Toys for Baby

Babies and children learn by playing and exercising new skills. This is a list of basic toys recommended for different age groups. When choosing toys, try to match toys with your child’s particular interests and abilities rather than the recommended age listed on packages. A good toy is one that can be enjoyed again and again, in a variety of ways. Be aware, especially, of toy safety. Avoid sharp or breakable edges, items small enough to swallow (if it fits in a toilet paper roll, it’s too small), and toys with strings, yarn or elastic in which your baby could become entangled. Avoid springs or strings that could pinch or cut off circulation.

Birth to age 6 weeks
Caregivers must play for their infants during this stage. Infants already know the sound of their mother’s voice, and can turn their head to familiar sounds. Sight is starting to develop – infants see best 10 to 14 inches away, and contrasting colors. They prefer looking at faces. Touch is another way to let babies explore their world.
Suggested activities/toys:
• Black and white objects
• Cuddling
• Dancing, swaying or rocking to music
• Making facial expressions
• Singing and talking

Ages 3 months to 6 months
At this stage, infants can sit up with assistance, start to coo, may start teething, try everything with their mouths, and enjoy repetitive behaviors.
Suggested activities/toys:
• Toys mentioned in previous months
• Books
• Rattles
• Soft dolls (no eyes or nose buttons)
• Teething or gumming toys

Ages 6 months to 9 months
At this stage, infants are able to sit up, gain greater motor skills, start to develop object permanence, enjoy cause-effect relationships, start to babble/vocalize, begin manipulative behavior, and very much enjoy anything that can bang, shake, squeeze, drop, open/shut, empty/fill or be built/knocked over.
Suggested activities/toys:
• Toys mentioned in previous months
• Balls
• Busy boxes
• Nesting cups
• Stacking toys

Continued
Ages 9 months to 12 months
At this stage, infants are able to crawl, stand, cruise or walk. They will search for missing objects, play peek-a-boo, and may even develop a favorite toy or object. Stranger anxiety is also prevalent during this stage.

Suggested activities/toys:

• Toys mentioned in previous months
• Basic puzzles
• Hand puppets
• Pull toys
• Water toys/play

Baby toys from household items
Some of the most creative toys are common household items. Keeping in mind general toy safety rules, the inexpensive items listed below can provide hours of entertainment for the older baby or toddler.

• Clothespins – old fashion clothespins, not those with springs
• Egg cartons
• Empty boxes
• Funnels
• Gallon ice cream containers
• Measuring spoons, spatulas, wire whisks, strainers
• Old magazines
• Pails
• Paper bags
• Paper towel rolls
• Plastic cookie cutters
• Plastic cups, bottles, jars and bowls with covers
• Plastic milk cartons
• Pots, pans and baking tins
• Washcloths
• Wooden spoons