

How to choose age appropriate child games

Young children learn through playing. Hence, it is important that we choose the right child games so that your child develops the right values that you hope they will learn. As children play with toys, with one another, and with adults, they acquire and improve the skills necessary for formal learning in later stages of their lives.

Select games or toys based on your child's interests and developmental needs. Any child games selected should be designed for interaction keeping children engaged in the ways they learn best - through seeing and hearing, touching and trying.

Below 12 months - At this stage, you would consider providing child games that develops eye-hand coordination, motor skills and recognition of animals, objects, colours, shapes and numbers.

12 to 24 months - Start introducing activities that are done in sequence and those that will increase attention span. Your toddler can now play child games that require him/her to follow simple directions. Let your child learn to match things that go together as he/she starts to recognise letters, numbers, colours and shapes. This is also a good time for the children to learn to make music.

2 Years and Up - As your child grow, provide them with activities that develop self-confidence, encourage thinking skills and those that strengthens social skills. Continue to fine tune their motor skills and expand their vocabulary. You can also play child games that helps strengthens their memory skills.

The following are examples of child games for different aspects of your child development:

Develop Eye-hand coordination and motor skills – Stacking Pegs, Og's Play Pots and Shapes, Baby Play Frame, Modular Daisies, lacing toys and pull toys

Thinking and Creative skills - Modular, Art Pack, Crazy Animals and Things, Jigsaw Dough, Marble Fun

Mathematical thinking skills - Modular, Designer 1/2/3, Fraction Puzzle, I Can Count to 20 and I Can Multiply Times Table, Tableland.

Logical deductive skills – Pirates, Marble Fun.

Imagination – Dress Up Twins, Zoo and Transport Puzzle Play, Creator One.

Problem solving skills – Designer 2 and 3, Impuzzable, Persistence, brain teasers.

Develop self-confidence – Modular 320, Og's Crazy Animals & Things series, Dress Up Twins.

Strengthens social skills - pretend play with other children, Space race, Giant Snakes & Ladders, Cloud Burst.

Physical fitness – Various outdoor activities, Flying Saucer, Sand Play Set, Jigsaw