

Twirl Present Perfect

Stuck on what to buy? Why not start here with this list of age-appropriate toys, compiled by the American Association of Pediatrics? For each category, we've suggested a toy from our own range that would make the perfect present for the child you are buying for.

Newborn to 1-year-old baby

Choose brightly colored, appealing toys that are made with safe materials, and that will be used by a child through several stages of development.

1. Cloth, plastic or board books with large pictures

*We suggest: Organic cotton toys by MiYim or **Skwish Natural by Manhattan (ASTRA Best Toy 2009)**.*

2. Large blocks of wood or plastic

We suggest: Rubbablox by Plasmart

3. Pots and pans

We suggest: Wooden Cookware, Melissa & Doug

4. Rattles

We suggest: Green Sprouts Wood Rattle, iPlay

5. Soft, washable animals, dolls or balls

*We suggest: Towel Dolls, Peppa (Fair Trade) or **Sophie the Giraffe by Calisson Inc (ASTRA Best Toy 2009)**.*

6. Bright, movable objects that are out of baby's reach

We suggest: Squirrel Mobile, Nova Natural

7. Busy boards

We suggest: Activity Walker, Maxim

8. Floating bath toys

We suggest: Rubber Duck by bud

9. Squeeze toys

We suggest: Oball Rattle, Rhino

1- to 2-year-old toddler

Toys for this age should be safe and able to withstand a toddler's curious nature.

1. Cloth, plastic or board books with large pictures

We suggest: "In My Den", by Sarah Gillingham

2. Sturdy dolls

We suggest: Baby Stella, Manhattan Toys

3. Kiddy cars

We suggest: Rubbabu Cars and Planes, Plasmart

4. Musical tops

We suggest: Train Top, Schylling

5. Push and pull toys

We suggest: Take Along Puppy/Shark/Toucan by Manhattan Toy

6. Stacking & Nesting Blocks

We suggest: Dado Cubes, Fat Brain Toys or Wee Wedgits 30 piece set by Imagability (ASTRA Best Toy 2009).

2- to 5-year-old preschooler

Toys for this age group can be creative or imitate the activity of parents and older children.

1. Books

We suggest: "Only One You" by Linda Kranz (comes with stuffed animal)

2. Blackboard and chalk

We suggest: Natural Slate, Merry Thoughts

3. Building blocks

*We suggest: Giant Blocks, Smart Monkey or Soft Blocks, Weeplay or **Automoblox by Manhattan Toy (ASTRA Best Toy 2009).***

4. Crayons, nontoxic finger paints, clay

We suggest: Soy Crayon Rocks, Crayon Rocks or Colorix Pastel Watercolor Crayons

5. Hammer and bench

We suggest: 15pc Tool Set, Green Toys

6. Housekeeping toys

*We suggest: **Shopping cart, Melissa & Doug Tea Set by Green Toy (ASTRA Best Toy 2009).***

7. Outdoor toys: sandbox (with a lid), slide, swing, playhouse

We suggest: Cardboard Castle, Cardboard Design; Bilibo, Active People, or Maverick Pogo Stick

8. Transportation toys (tricycles, cars, wagons)

We suggest: Kettler Bikes and Trikes

9. Simple puzzles with large pieces

We suggest: Floor Puzzles, Melissa & Doug

10. Dress-up clothes

*We suggest: **Dragon/Knight Reversible Cape & Hood by Creative Education of Canada (ASTRA Best Toy 2009).***

11. Tea party utensils

*We suggest: **Tea Set by Green Toy (ASTRA Best Toy 2009)***

5- to 9-year-old child

Toys for this age group should help your child develop new skills and creativity.

1. Blunt scissors, sewing sets

We suggest: Stitch it dolly kit, The Little Experience

2. Card games

We suggest: Matching Games by Eeboo

3. Doctor and nurse kits

We suggest: Doctor Kit, Haba

4. Hand puppets

We suggest: Finger Puppets, Manhattan Toy

5. Crafts

We suggest: Space Explorer Kit, The Little Experience

6. Paper dolls

We suggest: Magnetic Paper Dolls, Mudpuppy

7. Jump ropes

We suggest: Super Skip Rope, Channelcraft

8. Sports equipment

We suggest: Soccer Ball, Fair Trade; Plasma Car, Plasmart

9. Table games

*We suggest: **Bananagrams by Bananagrams, LLC (ASTRA Best Toy 2009)**.*

10- to 14-year-old child

Hobbies and scientific activities are ideal for this age group.

1. Sewing, knitting, needlework

We suggest: Knitting Crochet, Klutz or Sew Fun, Alex

2. Microscopes/telescopes

We suggest: Star Tracker, Tedco or Rocket Telescope, Tedco

3. Table and board games

We suggest: Cribbage or Ball of Whacks, 16 Puzzle

4. Sports equipment

We suggest: Fair Trade soccer balls, or visit a specialist sports retailer.

5. Hobby collections

We suggest: Power House, Thames & Kosmos