

**Harbor Regional Center
Recommended Materials for
Developmental Toys**

The following books, toys, and videos which are available in the HRC Resource Center contain current information for parents and caregivers of young children. These materials offer significant resources for support and understanding of early intervention strategies. Many other materials are available for check-out in the resource center.

Books

1. The Language of Toys & The New Language of Toys, by Sue Schwartz, Ph.D.
These books explain to parents and teachers how to use everyday toys both manufactured and homemade to create activities that stimulate special needs children to develop and improve their language skills.
2. Play Helps, by Roma Lear
This is an inspirational sourcebook full of ideas for activities and toys for children with all ranges of special needs.
3. Teaching Skills to Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder: A Practical Guide, by Melinda Smith, M.D.
This is a comprehensive manual encompassing the many elements of play and how they can be incorporated into the lives of children with developmental delays. This guide defines play and delineates methods of developing and teaching play skills.
4. Autism and Play, by Jannik Beyer
This handbook describes different play sequences which encourage the integration of social, emotional and cognitive development in children with autism. The easy-to-follow play strategies focus on the four key skills of visualizing, imitation, mirroring and turn-taking.
5. Let Me Do it!, by Anne Rogovin
This a practical and usable resource packed with more than 300 projects and activities designed to meet the needs of children with varying abilities including learning disabilities, autism, and mental retardation.
6. From Toys to Computers, by Christine Wright
This book provides ideas and methods for accessing toys and computers together.
7. Homemade Battery Powered Toys and Educational Devices for Severely Handicapped Children, by Linda Burkhart
The author or this book designed simple switches attached to toys that can be activated by a severely handicapped child. The toys with switches may provide initial training of skills later needed in the use of electronic communication devices.

Video

1. Embracing Play, by Hilary Baldy

This video provides strategies for parents on how to keep their child with autism engaged in an activity. It provides discussion about the importance of play in the development of a child. It also shows parents how to engage in object focused play and how to structure a play area.

2. Play It Safe, by Cambridge Educational

This video provides helpful hints for parents on how to create a safe play environment for their child. It also gives advice on how to make toys safe for children to play with.

Toys

1. Story Reader, by Disney

This toy is a great tool for your child to learn the fundamental skills needed in reading. It allows you and your child to read along while listening to the story.

2. Sentence Building Blocks, by Imaginarium

This toy combines the fun of building blocks and reading. It also encourages imagination, good eye-hand coordination, and creative word play.

3. Stack and Learn Sensory Tower, by Discovery Toys 2000

This toy encourages your child to explore the fascinating sights, gentle rattles and intriguing textures of the five stack tower.

4. ABC/123 Puzzle Set, by Imaginarium

This toy is a great tool to help your child promote good motor skills and language skills at an early age. Use this toy as a teaching and learning tool while playing and having fun with your child.

5. Farm Activity Puzzle Set, by Imaginarium

This is a wonderful toy to help develop a variety of skills, including, motor skills, language skills, and cognitive skills. Use this toy to interact and play with your child while learning.

Websites

1. <http://www.toyrus.com>

Toys R Us has a line of toys for children with special needs called Differently Abled. The website provides helpful tips on how to choose the right toy for your child. They have a wide selection of toys that will help promote language, cognitive skills, fine motor, and gross motor skills.

2. <http://www.lekotek.org>

Lekotek is a line of toys that makes play successful for children with varying degrees of abilities. This very specialized niche has made Lekotek a seasoned resource for the toy industry.

3. <http://www.enablingdevices.com>

Enabling devices is a company dedicated to developing affordable learning and assistive devices to help people with disabling conditions. They have a variety of products for children of all ages and adults as well.

4. <http://www.leapfrog.com>

Visit the Leap Frog online toy store. Leap Frog has a wide selection of toys and learning devices for infants and toddlers, preschool and kindergarten, grade school, middle school, and high school.

5. <http://www.tfhusa.com>

TFH provides carefully selected fun products designed to help you and your child with special needs to enjoy life and learn. Use this site and their catalog to stimulate your imagination, begin programs, or reinforce encouraged behaviors while having fun.