

# Holiday Gift Guide

## POA gift suggestions

Children of all ages love to Christmas shop for toys and games. This year when selecting presents for the children on your Christmas list, consider giving toys and games that contribute to the child's vision development, says the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA).

The vision skills needed during infancy and preschool years are the same skills a child will need to learn to read, to participate in sports, to learn in school, to drive a car and to perform any tasks in life. The POA offers gift ideas for babies through five months of age that help stimulate an infant's sense of sight.

Those toys suggested for older age groups will help develop a child's general movement skills, including the eye-hand coordination skills required for writing and participating in sports; shape and discrimination skills needed for reading and visualization and visual memory skills needed for comprehension and for the ability to inter-

pret concepts.

The POA recommends the following toys:

- Birth to five months: crib mobiles; sturdy, bright, large rattles; large bright balls; bright rubber squeak toys.
- Six months to 18 months: large balls and blocks; wooden blocks; toys requiring sorting of shapes and sizes; large puzzles, riding toys pushed with the feet, not pedaled.
- Eighteen months to three years: toys requiring hammering of pegs; beanbag or ring-toss games; toys requiring sorting of shapes and sizes; large puzzles; wooden blocks, toys encouraging crawling; tricycle; rocking horse; large balls.
- Three to six years: building toys with large components that snap together; stringing beads; puzzles; chalkboard; crayons; finger paints; modeling clay; simple sewing cards; large balls; toys calling for matching up parts; peg board.

**PHOTOGRAPHY & ART**

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