

Put some away

Toys - when to rotate them

Some time (maybe even now) your child will have more toys than she can use, or more than there is room for. When this happens, she may drift from one toy to another for only brief and superficial play, according to *Growing Child*, the monthly child development newsletter.

This is a sign that it is time to put some of the toys away for a while, leaving only current favorites. With a more limited selection of toys, a child will learn to be more inventive and resourceful in looking for new ways to play with each toy, and her attention span will get longer.

From time to time, switch toys from storage to playroom for an ever-changing variety. A rainy day is a good time for this activity: exchanging "old" toys for "new" toys can help overcome boredom. If a child is old enough, she can help decide which toys to put away and which to bring out.

These periodic switches offer you a good opportunity to examine the toys. If any parts are missing, write to the manufacturer for replacements. If any repairs are needed, do them. If the toy is damaged beyond repair, discard it or salvage whatever may be reusable. A "junk" box of old toy parts can be a treasure chest to an older child who likes to tinker with construction projects.

Never throw away a useable toy, even though you think a child has surely outgrown it. Children play with toys in different ways at different ages. A feature that might not have been evident originally may offer pleasure a year or two later.

A child who is sick in bed recovering from an illness often prefers a less challenging toy, one she has played with earlier. Besides, it's always good to have a selection of toys for younger children, whether visitors or your own. Save good toys; they may turn out to be another generation's treasures!

Growing Child has a catalog of unique, educational toys, books, and records for children up to six years old. To get a copy, send \$1 to CATALOG, P.O. Box 620N, Lafayette, Indiana 47902.



ROTATING TOYS - Parents must learn when and how to rotate their children's toys. Such rotation procedures keep the

children from getting bored easily. Here, Jennifer plays with some of the toys her mother has left out for her.

Select toys for a reason

One of the joys of Christmas is watching the faces of children as they open their gifts. Dr. Anne Keller, Director of the state Health Department's Division of Rehabilitation, who is a pediatrician and a parent, says much thought should be given to the purchase of toys and playthings.

She says they should be selected to suit the age, abilities and temperament of the child.

"Toys for infants and toddlers should be too large to be swallowed, soft enough to 'give' if fallen upon, contain no sharp edges, points, wires or pins, and be constructed so there are no small parts that can be pulled or broken off, and swallowed.

"Young children should also not be given toys with parts that could be pulled or broken off. Toys that shoot projectiles should be reserved for older children and even then the toys should be carefully examined to be certain that projectiles have soft tips and are hurled with little force.

"Toys that operate by plugging into an electrical outlet should contain the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label, and all toys should be checked to be certain they are non-flammable and paints are lead-free.

"Finally," Dr. Keller says, "Don't put a small child's toys in a wooden or metal toy chest with a hinged lid. There is too much danger of the lid falling and injuring the child fatally."

Choosing the right gift

Imagine the smiling faces that surround the Christmas tree this year as you offer the perfect gift for the angler in your family. Buying something meaningful has grown more and more difficult, but, if there is an angler in your family or a close friend that enjoys the sport, gift giving this year can be simplified.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has placed licenses on sale throughout the Commonwealth, just in time for the gift giving season, and what could be more appropriate than to give a year's worth of angling pleasure?

License prices remain unchanged over last year with resident licenses costing \$12, resident senior (65 years or older) \$2, resident senior lifetime \$10. Nonresident licenses will go for \$20, and 7-day tourist

\$15. Issuing agent fees of 50 cents will be tacked on to the purchase price of all licenses.

One reminder, however, before you hop in the car for a quick trip to the local tackle store, be sure and jot down some pertinent information. You'll need to know all the information asked for on the application—things such as date of birth, color of hair and eyes, height and weight.

Licenses are available throughout the Commonwealth at over 1700 license issuing agents, including county treasurers' offices. Why not give a lasting gift this year, something that will assure a genuine smile on Christmas morning. And anglers will need their 1984 license by January 1, so your gift will arrive just in time for the coming year.