



## AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS: BIRTH TO 6 MONTHS

Shelby County Early Childhood Center:  
Occupational Therapy Department

### Age Appropriate Toys Birth To 6 Months

#### Birth to 3 months

In a baby's first months, your baby will most appreciate things that he/she can look at and listen to due to their fuzzy vision. High contrast patterns and bright colors usually captivate newborns because they are the easiest to see. Young babies also enjoy objects that move slowly and gentle sound or music.

- **Hand-held toys:**  
Rattles, large rings, squeeze toys, teething toys, soft dolls, and stuffed animals, etc.
- **Mobile**
- **Soft books with high-contrast patterns**
- **Sensory toys:**  
Soft toys that trills or tweets
- **Sing songs and play with baby**



#### 3 months to 6 months

Baby's at this stage like to use his/her hands. They like to suck on their fingers, use them to grasp a toy that has been placed in their hands, reaching for toys. They soon learn how to pass a toy back and forth between their hands and explore the toys before usually placing in his/her mouths.

- **Activity Center**  
This is a toy that has a rack/bar that comes with dangling toys that a baby can lay underneath and play with the toys.
- **Lightweight rattles**
- **Soft stuffed animals**
- **Squeaky rubber toys**
- **Board books**
- **Colorful teething rings**
- **Activity quilts or play-mats**
- **Sing songs, play, and read books to baby**

#### Pictures of toys:



### **\*Remember\***

**Toys can be choking hazards. Please supervise your child at all times. Please know your child as some of these toys may not be appropriate for your child.**



## AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS: 6 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS

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### Age Appropriate Toys 6 months to 12 months

#### 6 months to 9 months

At this age, babies begin to play more vigorously. Their movements are becoming more precise with both fine motor skills (hand skills) as well as gross motor skills (sitting, crawling).

- **Books (Cloth or board books)**

Reading books together can help increase his/her language development.

- **Busy Board**

Usually these toys have parts that move and spin, poking, twisting, squeezing, etc.

- **Soft dolls or stuffed animals**

- **Balls**

Lightweight fabric balls or medium rubber balls. Not foam balls as babies can take bites out of it.

- **Household items**

Plastic bowls, measuring cups, wooden spoons, etc. No heavy items or sharp utensils.

- **Wood or soft blocks**

Stack blocks, knock them down, put them in containers to dump out, etc.

- **Moving toys**

Sturdy large cars or toys that pop up when your baby pushes the right spot.



#### 9 months to 12 months

At this age babies may be attempting to army crawl, crawl, cruising, walking to get to places and toys that he/she want. They will want to move, grab, and get into everything that used to be out of reach. They also like to put toys and items into their mouths at this stage as well.

- **Push toys**

- **Shape sorters**

- **Balls**

Medium sized balls to decrease choking hazards as well as no foam balls.

- **Toy telephones**

- **Books**

Sturdy books with flaps, pull tabs, different textures

- **Blocks**

Large rubber or wooden blocks to stack and knock down

- **Plastic bucket and shovels**

These can be fun in supervised bath time and in sand boxes.

- **Read and play with your child**

#### Pictures of toys:



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## AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS: 12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS

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### Age Appropriate Toys 12 months to 24 months

#### Pictures of toys:

#### 12 months to 18 months

Usually at this age, your child is very active and both your child's fine motor skills, language skills, and gross motor skills are more refined and coordinated. At this age, your child also likes repetition as they learn.

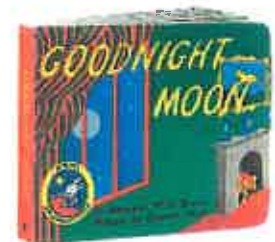
- Large building blocks
  - Push and pull toys
  - Sorting or nesting toys
  - Climbing gym
  - Balls
- No foam balls as these can be choking hazards.
- Washable crayons and paper
  - Ride-on vehicles
  - Picture books



#### 18 months to 24 months

Children at this age love toys that have actions/activities involved in them such as pop-up toys, trucks with doors. Children like to imitate actions they see caregivers completing, like serving food, sweeping, etc.

- Toys to play house  
Little tables and chairs, small rakes and brooms, small shopping carts, etc.
  - Large and small blocks
  - Toy instruments
  - Puzzles
- Thick easy to manipulate wooden pieces as well as fewer pieces. Large knob puzzles will be easier to manipulate whereas smaller peg puzzles will be more difficult.
- Illustrated books
  - Train sets
  - Balls
- Activities to kick, roll, and throw
- Washable crayons and paper



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## AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS: 2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS

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### Age Appropriate Toys: 2 years to 3 years

Pictures of toys:

#### 2 years to 2 1/2 years

Usually at this age, children want to be independent and active.

- Ride-on toys
- Balls
- Art supplies

Such as washable crayons, markers, paper

- Percussive instruments
- Dress-up clothing
- Child-size household equipment

Such as child-sized kitchen supplies, brooms, vacuums, etc

- Constructions toys

Such as building blocks or toys that can be linked or snapped together

- Puzzles and manipulatives

Such as nesting cups, 4-5 piece puzzles

- Books

Read your child's favorite books and then have them "pretend" to read it back.

#### 2 1/2 years to 3 years

Children may at this age enjoy imaginative play such as a cardboard box that can be turned into a wagon, spaceship, a fort, etc.

- Puzzles
- Child-sized household equipment

Such as child-sized kitchen supplies, brooms, vacuums, etc.

- Construction sets
- Building blocks to stack and make different structures or Megablocks

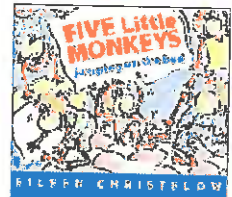
- Art Supplies
- Washable crayons, markers, watercolor paints, fingerpaint, coloring books, paper

- Outdoor equipment
- Such as balls, swings, miniature basketballs and hoops, etc.

- Books
- Read your child's favorite books and then have them "pretend" to read it back.

- Play-Doh
- Can use play-doh equipment or cookie cutters. Watch out for children who may put this in their mouth

- Mr. Potato Head
- Be careful with small pieces



#### **\*Remember\***

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