

2023-2024 Toy, Book & Activity List Speech and Language



Compiled by South Shore Therapies Speech Staff

Children learn language naturally through play and active exploration. A wide variety of toys and games encourage learning and help to develop skills in understanding language, oral expression, and social language use. The following suggestions will be helpful in choosing appropriate toys to target various language skills while keeping your child engaged. Approximate ages and skill levels have been provided to help guide your choices. Many items can be purchased at toy stores or through catalogues and websites such as Amazon. Ask your speech therapist for help in deciding which games or toys are recommended for your child.

Infant Toys Birth - 12 months

When buying toys for your infant, look for toys that...

1. *Promote receptive language*
2. *Provide sorting opportunities*
3. *Foster the concept of cause and effect*

- Fisher Price Enchanted Friends Learning Table
- Fisher Price Hide and Peek Pop-Up
- Fisher Price Baby's First Blocks and Rock-a-Stack
- Laugh and Learn Crawl Around Car
- Laugh and Learn Playhouse
- Laugh and Learn Piggy Bank
- Laugh and Learn Learning Kitchen
- Little Tikes Giggle Surprise Blocks
- Fat Brain Toys Pip Squigz Loops (mouthing toy)
- Fat Brain Toys Tobbles Neo
- Fat Brain Toys Oombee Cube
- Fat Brain Toys Forest Friends Discovery Tree
- Surprise What's Inside Toy Box
- Push and Spin Toy (Giraffalaff Tumble Top Spinning and Popping Toy)

Toddler Toys 12-36 months

When buying toys for your toddler, look for toys that...

1. *Encourage social interactions*
2. *Create turn-taking opportunities*
3. *Provide opportunities for sorting*
4. *Promote receptive & expressive vocabulary*

- Play Dough
- Baby Dolls
- LUKAT Pull Back Car Toys
- Puzzles (animals, shapes, colors)
- Fat Brain Toys Zoom 'n Vroom Ladder Launch Crane
- Fat Brain Toys Roll Again Tower
- Bop & Drop Ball Tower
- Fat Brain Toys Woodland Friends Stacking Cubes
- Fisher Price First Builders Big Building Bag
- Fisher Price Little People Caring for Animals Farm
- Fisher Price Little People Big Yellow School Bus
- Pet Vet Clinic
- Bubbles – Fubbles (no spill bubbles)
- Train Sets



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Toys & Games to Develop Expressive and Receptive Language Skills

(Expanding vocabulary, building utterance length, asking/answering Wh- Questions, following directions, basic concepts)

Younger Ages (3-6 years):

Promote language through pretend play using the following toys:

Melissa and Doug:

- Play Food Sets
- Fresh Mart Grocery Store
- Chef's Kitchen
- Nail Care Play
- Feed and Groom Horse Care Playset
- Star Diner Restaurant
- For additional ideas please visit <https://www.melissaanddoug.com/gift-guide/gift-guide-3-4-years>

Little Tikes:

- First Washer Dryer Play Set
- Pizza Restaurant
- First Bathroom Sink
- My First Pet Checkup Set
- First Self-Checkout Stand
- For additional ideas please visit <https://www.littletikes.com>

Fisher Price:

- Medical Kit
- Laugh & Learn Servin' Up Fun Food
- Laugh & Learn Grow-the-Fun Garden to Kitchen
- Light Up Learning Vacuum
- For additional ideas please visit <https://www.fisher-price.com>

Other:

- Magnetic Building Set - Magnatiles
- The Learning Resources Babysaurs Sorting Set
- Melissa and Doug Reusable Sticker Books
- Little Live Pets
- Squeakee the Balloon Dog & Dino
- TEMI Construction Truck Toys
- Melissa and Doug Construction Set in a Box
- Mr. Potato Head
- Little People Launch and Loop Raceway
- YEZI Car Adventure Toys, City Rescue Preschool Educational Toy Vehicle
- Figurines; superhero's, Peppa Pig, Bluey, etc.

Promote language through pretend play using the following games:

- Disney Princess Enchanted Cupcake Party Game
- Educational Insights:
 - Shelby's Snack Game
 - Sneaky Snacky Squirrel
 - Frankie's Food Truck Fiasco
 - Raccoon Rumpus
- Diggin Dogs
- Feed the Woozle
- Go Away Monster
- Shark Bite
- Banana Blast
- Grouch Couch
- Snug as a Bug in a Rug
- Dragon Snacks
- Candy Land
- Hoot Hoot Owl
- Funny Bunny
- Zingo
- Eye Found It
- Greedy Granny
- Uno





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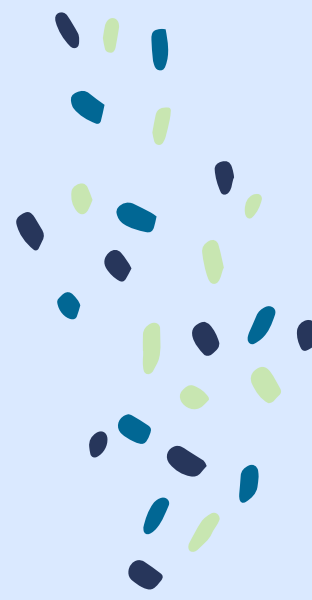
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Toys & Games to Develop Expressive and Receptive Language Skills

(Expanding vocabulary, building grammar/syntax, asking/answering Wh- Questions, following directions, describing)

Older Kids (7 years +):

- Snap Circuits Jr.
- Tinkering Labs Electric Motors
Catalyst STEM Kit
- Guess Who? Board Game
- Word on the Street Jr.,
- Headbandz
- Rainbow Sandland Activity
- Apples to Apples Jr.
- K'NEX Imagine-Power and Play
Motorized Building Kit
- Frozen Science Kit
- Zingo Sight Words
- Zingo Word Builder
- Cranium Cadoo
- Clue Jr.
- Pickles to Penguins
- Guess Who
- Sub Shop
- The How I Survived Game
- Connect the Thoughts Game
- Blurt
- Bananagrams
- Scattegories Jr.



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Toys & Games to Develop Social Communication and Executive Function Skills

(Problem solving, perspective taking, inferencing, emotional control, working memory, critical thinking, planning/organizing)

Younger Kids (3-6 years)

- Brain Flakes Interlocking Disc Set
- Lego Sets
- Train sets
- Little People Launch and Loop Raceway
- YEZI Car Adventure Toys, City Rescue Preschool Educational Toy Vehicle
- Magnetic Building Set
- Live Little Pets
- Dragon Snacks
- Diggin Dogs
- Zingo
- Eye Found It

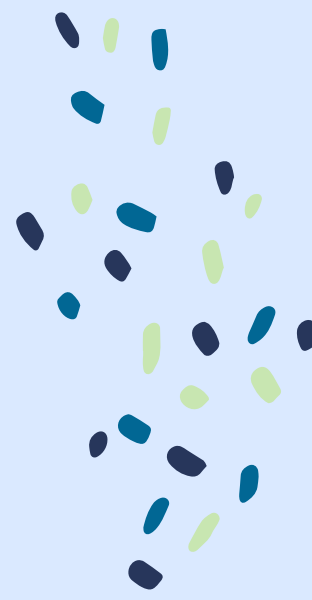
Older Kids (7 years +)

- Snap Circuits Jr.
- Tinkering Labs Electric Motors Catalyst STEM Kit Dog Crimes Logic Game
- Guess Who?
- Word on the Street Jr.,
- Rainbow Sandland Activity
- Outfoxed
- Peaceable Kingdom Gnomes at Night
- Apples to Apples Jr.,
- K'NEX Imagine-Power and Play Motorized Building Kit
- Frozen Science Kit
- Zingo Sight Words
- You Gotta Be Kidding! – (Would you Rather?)

Pretend play activities using Melissa and Doug, Fisher Price, and Little Tikes Toys:

- Play Food Sets
- Chef's Kitchen
- First Washer Dryer Play Set
- Pizza Restaurant
- First Bathroom Sink
- My First Pet Checkup Set
- First Self-Checkout Stand
- Medical Kit





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Toys & Games to Develop Social Communication and Executive Function Skills

(Higher level language skills, executive function skills, social communication skills)

Adolescent Ages (10 +)

- Hearing Things
- Gravity Maze
- Scattergories
- Balderdash
- Catch Phrase
- Word a Round
- Double Ditto
- Pictionary
- Anomia
- 5 Second Rule
- Snap Circuits
- Robot Rumble STEM Building Toy
- Escape Room in a Box
- You Know Game
- Mad Smartz
- Don't Say It

Subscription Services for All Ages that Promote a Wide Variety of Language Skills!

- Kiwi Co. – activity crates that can be individualized for your child's needs and interests
 - <https://www.kiwico.com>
- Little Passports – activities that celebrate cultures with globally inspired stories, activities, and experiences
 - <https://www.littlepassports.com>
- Fat Brain Toys Surprise Ride – surprise project sent each month
 - https://www.fatbraintoy.com/toy_companies/fat_brain_toys/surprise_ride_subscription_activity_box.cfm?country=US&source=google_pla&kwid=FB323-3&gclid=Cj0KCQiAzMGNBhCyARIsANpUkzNiRC588DfHRrypX-vtWViAusFjRaOar2-l2-ep7aQK2DQ9YMcaOZgaAqAEEALw_wcB
- Mel Science Kits – science subscription for kids that includes hands on projects and e-learning
 - <https://melscience.com/US-en/>
- The Week Junior Magazine – full of fascinating news and activities for kids from around the world. Designed and written to help all readers love reading
 - https://theweekjunior.com/subscription?channel=paidsearch&gclid=Cj0KCQiAzMGNBhCyARIsANpUkzMS7604HZ98oTmjP_ob7UgDbKLY-T2rF1hRYmxCCF0ajb451RZ-fhYaAq30EALw_wcB



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Here are some of our favorite books & authors for young children:

Interactive Story Books:

- My Busy Books (Disney, Nickelodeon, Pixar)

Usborne Books:

- Pull-back Busy Helicopter Book
- Pull-back Busy Car Book
- Pull-Back Busy Train Book
- Secrets of the Apple Tree (A Shine a Light story book)
- Secrets of the Seashore (A Shine a Light story book)
- On the Construction Site (A Shine a Light story book)
- Baby's First Very Touch-Feely Farm PlayBook

Infant/Toddler:

- Never Touch A series (Never Touch a Spider, Never Touch a Shark Touch and Feel)
- Touch and Feel Books
- Lift a Flap Books
- Leslie Petricelli books (Nighty Night, Tubby, Potty, etc.)
- Melissa & Dough Poke a Dot books (Old McDonald)

Toddler/Preschool:

- Eric Carle Books, (Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?, etc.)
- Leslie Patricelli Books, (Yummy Yucky, etc.)
- Jez Alborough Books, (Where's My Teddy?, etc.)
- Mo Willems, (Don't Let The Pigeon series; Elephant and Piggy series)
- Sandra Boynton, (Moo Baa La La La, etc.)
- Anna Dewdney, (Llama Llama series)
- Nancy Shaw, (Sheep In a Jeep, etc.)
- Rosie Greening, (Never Touch A... Monster, Dragon, Shark, etc. series)
- How To Catch A series (How to Catch a Mermaid, How to Catch a Snowman, etc.)

Early School-Age:

- Robert Munsch (Mud Puddle, Pigs, etc.)
- Laura Numeroff (If You Give a Mouse series)
- Jane O'Connor (Fancy Nancy series)
- Mercer Mayer (Little Creature series)
- Eric Litwin (Pete the Cat)
- Choose Your Own Adventure Books
- Aaron Blabey (Pig the Pug Books)

School Age:

- Barbara Park (Junie B. Jones series)
- Peggy Parish (Amelia Bedelia series)
- Suzy Kline (Horrible Harry)
- Dan Gutman (My Weirdest School series)
- Mary Pope Osbourne (Magic Tree House series)
- Jack Chabert & Max Brallier (Eerie Elementary series)

