids+Stacking+Toy&ref=nb_sb_noss_2



The toy is pictured. It is up to the shoulder of a toddler. The white center pole is a corkscrew. Colorful disks of increasing size, and with different textured edges, slide down the pole.

Recommended by Mindy Koehne, Blind/Low Vision Specialist, VIPS Indiana

“Eye Am” Subscription

Features

- Monthly book boxes
- Specifically developed for children who are visually impaired
- Incorporates skills from the Expanded Core Curriculum
- Age appropriate themes and activities
- Encourages child/family interaction

These monthly book boxes of themed activities are wonderful for your family to create, play with and learn with together.



The picture shows a plastic bin that accompanied a book. It is filled with brightly colored beads. There are plastic scoops of different sizes and other items to scoop with.

Each box includes a book related to a monthly theme, addresses sensory channels with tactile/sensory items that deepen the child’s understanding of the book and theme, and provides opportunities to further your child’s passions and interests from an early age.

The subscriptions are available for 1 month for \$30.95, 3 months for \$29.95/month or 6 consecutive months for \$28.95/month at link below.

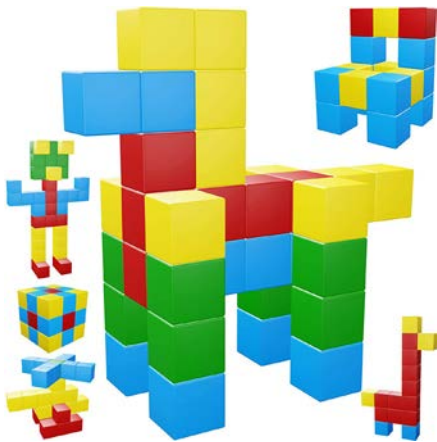
<https://www.eyeamkids.com>

Recommended by Melisa Matthews, Blind/Low Vision Specialist, VIPS Indiana

Intock Magnetic Blocks

Features

- BPA free
- High contrast
- Magnetic
- Click when “stuck” together
- Appropriate for children 3 years and up



A picture of the primary colored blocks show how they have been used to build a man, a giraffe, a chair, cube and other shapes. Because the blocks are magnetic, they can be affixed at angles without falling off.

These magnetic cubes are wonderful for developing stacking skills. They are great to use for high contrast activities and beginning pattern activities too. These blocks offer fun activities to develop imitation of play and building without all the frustration of towers that are easily knocked over. They are also excellent fidget stress relief toys for children with sensory issues or Autism. Happy building!

Intock Magnetic Blocks are available for \$30.99 (set of 40) or 69.99 (set of 100) from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Intock-Magnetic-Building-Unlimited-Imagination/dp/B07PWB7T31/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=Intock+Magnetic+Blocks&qid=1631997022&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUX-VhbGlmaWVyPUEExTTIOTDBLOFhOWTk2JmVuY3J5cHRIZEIkPUEwMjExOTY3TI-RTRUYwSEhZVU9XJmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTAzNzE1ODg0R0RNM0JHUK-dJM1Mmd2IkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGYmYWN0aW9uPWNSaWNrUmVkaX-JIY3QmZG9Ob3Rmb2dDbGljaz10cnVl

Recommended by Dixie Marz, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Developmental Interventionist, VIPS Central KY

I am recommending two of my all time favorites and "go-to" oldies but goodies.

Playskool Busy Ball Popper

Features

- Colorful and visually stimulating
- Teaches progression of fine motor skills
- Teaches cause and effect
- Easy to activate
- Replacement balls are available
- Appropriate for children 9 months and up

If working on putting items into a container is a skill that your child needs to accomplish, try the Playskool Busy Ball Popper. Purposeful release can be a difficult skill for some children to learn. Letting go of a toy into a container, which for is perceived as a deep hole, is often a challenge. I have had much success over the years using the Playskool Busy Ball Popper for this skill. First, when all the balls fly out, there is a reason to have to put the balls back in. Second, the large red circle at the top of the toy is an easy target for our children to see to release the ball on to and then watch the ball roll down the ramp. Once all the balls are back in the toy, then the child can push the button to activate again. As the child starts to learn to release onto the red circle, they will typically then start trying to release down into the hole in the middle of the toy, defining their ability to release into a smaller area.



The picture shows the brightly colored toy. There is a bowl with a hole in the center at the top with a cute character peeking over the bowl. The bowl is connected to a track with circles around to a chute. Colorful balls can be dropped through the hole into the chute, which land in a clear receptical at the bottom.

Playskool Busy Ball Popper Toy with 5 Balls is available for \$36.99 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Playskool-Explore-Popper-Amazon-Exclusive/dp/B00U5U5VWM/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=playskool%2Bbusy-%2Bball%2Bpopper%2Btoy%2Bfor%2Btoddlers&qid=1634408490&sr=8-2&th=1

Simple First Words Let's Talk Board Book – Sound Book

Features

- Great first book for picture identification
- Large, realistic photos
- Colorful
- No visual clutter
- Allows for differing levels of visual difficulty

This book is my other favorite go to item. Each page contains one picture so there is only a choice of two pictures to choose from until the last page. On the last two pages, the pictures return in a smaller size with five per page. This is a nice gradual step to identifying pictures in an array. When the child is ready to try to find even smaller pictures, the buttons on the side of the book show all ten pictures in a much smaller format and, when pushed, will say the word.

The book is available for \$13.46 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Simple-First-Words-Lets-Talk/dp/0312514212/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Simple+First+Words+Let's+Talk+Board+Book&qid=1631999489&sr=8-3

Recommended by Staci Maynard, TVI/DI, Kids Town Preschool Teacher, VIPS Louisville

2021 Gift Ideas for Building the Future

Building with materials is an amazing play activity for well-rounded child development. Children of all ages not only learn to use their imaginations but also build problem-solving skills and learn about math and science concepts such as measurement, geometry, and physics. They also learn important social lessons about sharing and working together. At times, block play can be less engaging and more complicated for some of our children with visual impairments, as it is easy to get frustrated when a structure keeps falling as one is trying to build. However, there are options that may make this activity more appealing and meaningful to them.

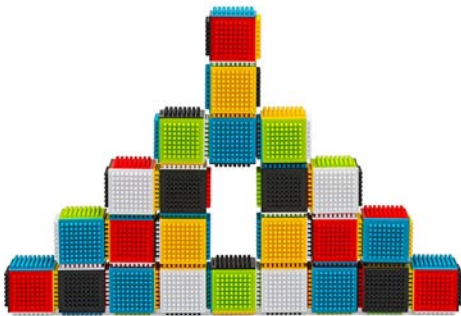
While this is our teacher holiday list, it should be said that children can build with whatever is around. Bigger items such as cereal boxes and coffee cans work just as well if not better than block products when children are first learning to build. Once gifts are unwrapped, your family could have fun building with the empty boxes, wrapping paper tubes, and decorations left around before recycling them. Here are a few retail options that have features that might be helpful as well.*

Infantino Press and Stay Sensory Blocks

Features

- Come in bold colors
- Have nubs for connecting easily
- Stay put when placed

Children with visual impairments are more likely to be successful in stacking them. Bristle blocks perform a similar function, but these are more user-friendly for beginning builders.



The image of the the brightly colored blocks show how they have sides textured with soft, short spikes, allowing them to be interlocked for structure stability.

Infantino Press and Stay Sensory Blocks (set of 24) is available for \$14.84 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Infantino-Sensory-Press-Stay-Blocks/dp/B00VXMY36G/ref=sr_1_2?crd=3KTLH6460R58I&dchild=1&keywords=infantino+sensory+press+and+stay+sensory+blocks&qid=1633629609&rdc=1&sprefix=Infantino+sensory+pre%2Caps%2C195&sr=8-2

TickiT Silishapes Soft Bricks

Features

- Made of silicone, so no sharp edges
- Easy to grasp and attach
- Come in bright, primary colors
- Translucent

My favorite feature of these blocks, which are similar to large Lego bricks, is that they are translucent so they could be a fun toy to explore on a light box for children with CVI or low vision.



The image shows the primary-colored, rectangular blocks that are shaped much like Legos, though they are larger in size and made of a softer plastic.

A set of 72 bricks is available for \$96.60 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/TickiT-SiliShapes-Soft-Bricks-Constructrion/dp/B0769Y3SXR/ref=sr_1_2?

TickiT Sensory Blocks

Features

- Come in a variety of shapes
- Have durable wooden borders
- Block interiors are translucent panels
- Blocks contain different fillers, some that make sounds



The image shows the blocks, which are triangles, semi-circles, rectangles and squares. They have translucent sides of various colors, with tiny beads, etc. inside of some the blocks.

These are another great building option for light boxes. Other manufacturers make similar blocks if you'd like to shop around.

A set of 16 TickiT Sensory Blocks is available for \$81.70 from AmazonSmile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/s?k=TickiT+Sensory+Blocks&ref=nb_sb_noss

Remember that while skills such as stacking blocks are developmental milestones, the most important aspect of block play is that children are given free rein to explore their own ideas. As adults, we can come alongside them to play, to describe what they are doing, and to ask open-ended questions about their plans and actions. (For example, talk about what shapes your child is using, ask about which of your child's towers is tallest, or discuss what your child thinks will happen if she/he puts a large block on top of a small one.) A simple gift of building materials can be the catalyst for all sorts of creative and cognitive skills development for years down the line.

*Thanks goes to Tal Ditye, Ph.D., on Mommyhood101.com for drawing my attention to these products in her article "The Best Sensory Toys of 2021" that you can check out below if you'd like additional gift ideas. While Dr. Ditye is focusing on sensory needs in general, these particular blocks should be great for our VIPS population specifically.

<https://mommyhood101.com/best-sensory-toys>

Recommendations from Tammy Maynard, Developmental Interventionist, VIPS Central KY

Wrist Rattles

Features

- Brightly colored
- Soft textures
- Make sounds
- Encourage many early skills
- Inexpensive

Parents have loved wrist rattles for years. Current options feature brightly colored wrist straps with contrasting color and 3-dimensional sound-making animal heads fashioned out of soft fabrics safe for children. Velcro closures enable most rattles to be placed on children's wrists or ankles; some rattles are also available attached to socks. The rattles encourage children to be-

come more aware of their hands, to make intentional movements so they can hear the sounds, and encourage children to bring their hands to mid-line. Little hands can explore the textures of the animals and the bright colors, often including black and white, which are preferred colors for infants, also stimulate the child's vision. The rattles also aid in the development of the child's hand, foot and eye coordination. Many options are available commercially in the \$7 to \$12 range at link below.



A baby is shown in the picture with colorful and soft rattles on her wrists that have silly animal faces, and little colorful socks rattles that have silly animal faces as well.

https://smile.amazon.com/HUGGLER-Finders-Rattles-Infants-Developmental/dp/B08HHH3GZM/ref=sr_1_15?dchild=1&keywords=Hugger+Rattles&qid=1633905488&sr=8-15

The Winkel Rattle & Sensory Teether Toy

Features

- BPA free
- Soothing
- Colorful and visually stimulating

This item is a maze of soft, continuous teething tubes that is very easy for kids to grasp and rattle. It can be refrigerated for soothing comfort while teething, a perfect baby chew toy for tiny hands. The bright colors create visual interest and this lightweight toy promotes clutching and two-handed play while the center cube encloses the rattle that provides the auditory stimulus so motivating to little ones. It is small enough to fit in a diaper bag.

Available from Amazon Smile for \$9.99 with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B000BNCA4K?pf_rd_r=J4D4YPE4D-DH1RPVGBABG&pf_rd_p=8fe9b1d0-f378-4356-8bb8-cada7525eadd&pd_rd_r=b80e4195-49ae-431c-a61b-58ff9512c692&pd_rd_w=nuVKU&pd_rd_wg=vRel0&ref=ped_gw_unk

PlayLearn Fiber Optic Lamp

Features

- Visually stimulating
- Changes colors
- Battery operated (three AAA) or USB connection

This is an awesome lamp that most families love because it is very mobile throughout the home. The interesting texture of the lighted fibers provides a sensory experience to the curious viewer.

Available for \$14.99 from Amazon from Amazon Smile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Playlearn-Fiber-Optic-Lamp-Center-piece/dp/B0821RLYKN/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=2FDJZCYPUPU8&d-child=1&keywords=playlearn+fiber+optic+lamp+color+changing+crystal+base&qid=1634397657&sprefix=PlayLearn%2Caps%2C214&sr=

The Fisher-Price Deluxe Kick 'n Play Piano Gym

Features

- Has sound and lights
- Offers multisensory activities
- Grows with baby, with activities for different developmental stages
- Soft and washable

This toy is often loved by babies to explore with their vision, touch and hearing. It goes way beyond just a play mat with four ways to play! The learning content changes with baby's age and stage of development with 3 Smart Stages (learning levels). Babies can reach, touch, grasp, focus on so many things! Most love to kick the light-up, detachable piano at the bottom, the fourth level, that features real music notes! The piano activates for music and lights, which develop fine motor/cognitive skills too! This soft machine-washable play mat features loops so babies' toys can be attached.



The picture shows a soft, baby-sized mat. At one end there are objects that baby can kick or touch to activate. A curved, cushioned bar circles over baby's head that has play items dangling from it.

Find this toy for \$39.88 at Amazon Smile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B076HYFZ37/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?encoding=UTF8&aaxitk=4cbd60d7726186e0bdc1b91059bb043c&hsa_cr_id=4591916340401&pd_rd_plhdr=t&pd_rd_r=5a068d82-8174-4d22-93a2-ae8308e7c97a&pd_rd_w=uiZ9a&pd_rd_wg=xhjOH&ref_=sbx_be_s_sparkle_mcd_asin_0_img&th=1

Recommendations from Pam Holladay, TVI/DI, Kids Town Preschool Teacher, VIPS Louisville

The SmartNoggin NogginStik Developmental Light-up Rattle

Features

- Has lights and textures
- Changes colors
- Easy to grip
- Has Parent Guide

This is a handy dandy little thing, aptly developed by SmartNoggin. The NogginStik not only lights up but the colors change (soft red, blue and green) to promote visual stimulation and encourage visual tracking skills. The mirror on the bottom is a bonus. Little ones can grip the stem and enjoy the fun textures that delight the sense of touch. The SmartNoggin plays a pleasant tune. It comes with a Parent Guide that includes a milestone checklist for the first 12 months of baby's life.

Available for \$22.99 from Amazon Smile with link below.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=smarnoggin+nogginstik+developmental+light-up+rattle&crd=1GR1XEV4KEDLT&sprefix=Smarnoggin%-2Caps%2C196&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_4_11

The Skip Hop Developmental Learning Shape Sorter - Explore & More Sort and Spin Yeti

Features

- Talks, plays music, and giggles
- Colorful shape sorter
- Accommodates progressive developmental stages

This Yeti-inspired interactive learning toy teaches shapes and colors in 3 stages of play: Yeti talks, moves, and plays music; switches to a shape

sorter with reinforcing lights, music, phrases and giggles; then spins and pops out (unloads) the shapes for the kiddos to sort again. The Yeti helps develop fine motor, hand-eye coordination, problem solving and cause and effect skills. It plays over 50 songs, sounds and phrases.



The image shows a white plastic, sitting Yeti with arms and legs. He has a smiling face. His tummy features colorful buttons, in various shapes, that light up and can be pushed for sound.

Available for \$25.54 from Amazon Smile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Skip-Hop-305411-Spinning-Developmental/dp/B07X5YLJB3/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Skip+hop+shape+sorting+yeti&qid=1633908967&rdc=1&sr=8-1

Recommendations from Lesley Lusher, Developmental Interventionist, VIPS Central Kentucky

Spike, the Fine Motor Hedgehog

Features

- Bright colors
- Fine motor game
- Promotes development of a variety of fine motor and cognitive skills
- Comes with 6" diameter hedgehog and 12 quills

This is a great toy for working on visual motor skills and fine motor skills of taking objects out of a container and putting them back in. The bright colors are visually appealing for little ones. Spike is a good toy for matching and identifying colors, same and different, and to encourage visual scanning. The plastic base comes with 12 spikes, shaped and sized to fit small hands.



An image of the toy shows a little “hedgehog” with brown face and a blue, rounded back, that is covered with holes. Colorful pegs can be grasped and put into the holes for counting or fine motor skills.

Available for \$14.99 from Amazon Smile with link below.

<https://smile.amazon.com/s?k=Learning+Resources+Spike+The+Fine+Motor+Hedgehog>

The Battat Shapes & Sounds Shape Sorter

Features

- Colorful
- Visually stimulating
- 3 basic shapes
- Appropriate for 18 months and up

This is a great first shape sorter toy and also encourages cause and effect learnings. When the child puts the correct shape in the hole, the toy makes a funny sound as the shape descends to the bottom. Because it has only 3 shapes, the child has more chances for success. Once the child has put the shapes in the correct chutes, she can practice turning the toy over to get the shapes out.



The image of the shape sorter shows that it has an aqua top and base connected by 3 clear tubes. The top has 3 holes -- circle, triangle and square -- through which the child can drop those shapes. The shapes have knobs at the top that are painted with animal faces. Other rods between top and bottom contain shapes that can be manipulated, but not removed.

Available for \$9.99 from Amazon Smile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/Battat-BT2600Z-Shapes-Sounds-Sorter/dp/B07S7D3CPQ/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Battat+Sound+Puzzle+Box-&qid=1633659418&sr=8-2

The Fisher-Price Bright Beats Juniors – Beat Bo

Features

- Colorful
- Has lights, music and movement
- Easily activated

This is a popular toy with the infant/toddler group. It is great for working on cause and effect. There are different sizes and slightly different variations of these toys, which is a nice way to introduce a slightly different toy with similar characteristics.



The toy pictured is standing. He has over-sized, blue feet with buttons. His torso contains a keypad to activate various features. He has a smiling face and one of his arms is raised in a wave. Rainbow striped bunny ears completes his appearance.

Available for \$17.99 from Amazon Smile with link below.

https://smile.amazon.com/s?k=Fisher-Price+Bright+Beats+Juniors+-+BeatBo&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Wishing You a Happy Thanksgiving!

We Are Thankful for YOU!

Thank you for sharing your precious children with us!

Thank you for opening your homes and arms to us!

Thank you for taking our recommendations to heart and putting them into action with your children!

Thank you for your advocacy!

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Please consider making a donation to our annual holiday fundraiser or purchase an item or two from one of our wish lists – links below.

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