



The winter holidays are fast approaching!
 Below are some guidelines for choosing
 toys for your children. If you have any
 questions or need assistance please contact
 your child's OT or PT.

Happy Holidays!

*****Please keep in mind*****

**these are only guidelines and in no way
 an endorsement from Nassau BOCES** for
 a specific toy or company, nor is it
 inclusive of the many wonderful toy or
 activity choices out there.)



Toy selection guidelines

If your child :

Provide:

<p>Enjoys looking at things</p>	<p>mobiles (musical or silent) brightly colored picture books safety mirrors/reflective toys moveable wind-up toys wind-up wands</p>
<p>Enjoys listening to stories, Music, sounds</p>	<p>mobiles with music, music boxes, toys which make music or sounds, books which make sounds, a radio, a "tablet"/internet, rattles, musical instruments</p>
<p>Enjoys touching textures</p>	<p>Activity boards Soft textured balls Tactile books "crazy foam", "silly soap" (supervise to avoid getting in mouth or eyes) Sensory toys Plush pillows, "pillowpets", stuffed animals</p>
<p>Enjoys reaching towards targets</p>	<p>Toys that move when touched Switch activated toys toys with a suction base toy piano, toy drum (manual or electric- electric will probably give a more immediate response)</p>

(continued)	<p>“hungry Hippo” game bop-it punching bag</p>
Enjoys reaching an grabbing/hitting a target	<p>Squeeze toys, squeeze bottle Blocks rattles xylophone “busy box”</p>
Is able to tolerate “Tummy-time” (position of being on their stomach, propped on a pillow or propped on elbows)	<p>Activity boards “wind-up TV” activity cubes</p>
Is able to sit supported or unsupported	<p>Swings with bucket type seat and straps for safety Rocking horse with seat “exersaucer”</p>
Is able to use two hands together	<p>Large pop beads Play doh “Koosh” balls “pop-tubes” (accordion tubes)</p>
Is able to manipulate objects (use fingers and hands more precisely)	<p>Large stringing beads Toys which have peg-like figures (“Little People” by Fisher Price)</p>
Is able to control fine motor movements	<p>Small beads Easy remote control toys with large buttons (“Little Tykes” Tire Twister or Bumper cars) Stacking rings Puzzles blocks pegs construction toys like “duplo” building blocks bristle blocks</p>
Shows an interest in scribbling/coloring	<p>crayons paper coloring books with large pictures markers give strong, bright color and immediate feedback -use with supervision chalk board/easel Soap “crayons” (to be used in the tub)</p>
Demonstrates basic concepts of colors, shapes, letters, and numbers	<p>Picture books of colrs, shapes, letters, numbers Simple inset puzzles Electronic toys which focus on these concepts Matching games Magnetic letters, numbers, etc to use on the refrigerator or magnetic board</p>
(continued)	

Is able to crawl	Toys which move when touched Toys to be “chased”; that roll or can move Crawl tunnel
Is able to pull to standing, take steps while holding on	Play kitchen/work bench-MAKE SURE IT IS AGAINST A WALL AND SECURELY POSITIONED TO PREVENT FALLING !
Walks with a little support	Sturdy push toys (you may want to put a little weight in it or on it-check with PT or OT) “V-tech” and “little Tyke” makes activity walkers, for example
Walks independently	Pull toys (wagon) Push toys (baby carriage, shopping cart) Riding toys
Is able to write or draw (or skills emerging)	Activity books Electronic games with writing component Arts and crafts “Magna Doodle” easel

NOTE: As skills improve and interests change follow the interests of your child. Also, see if the toy store will allow you to “try out” a toy before you buy it or of someone you know has a toy you may be interested in, try it out first.

Please consider all safety precautions in choosing a toy for your child. Read all labels and supervisor your child with any new toy to see how they play with it. It may be very different from the intended use of the toy.

In addition to this list, you can find some helpful choices on the internet. When you google “toys for children with special needs” a lot of very good ideas come up. You know your child best and can make the best choice for them. We hope this list is helpful. Keep it past the winter holidays as a reference for birthdays or other toy purchases. Please contact your child’s therapist if you need any further assistance.

JUST AN FYI:

In addition to, or instead of toys, you may be looking to purchase clothing for your child or young adult. Some additional info on this. The “TODAY” show ran a segment featuring TARGET stores and that they are carrying a line of clothing for kids with special needs. It may be for young children but it was designed by a mom of a child with special needs. It may be worth looking into. It is “Cat and Jack” clothing and called “Design for All”. You can google this for more information or ask at your local Target store.

Happy Holidays !