

THE HOLIDAY TOY TEST

TOYS CHILDREN WILL ACTUALLY PLAY WITH

A milestone-minded guide for babies and toddlers, birth through age two

Toys Children Will Actually Play With

and Parents Can Feel Good About Giving

Every parent has opened a toy that looked promising in the box, only to watch their child become more interested in the packaging.

That is why we created the Kids on the Move Holiday Toy Test. We looked beyond flashing lights and long feature lists to find toys children can reach for, shake, stack, carry, open, pretend with, knock over, and return to again tomorrow.

The toys in this guide give children room to play, practice, experiment, and lead. Each stage includes a quick milestone snapshot and every KOTM pick from the original age-group collections.

What made the list

- Easy for children to use
- Useful across more than one stage
- More than one way to play
- Worth the space it takes up
- Room for the child to lead
- Invites connection with a caregiver

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Infants
0-3 months

Build a strong foundation through sensory play.

What may be emerging

- look at your face and briefly focus on nearby objects
- follow a face, bold image, or slowly moving toy with their eyes
- respond to voices and sounds with movement or quiet attention
- lift and turn their head during short, supervised tummy-time sessions
- open their hands more often and make early swiping or reaching movements
- settle, smile, or become alert during familiar routines and interaction

Keep the toy box simple

Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL HOLIDAY PICKS FOR 0-3 MONTHS

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 15

1 Lovevery The Play Gym



Its staged design can adapt as a baby grows, with defined areas for looking, reaching, and floor play.

SUPPORTS tummy time, visual attention, early reaching, shared play

SHOP THIS PICK

2 Baby Einstein 4 in 1 Kickin Tunes Music and Language Gym



The mat combines floor play with music and kick-activated features, giving active babies opportunities to move and begin noticing cause and effect.

SUPPORTS kicking, listening, visual attention, early cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

3 Blissful Diary Baby Play Gym with Five Development Zones

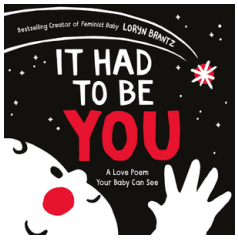


This option combines a soft play space, hanging toys, a mirror, and visual features in one midrange gym.

SUPPORTS tummy time, face and mirror interest, reaching, movement

SHOP THIS PICK

4 It Had to Be You by Loryn Brantz



This high-contrast book pairs bold newborn-friendly artwork with a loving read-aloud message, making it a strong choice for both visual play and connection.

SUPPORTS visual attention, listening, bonding, early language

SHOP THIS PICK

5 URMYWO Black and White Tummy Time Toy



The foldout format can stand near a baby during floor play, and the mirror adds another highly motivating visual target.

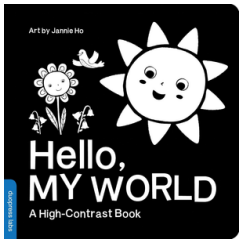
SUPPORTS tummy time, head turning, visual scanning, face interest

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 15

6 Hello My World by duopress labs

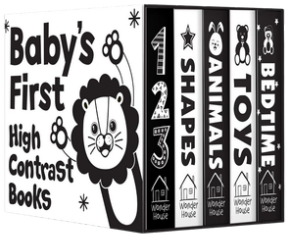


Large black-and-white pictures make this board book easy to use for calm, one-image-at-a-time visual play.

SUPPORTS visual attention, shared reading, listening

SHOP THIS PICK

7 Babys First High Contrast Books Boxed Set by Wonder House Books



A multi-book set provides variety for families who want high-contrast images available in several rooms or routines.

SUPPORTS visual attention, shared language, routine-based connection

SHOP THIS PICK

8 What Does Baby See by Peter Pauper Press



This padded high-contrast board book offers a sturdy first-book format with simple images for repeated looking.

SUPPORTS tracking, visual attention, early book routines

SHOP THIS PICK

9 VN3BTOY High Contrast Black and White Sea Mobile



The bold sea-creature shapes create strong visual separation, making this one of the clearest newborn-focused mobile choices in the collection.

SUPPORTS visual attention, tracking, calm observation

SHOP THIS PICK

10 HyDren Black and White Crib Mobile



This mobile combines black-and-white hanging shapes with matching visual cards, offering flexibility for both overhead looking and supervised floor play.

SUPPORTS tracking, visual attention, tummy-time looking

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 11-15 of 15

11 VN3BTOY Dinosaur High Contrast Black and White Mobile



The graphic dinosaur theme provides bold shapes in a playful design while maintaining the contrast that is useful for young babies.

SUPPORTS visual attention, tracking, sustained looking

SHOP THIS PICK

12 Vlokup Montessori Black and White Mobile



The mix of hanging elements and contrast cards gives parents several ways to create simple visual play without buying separate products.

SUPPORTS tracking, tummy-time attention, visual exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

13 Flora and Ivy Woodland Mobile



The woodland characters and mix of light and dark details provide a warm, playful focal point that can continue to feel age appropriate as a baby grows.

SUPPORTS calm observation, visual attention, shared naming

SHOP THIS PICK

14 LETS MAKE Boho Baby Crib Mobile



The moon, stars, and cloud shapes create a soft, uncluttered scene for families who prefer a neutral nursery design.

SUPPORTS calm looking, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

15 Goukurlsma Green Leaf Forest Baby Mobile



The repeated leaves and natural colors offer a gentle visual pattern and a nature-inspired alternative to character mobiles.

SUPPORTS visual attention, calm observation

SHOP THIS PICK



Infants
4-6 months

Reach, grasp, explore textures, and enjoy playful moments

What may be emerging

- hold their head steadier and push up during supervised tummy time
- reach toward and grasp a toy placed within view
- bring hands and safe objects to the mouth to explore
- hold, shake, or bang a lightweight toy
- use both hands together and begin passing an object from one hand to the other
- roll, pivot, or use their arms to explore more of the floor
- laugh, squeal, babble, and enjoy back-and-forth play with familiar people

Keep the toy box simple
Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL 11 PICKS FOR THIS STAGE

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 11

1 Itzy Ritzy Mini Maracas Musical Set



The two mushroom-shaped rattles provide different sizes and grip points, giving little hands options for holding and shaking.

SUPPORTS grasping, two-hand play, listening, early cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

2 RIY Soft Baby Lion Hand Rattle



The soft plush body, narrow handle, and fabric textures make this a gentle first rattle for babies who are learning to maintain a grasp.

SUPPORTS grasping, texture exploration, listening, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

3 HUADADA Soft Giraffe Rattle Shaker



The long, narrow body offers several places to grasp, while the bright face, feet, and sound invite looking and movement.

SUPPORTS reaching, grasping, shaking, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

4 Bright Starts Snuggle and Teethe Crinkle Giraffe



This soft toy combines a crinkle response with textured teething areas and a body that can be held with one or both hands.

SUPPORTS grasping, crinkle cause and effect, texture exploration, mouthing

SHOP THIS PICK

5 Nuby Jackie the Giraffe Super Soft Teether



The animal shape provides several textured areas and angles for safe oral exploration while remaining easy to recognize and hold.

SUPPORTS mouthing, grasping, texture exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 11

6 TUMAMA Black and White Hanging Toys with Mirror

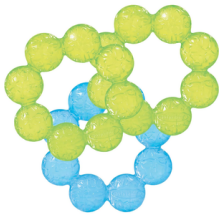


The set combines hanging soft toys, contrast cards, and a mirror to support reaching during floor play as visual skills continue developing.

SUPPORTS swatting, reaching, mirror interest, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

7 Infantino Water Teethers



The linked ring shapes offer a simple grip and several textured surfaces, making them useful for both holding and mouthing.

SUPPORTS grasping, hand-to-mouth coordination, texture exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

8 Bright Starts Chill and Teethe Water Filled Teethers



The three lightweight shapes provide different handles and textured edges at an accessible price point.

SUPPORTS grasping, mouthing, texture exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

9 Vicloon Silicone Teething Mitt Two Pack



A wearable mitt can help babies who bring their hands to their mouths but are not yet able to hold a separate teether consistently.

SUPPORTS hand-to-mouth coordination, texture exploration, self-directed mouthing

SHOP THIS PICK

10 NUZROX Elk Silicone Teething Toy with Rattle



The elk shape combines a central rattle with textured silicone edges and multiple grasp points.

SUPPORTS grasping, shaking, mouthing, early cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 11-11 of 11

11

Meartchy Remote Control and Game Controller Teethers



The controller-inspired shapes include buttons and textured edges that provide several places to hold and mouth.

SUPPORTS two-hand exploration, grasping, texture exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

Infants
4-6 months

Explore cause and effect, practice grasping, and enjoy moving during play



- sit with less support and use both hands to play
- move a toy from one hand to the other
- rake or scoop small safe objects with their fingers
- bang two toys together, shake them, or drop them repeatedly
- look for an object that falls or becomes partly hidden
- turn, pivot, roll, scoot, or crawl to reach something interesting
- respond to their name, make varied sounds, and enjoy familiar social games

Keep the toy box simple
Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL 12 PICKS FOR THIS STAGE

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 12

1

IEATFO Tummy Time Mirror Play Set



The large mirror and separate contrast cards can be positioned for tummy time, supported sitting, or floor play as movement skills change.

SUPPORTS mirror interest, reaching, sitting balance, visual exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

2

ZICOTO Soft Tummy Time Book with Baby Safe Mirror



The soft foldout format combines a mirror, bold pictures, and fabric elements in an easy-to-position book.

SUPPORTS grasping, turning, mirror play, texture exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

3

URMYWO Tummy Time Mirror Toy



The triangular activity format can remain upright while a baby sits or moves around it, providing several visual and tactile play surfaces.

SUPPORTS sitting play, reaching, visual exploration, hand use

SHOP THIS PICK

4

Kids Preferred Sesame Street Elmo Jack in the Box



The familiar Elmo character, music, and predictable pop-up create a playful routine that can support shared attention.

SUPPORTS anticipation, listening, visual attention, social play

SHOP THIS PICK

5

Kids Preferred Curious George Jack in the Box



The storybook artwork and plush Curious George offer another character-based version of the same repeatable cause-and-effect game.

SUPPORTS anticipation, shared attention, early memory, reaching

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 12

6 Kids Preferred Guess How Much I Love You Jack in the Box



The Nutbrown Hare design pairs a gentle storybook theme with music and a pop-up surprise.

SUPPORTS listening, anticipation, connection, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

7 Kids Preferred Disney Baby Winnie the Pooh Jack in the Box



The Winnie the Pooh version provides the same sequence in a familiar, colorful design for families who prefer this character.

SUPPORTS cause and effect, anticipation, shared play

SHOP THIS PICK

8 Munchkin Bath Bobbers Three Count



The upright bobbing animals are easy to push, tip, retrieve, and watch return to position.

SUPPORTS reaching, grasp and release, visual tracking, cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

9 XAWACAH Ocean Floating Animal Bath Toys



The colorful ocean-animal set provides several floating shapes for reaching, retrieving, and simple naming play.

SUPPORTS grasping, visual attention, releasing, early language

SHOP THIS PICK

10 Munchkin Float and Play Bubbles Four Count



Clear floating balls allow babies to see the small characters and objects move inside as the toys roll and bob.

SUPPORTS two-hand exploration, tracking, listening, cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 11-12 of 12

11

tinyhugs Silicone Suction Cup Bath Spinners



The suction-mounted spinners invite babies to reach, push, and repeat an action while sitting in the bath with direct adult support.

SUPPORTS reaching, hand control, cause and effect, seated play

SHOP THIS PICK

12

Gigilli Light Up Whale Bath Toy



The whale combines a fountain action and colored lights for a clear, attention-getting response in the water.

SUPPORTS visual tracking, cause and effect, shared attention

SHOP THIS PICK



Infants
10-12 months

Fill it, stack it, turn the page!

What may be emerging

- put an object into a container and take it out again
- use the thumb and fingers with increasing precision
- bang, drop, stack, nest, and release objects on purpose
- turn sturdy pages and point, pat, or vocalize at pictures
- look for hidden objects and remember familiar routines
- pull to stand, cruise along furniture, or move quickly across the floor
- wave, copy gestures, respond to simple words, and use sounds to communicate

Keep the toy box simple

Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL 10 PICKS FOR THIS STAGE

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 10

1 Fisher Price Babys First Blocks and Rock a Stack Set



This bundle combines two classic play patterns: putting blocks into a bucket and placing rings onto a post.

SUPPORTS grasp and release, in and out play, two-hand coordination, early stacking

SHOP THIS PICK

2 Fisher Price Babys First Blocks



The stand-alone shape-sorter bucket is the simpler choice for families who already own rings or want to focus on container play.

SUPPORTS putting in and taking out, grasping, object permanence, early problem-solving

SHOP THIS PICK

3 Jyusmile Montessori Style Baby Toy Set



The assortment appears to include textured blocks, rings, balls, and a storage case, giving families several ways to practice grasping, stacking, and sensory exploration.

SUPPORTS fine-motor exploration, stacking, two-hand play, texture comparison

SHOP THIS PICK

4 bebe mondo Fish Touch and Feel Cloth Book



The fish theme combines crinkle pages, textures, and fabric features that invite touching and page exploration.

SUPPORTS page turning, texture exploration, grasping, early vocabulary

SHOP THIS PICK

5 Melissa and Doug Wonderful World of Peekaboo Soft Activity Book



Peekaboo elements make this book useful for practicing reveal-and-find play while the fabric pages remain easy to grasp.

SUPPORTS object permanence, page turning, hand use, shared attention

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 10

6 Melissa and Doug K's Kids My First Activity Book



The handle, fasteners, fabric pictures, and activity pages offer several fine-motor actions in a portable format.

SUPPORTS grasping, carrying, two-hand coordination, problem-solving

SHOP THIS PICK

7 Scholastic Cuddle Squeak Peek Cloth Book

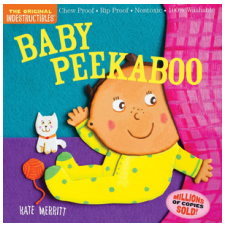


The bold cow face, squeak feature, tabs, and cloth pages create a responsive shared-reading experience.

SUPPORTS cause and effect, page turning, listening, visual attention

SHOP THIS PICK

8 Indestructibles Baby Peekaboo by Amy Pixton



The lightweight, washable, chew-resistant format is designed for babies who still explore books with their hands and mouths.

SUPPORTS early literacy, page turning, object permanence, shared language

SHOP THIS PICK

9 Indestructibles Hello Farm by Amy Pixton



Farm pictures provide familiar animals and sounds in the same highly durable format, making this a practical diaper-bag or mealtime book.

SUPPORTS animal words and sounds, visual attention, page exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

10 Kids Preferred The Very Hungry Caterpillar Lets Count Soft Book



The familiar caterpillar artwork, handle, and soft pages support carrying, page turning, and simple number language.

SUPPORTS page turning, carrying, early number words, shared reading

SHOP THIS PICK



Baby
1 Year Old

Practice walking, explore first words, and try feeding themselves

What may be emerging

- pull to stand, cruise, take early steps, or walk with growing confidence
- put objects into containers, stack a few items, and use familiar objects with purpose
- use fingers to feed themselves and begin practicing with a spoon and cup
- point, gesture, imitate actions, and understand more everyday words
- say a growing variety of sounds and early words
- push cars, roll balls, carry objects, and copy simple household routines
- show strong preferences and repeat an action many times to understand it

Keep the toy box simple

Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL 22 PICKS FOR THIS STAGE

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 22

1 Joyreal Wooden Hammering and Xylophone Toy



The combination of pounding, sliding pieces, and musical exploration offers several actions that can grow with a child.

SUPPORTS two-hand coordination, controlled force, cause and effect, listening

SHOP THIS PICK

2 B toys FunKeys with Lights and Sounds



The familiar key shape supports pretend play while large buttons create an immediate response.

SUPPORTS imitation, button pressing, cause and effect, pretend play

SHOP THIS PICK

3 SOSUSHOU Travel Busy Board



Fasteners, buckles, and flaps provide portable two-hand challenges that can be revisited as finger control improves.

SUPPORTS fine-motor coordination, problem-solving, persistence, dressing-related play

SHOP THIS PICK

4 BLCXTOYZ Six Piece Shape Sorter



Large textured shapes and an elastic-sided container create an accessible put-in and pull-out activity before formal shape matching.

SUPPORTS object release, retrieval, two-hand use, tactile exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

5 Fisher Price Babys First Blocks



The bucket supports filling, dumping, carrying, and later shape sorting in a simple, durable format.

SUPPORTS container play, grasp and release, problem-solving, shape exploration

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 22

6 Emoin Talking and Dancing Cactus



The moving cactus may motivate looking, dancing, vocal imitation, and social turn-taking.

SUPPORTS imitation, movement, vocal play, shared attention

SHOP THIS PICK

7 Aitbay Two in One Musical Mat



A floor mat with piano and drum areas invites whole-body actions such as stepping, patting, squatting, and dancing.

SUPPORTS gross-motor movement, rhythm, cause and effect, imitation

SHOP THIS PICK

8 Neliblu Five Piece Soft Sports Ball Set



The lightweight foam balls provide different shapes and familiar sport designs for rolling, carrying, and early kicking.

SUPPORTS walking, balance reactions, two-hand play, visual tracking

SHOP THIS PICK

9 SEREED Four Wheel Balance Bike



A low four-wheel ride-on can support seated balance, pushing with the feet, steering, and coordinated movement when the child fits the product correctly.

SUPPORTS balance, leg strength, steering, body awareness

SHOP THIS PICK

10 Fisher Price Laugh and Learn Smart Stages Puppy Walker



The wide base combines a push handle with front-facing activities that can be used before and during walking practice.

SUPPORTS pulling to stand, supported steps, button play, cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 11-15 of 22

11 Fisher Price Corn Popper Push Along Toy



The popping balls provide visible and audible feedback as the child pushes, which can motivate continued walking.

SUPPORTS walking endurance, direction, cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

12 HYES Five in One Push Walker and Activity Toy

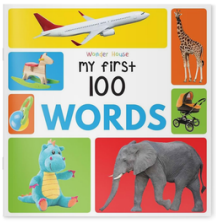


The multiuse design combines a push walker with seated activities and other play modes, offering longer use when adjusted correctly.

SUPPORTS supported walking, standing play, hand use, pretend play

SHOP THIS PICK

13 Wonder House Books My First 100 Words



The picture-based format offers many familiar categories for pointing and naming in a traditional book.

SUPPORTS pointing, receptive language, picture recognition, shared reading

SHOP THIS PICK

14 Melissa and Doug Poke a Dot First Words Shapes and Colors



The pop dots add a finger action to shared reading, making the pages especially engaging for children who learn through touch and repetition.

SUPPORTS isolated finger use, cause and effect, words, shapes and colors

SHOP THIS PICK

15 LeapFrog Scout and Violet 100 Words Book



The touch-activated electronic pages connect pictures with spoken labels and sounds.

SUPPORTS picture-word association, pointing, listening, cause and effect

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 16-20 of 22

16 LeapFrog Learning Friends 100 Words Book

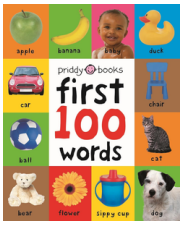


This version offers a similar touch-and-hear experience with different characters and visual styling.

SUPPORTS pointing, vocabulary exposure, listening, touch activation

SHOP THIS PICK

17 Roger Priddy First 100 Words Padded Board Book



Clear photographs and a sturdy padded format make this a strong option for children who enjoy real-life pictures and independent page turning.

SUPPORTS picture recognition, pointing, early words, page turning

SHOP THIS PICK

18 Tommee Tippee Sporty Spout Cups Orange and Green



The contoured shape appears designed for two-hand holding and active toddlers, with a covered spout that helps limit spills.

SUPPORTS two-hand grip, cup independence, drinking practice

SHOP THIS PICK

19 Tommee Tippee Sporty Spout Cups Pink and Gray



This is a color variation of the same sporty-spout style and serves the same developmental purpose.

SUPPORTS two-hand grip, cup independence, drinking practice

SHOP THIS PICK

20 Two Handled Training Cups Blue and Green



Two handles can make it easier for a new cup user to stabilize and lift the cup with both hands.

SUPPORTS bilateral coordination, controlled tipping, independent drinking

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 21-22 of 22

21 Tommee Tippee Sporty Spout Cups Purple and Yellow



This additional color set duplicates the function of the other Tommee Tippee sporty-spout listings.

SUPPORTS cup practice, two-hand use, self-help routines

SHOP THIS PICK

22 Philips Avent Handled and Straw Cup Options



The collection shows handled spout cups and pink-purple straw-style cups, giving families options based on the child's current drinking skill.

SUPPORTS grasping, straw or spout drinking, mealtime independence

SHOP THIS PICK



Toddler

2 Years Old

Build, solve problems, explore words, and make believe

What may be emerging

- put two or more words together and use gestures to communicate
- point to pictures in a book and connect words with familiar people or objects
- turn knobs, press buttons, open containers, and use both hands together
- combine toys in pretend play, such as putting toy food on a plate
- run, kick a ball, climb with help, and practice balance
- repeat favorite actions and stories while learning what happens next
- play beside other children and begin practicing simple turns with adult help

Keep the toy box simple

Choose one or two toys that match what the child is already trying to do. Demonstrate once, then pause. Repetition is meaningful play, and children do not need every item in the collection.

SHOP ALL 23 PICKS FOR THIS STAGE

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 1-5 of 23

1 FUN LITTLE TOYS Pop-Up Tent and Camping Set



The tent and camping pieces create a ready-made setting for pretend routines such as packing, cooking, sleeping, and exploring.

SUPPORTS symbolic play, sequencing, vocabulary, cooperation

SHOP THIS PICK

2 Green Toys Seaplane



A simple floating vehicle can connect bath play with vehicle sounds, pretend travel, and scooping or pouring.

SUPPORTS grasping, bilateral coordination, cause and effect, pretend play

SHOP THIS PICK

3 Munchkin Fishin' Magnetic Bath Toy



Retrieving floating pieces invites visual attention, aiming, and a satisfying cause-and-effect action.

SUPPORTS hand-eye coordination, controlled reach, persistence, pretend play

SHOP THIS PICK

4 Melissa & Doug First Shapes Jumbo Knob Puzzle



Large knobs and basic shapes make the grasping and matching challenge visible and approachable.

SUPPORTS three-finger grasp, shape matching, rotation, problem-solving

SHOP THIS PICK

5 Melissa & Doug Vehicles Wooden Peg Puzzle



Familiar vehicles create natural opportunities for naming, sounds, and pretend movement before or after matching.

SUPPORTS fine-motor control, visual matching, vocabulary, pretend play

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 6-10 of 23

6

Melissa & Doug Safari Animals Chunky Puzzle



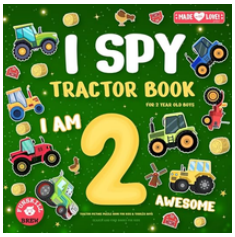
Thick animal pieces can be easier to hold and can stand up for pretend play away from the board.

SUPPORTS whole-hand grasp, matching, animal words, open-ended play

SHOP THIS PICK

7

Funskill Brew I Spy Tractor Book



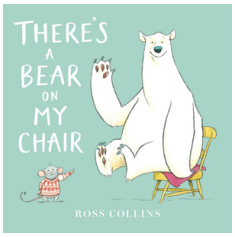
Search-and-find pages invite careful looking while the familiar vehicle theme supports names, sounds, and descriptive words.

SUPPORTS visual scanning, vocabulary, shared attention, persistence

SHOP THIS PICK

8

There's a Bear on My Chair by Ross Collins



The repeated problem and expressive pictures support prediction, humor, and early story comprehension.

SUPPORTS rhythm, prediction, emotion words, shared reading

SHOP THIS PICK

9

A Collection of Stories for 2 Year Olds



A themed collection offers short stories that can become part of a predictable bedtime or quiet-time routine.

SUPPORTS listening, story sequence, vocabulary, connection

SHOP THIS PICK

10

iPlay iLearn Bouncy Pals Unicorn Hopper



A properly sized hopper offers active bouncing and balance practice for a child who can mount, sit securely, and hold the ears or handles.

SUPPORTS core strength, dynamic balance, coordination, body awareness

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 11-15 of 23

11 Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin

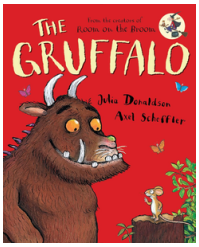


Playful pictures and a memorable premise can inspire pretend cooking and silly conversation.

SUPPORTS imagination, food words, prediction, humor

SHOP THIS PICK

12 The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson



Rhythm, repeated language, and a clever character make this a rich read-aloud that can grow with the child.

SUPPORTS sound patterns, prediction, story memory, imagination

SHOP THIS PICK

13 2-Minute Stories for 2-Year-Olds by Cottage Door Press



Brief stories fit the shorter attention span and transitions common at this age.

SUPPORTS listening, routine, vocabulary, emotional connection

SHOP THIS PICK

14 Big Girl Panties



A toilet-learning story may help some children become familiar with underwear and bathroom routines

SUPPORTS body awareness, routine language, pretend rehearsal

SHOP THIS PICK

15 Snuggle Stuffs Sugar Snap Learn-to-Dress Doll, Blonde



Fasteners and removable clothing features connect fine-motor practice with a familiar self-care routine.

SUPPORTS zipping, buttoning, bilateral coordination, pretend caregiving

SHOP THIS PICK

The complete KOTM toy list

Picks 16-20 of 23

16

Snuggle Stuffs Sugar Snap Learn-to-Dress Doll, Brunette



This color and appearance variation offers the same developmental value and lets families select the doll they prefer.

SUPPORTS self-help practice, body words, pretend conversation, empathy

SHOP THIS PICK

17

GUND PAW Patrol Marshall 6-Inch Plush



A familiar character can motivate pretend rescue stories, comforting routines, and early back-and-forth dialogue.

SUPPORTS nurturing, story creation, emotion words, social imitation

SHOP THIS PICK

18

bpmfkid Wooden Play Kitchen with Accessories



A full pretend kitchen provides realistic actions such as opening, turning, stirring, serving, and cleaning.

SUPPORTS pretend routines, sequencing, vocabulary, cooperation

SHOP THIS PICK

19

ZICOTO My First Coloring Books for Toddlers, Set of 2



Large, simple pictures can give early mark-makers an uncluttered place to scribble and experiment.

SUPPORTS grasp development, visual attention, choice-making, creativity

SHOP THIS PICK