

What Do I Buy My Child For Christmas!

Try to avoid over hyped, under-performing products that have had all of their imagining already exhausted by executives of multinational companies...there's nothing left for the child to dream up when their toys have been loaded with features and functions.

Under 5's

Toys that prompt pretend play, such as wooden food and cooking sets, and even simple stacking blocks that fit inside each other, can be used in lots of ways. For active fun, you can't go past plastic hoola-hoops, for both boys and girls, in the child's correct size. Dress ups, with a variety of exciting wigs, outfits or props, such as hand and finger puppets, will really encourage imaginative play. Give your child an experience, rather than a possession, such as passes to the zoo or aquarium, or concert events, which provide an exciting occasion for your child with the one thing they want and need most-your time!

Over 5's

Encourage making and creating with crafts and related items. Board and card games are perfect for this age group, as well as some old favourites, jack-in-the-boxes, spinning tops and skipping ropes. Quality paint sets and art supplies that come in fun boxes with lots of compartments. You can't go past Lego, Duplo and K'nex, which can be added to every year and kept together in a large storage box for the whole family to use. If buying computer games, the best ones are those that require the child to interact with others, such as interactive quizzes, sports and music versions. Wii is the best interactive platform for over 8's.

For all children include books, items that promote problem solving and perseverance, card games, board games, bikes, balls, any physical or play equipment that gets them outside, maybe a trampoline, sandpit or even a pool! Ask yourself if the toy encourages your children to play together and interact, or encourages you to play with your child.



‘Imagination is more important than intelligence’ Albert Einstein

It's less important what the toy does, than what the child does with it.

Focus on creativity, and intelligence flows.