

Too Many Toys? <https://positiveparentingnews.org/news-reports/too-many-toys/>

Toys can be terrific learning tools. Play builds spatial skills, motor skills, and social skills. But when talking about toys, can there be too much of a good thing? Social scientists studied groups of toddlers during free play sessions. When the kids had just four toys, as opposed to other times when they had 16 toys, the interactions were almost twice as long. This suggests that the kids had time for quality play—meaning they used the toy in different ways beneficial for development.

Choosing Safe Toys <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/safe-toys.html>

This website offers guidelines, in English and [Spanish](#), for choosing and using toys safely. Check out the box on the top right corner of the site for suggestions for infants, toddlers, and school-age children.

Good Toys for Young Children by Age and Stage <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/play/toys>

In addition to being safe, good toys for young children need to match their stages of development and emerging abilities. Many safe and appropriate play materials are free items typically found at home. As you read the following lists of suggested toys for children of different ages, keep in mind that each child develops at an individual pace.

Best Toys for Baby <https://positiveparentingnews.org/news-reports/best-toys-for-baby/>

Toys aren't what they used to be. Gone are the days of building blocks and wooden trains; today's toys actually talk to you and let you respond back. But research is showing that these innovative devices may affect how parents interact with their babies. Go to the URL above to read more or watch a video in English or [Spanish](#).

Tips for Choosing Toys for Toddlers

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1076-tips-for-choosing-toys-for-toddlers>

Rebecca Parlakian's article shares some ideas for choosing toys that will grow with your child, challenge her, and nurture her overall development (her thinking, physical, language and social-emotional skills).

Making Toys Work for Each and Every Child

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/sites/stemie.fpg.unc.edu/files/A%20Guide%20to%20Adaptations%20508v2.pdf>

The **STEMIE** project supports the use of adaptations to ensure that young children with disabilities can fully participate and engage, particularly in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) experiences. Their *Guide to Adaptations* offers evidence-based ideas for evidence-based and playful environments, materials, and interactions. Check out the materials section to get ideas about selecting and modifying toys.

Girl Toys vs. Boy Toys <https://youtu.be/nWu44AqF0il>

Are there differences in the toys adults choose for children of different genders? And who is better at making the choices; male caregivers or female caregivers? Watch and learn.

GUMDROPS: My gift to you this holiday season is not one, but two gumdrops. Enjoy!

What Counts at the Holidays is Being There for Each Other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTjtguall9E>

I Think You Should Open This One <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkAVtSFecQM>

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources in English and Spanish are [highlighted](#). Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu