

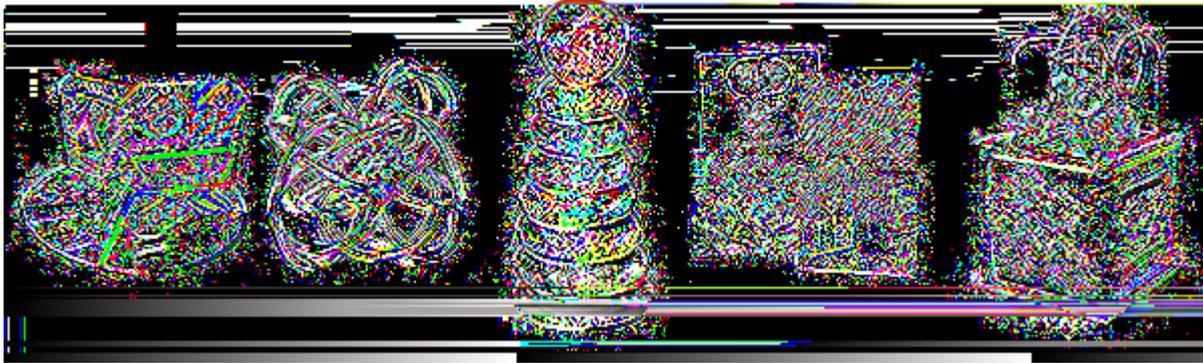
Guide to buying developmentally appropriate gifts

With the holiday season fast approaching many of us are on the hunt for that perfect gift! It can often be challenging to pick toys for children or teens that are developmentally appropriate, but it's an important thing to consider when you're gift giving.

For some children, chronological age does not match [developmental](#) age. Many children develop more quickly or slowly than their peers, so purchasing gifts based on chronological age isn't always the most appropriate option. Developmental age gives us more information on where a child is socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. When you buy toys for a child's developmental age, you are more likely to pick a toy that is the right fit for their skills,

interaction is important to build your child's social and emotional well-being.

Toys that would be appropriate at this developmental stage may include:



1. Tummy Time Books
2. The Winkle
3. Stacking Rings
4. Board Books
5. Activity Table or Cube

Developmental Age of 1-2

In this developmental stage, children are becoming more exploratory. Their hand skills allow them to play with more complex toys. They are developing some early language skills and their interest in interacting is increasing. Most children will be mobile (crawling, walking, running).

Children in this developmental stage tend to enjoy toys that involve pouring or dumping, building or demonstrate cause and effect. Children are also starting to understand the purpose or role of common objects (i.e. a barn is where animals live). Little People sets are a great toy to foster imaginative play, language and development of hand skills. Toys that encourage turn taking or waiting are also a good fit. For children who

are more active, a small basketball or soccer net can be a great way to work on hand eye coordination and gross motor skills.

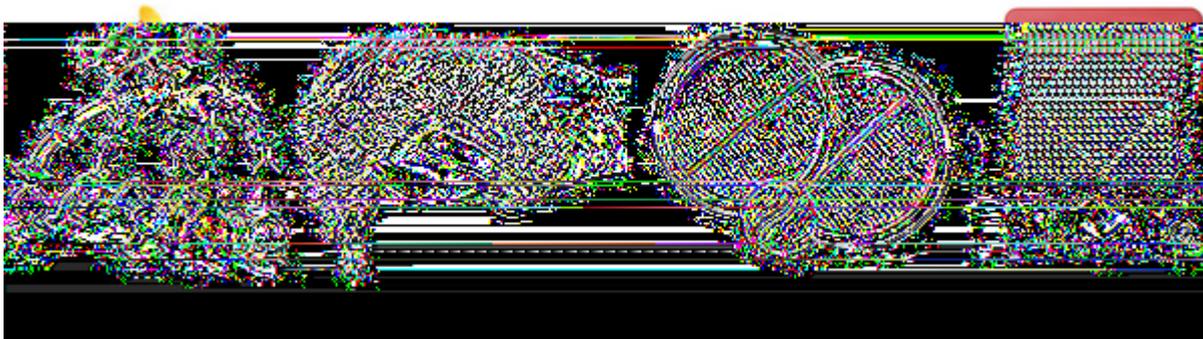
build a child's ability to understand different perspectives, an important skill for positive peer interactions.

Children at this stage have better control of their shoulder, arm and hand muscles. They are also able to use their fingers with more dexterity and accuracy. Children in this

about constructional, imaginative and social play. Hand eye coordination and gross motor skills continue to become more refined.

Toys like Magformers or Squigz provide children in this stage more complexity in open ended play. These toys also require more hand strength and finer movements. They will also challenge kids to be creative in their play ideas. Kinetic sand is a mess free sensory rich activity that encourages children to work with their hands. The Velcro ball and mitt or scoops are a great active activity and a good fit for targeting children's hand eye coordination and gross/fine motor skills. These toys are also a safe option for playing indoors in some homes. Both of these activities offer a great opportunity for children to begin to negotiate and cooperate during play. Magnatabs are another great fine motor activity and for kids who are resistant to working on their early pre-printing and printing skills they tend to be quite motivating!

Toys that would be appropriate at this developmental stage may include:



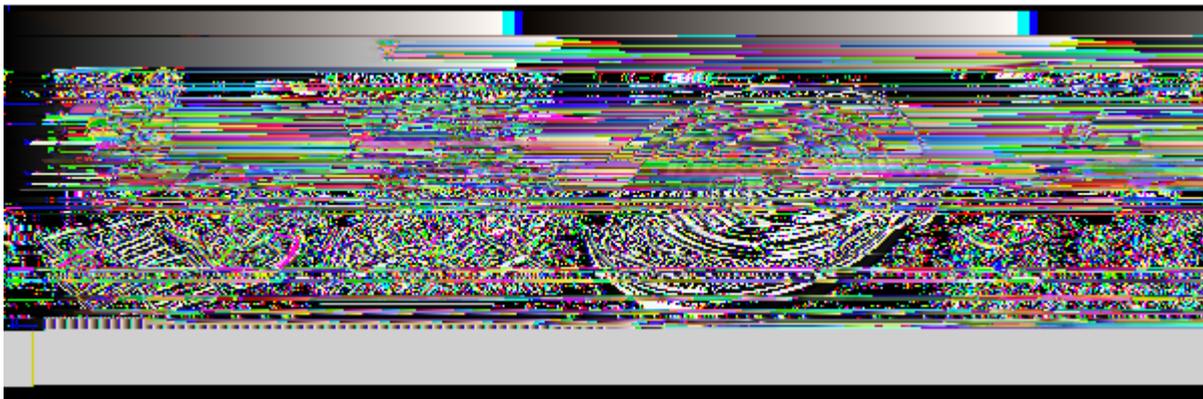
1. Squigz or Magformers
2. Kinetic Sand
3. Velcro Mitt and Ball or Scoop Ball
4. Magnatabs

Developmental Age of 6-10

Children at this developmental stage become more organized in their play and choice of games. Most children at this age have specific interests and hobbies. They often have improved memory and executive functioning skills (initiating, planning, organizing and stopping/starting play). Gross motor skills are more refined, and most children have mastered balls skills and riding a bike.

At this age children are usually very social and interested in peer play, however they also tend to be good at independent play. They may enjoy a challenge and they will have the patience to persist with more complex activities. Games and puzzles that require cooperation and problem solving are a good option.

Toys that would be appropriate at this developmental stage may include:



1. Board Games Eye N Seek, Yoga Spinner or Headbanz
2. Balance Board Maze
3. Marble Tower

Development Age of 10-12

Most children/ tweens at this age have well developed interests and ideas. Many children at this age enjoy working in small groups. There tends to be a strong influence by peers at this age.

Activities that encourage positive peer interactions, such as multiplayer games, make great gifts. We also see many children moving from concrete to more abstract thinking so toys and games with increased problem solving and complexity work well.

Toys that would be appropriate at this developmental stage may include:



1. Board Games Tel estrati ons, Crani um or Labyri nth
2. Lego or Robotics Sets
3. Rai nbow Loom

Devel opment al Age of 12 +

This can be one of the most challenging developmental stages to buy for! Teens are this age tend to have varied interests and they might not always relate to a typical toy or gift.

Activities that encourage independence are suggested. For some teens, gift certificates to preferred stores or activities where they can practice money management, socialization and communication may work well. This may be also be a good stage to work on time management, so gifts like watches or clocks can be useful.

Gifts like board games or books can never be underestimated. Both have endless possibilities for enjoyment while also encouraging socialization, communication and motor skills.