

# *Gifts Which Develop Fine-Motor and Perceptual Skills*

## *Babies, Toddlers and Two Year Olds*

Toys to encourage Visual Attention and eventually reaching and pointing

Books with black and white patterns  
Picture books with faces or simple objects  
Cardboard or plastic, easy to turn books  
Mobiles  
Mirrors  
Bubbles  
Water play mat

Toys to Encourage Reaching, Grasping, Pointing and Hand Movement

Books, tapes and videos with finger play songs  
All types of rattles and mouthing toys to encourage grasping and exploring with mouth.  
Clutch Cube and other clutch toys  
Wrist or foot rattles so sound is made when arms or feet move.  
Busy blanket, boards or toys with exciting objects to pull, press, roll, squeeze and push.  
Play pianos, push button telephones and other toys with buttons to push producing sounds.  
Pop-In- Pals, Jack in the Box and other toys which involve activating a switch (like pushing a button) to produce an action (such as Jack in the Box popping up)  
Toy drum and other toys to bang  
Pound a Ball  
Happy Apple and other weighted toys which start to topple when pushed but then right themselves. These are great while the baby plays on the tummy.  
Pop and Spin Top by Fisher Price

Laugh and learn Learning Tool Bench- child hammers or pushes down a shape "nail".

## Toys to encourage coordination using both hands together

Ring Stacks

Wooden stringing Blocks

Cardboard stacking blocks

Fill and dump water and sand toys (pails, cups, spoons)

Shape sorters

Large nesting cups

Large Legoes

Scribbling on paper

Large pop-it-beads (these large plastic beads snap together)

## More Toys to Encourage Eye-Hand Coordination

Large Peg Boards

Form board with circle, square, triangle shapes

One Inch stacking blocks

Any push button toys

Large beads and stiff string

## *Three Year Olds*

## Toys to Encourage Eye-hand Coordination and Perceptual Skills

Single Piece non-interlocking puzzles

Shape sorters

Nesting cups

Small stringing beads

Scribbling and copying lines and circles- try "drawing" with index finger in whip or shaving cream.

Toy velcro food to "cut".

Play dough with toy knives, rolling pin, spaghetti maker.

More complex water toys

"Dressy dolls" with fasteners

Bathtub paint  
Magnetic letters, numbers and shapes and letters that stick in bathtub.  
Preschool crayons, fat chalk and paint brushes  
Water and paint books  
Finger paint  
Lotto (matching picture toys and games)  
Toy bowling pin set  
Toy golf set  
Loop squeeze scissors (easy to use, just squeeze)  
Color Forms  
Mr. and Mrs Potato Head  
More challenging peg boards  
Large wind up toys  
Toy carpentry tools  
Coloring inside a large stencil  
Accordion tubes  
Finger puppets

## *Four and Five Year Olds*

### Toys to Encourage Eye-hand Coordination and Perceptual Skills

Puzzles with 3 or more interlocking pieces  
Smaller beads with flimsier string, jewelry stringing kits  
Preschool scissors and a snazzy variety of paper, stiffer paper is easier to cut  
More complex peg boards with thinner pegs, stacking pegs, pegs which are laced, size graduated, barrel pegs  
Toys to prepare for writing: Magnadoodle, art kits with variety of large thick crayons, markers, chalk, brushes with variety of paper and paint activities.  
Changeable markers  
Glitter Glue  
Stringing cards  
Pipe cleaner crafts  
Simple paper crafts  
Sticker books  
Color Forms  
Glow in dark drawing boards  
Stencils- coloring around borders or inside  
Activity books with large simple mazes, dots to connect, circle what is different

pictures, finding hidden pictures, color in the named shapes, drawing lines to matching pairs.

More complex, smaller legoes, Tinker toys, Lincoln Logs, Knex and other construction toys

More complex books, tapes and videos with movement songs and sign language

Play kitchen supplies, carpentry tools and household gadgets

Copying design patterns with mosaics, blocks, pegs, beads (make jewelry), geoboards.

Cut and glue books

Crafts kits including: glue, pipe cleaners, large paper clips, clothes pins, cotton balls, scissors, paper.

Wind up toys with smaller knobs

Get-a-Grip Patterns

Picture Perfect (find matching tiles to place on grid)

Paper weaving or place mat weaving kits

Ink stamps

Snap Lock Beads

Sparkling Wheel

Spinning Tops

Marble Run

Crayola Color Wonder- motivates to color using nonmessy materials

SuperGears

Clay/ Model Magic

Creepy Crawlers- pour goop into mold, bake to make slimy creatures

Squirt toys

Preschool Games to develop coordination and concepts  
(Some of these games may be suitable for ages 4 or 5 and up)

**Candy Land**-requires matching

**Color Shape Bingo**-teaches matching skills

**Hi Ho Cheerio**-teaches counting skills

**Mr. Potato Head Memory Game**

**Don't Wake Daddy**- Uses a spinner and counting spaces while children try to avoid waking daddy.

**Don't Spill the Beans**-requires children to try to add more beans to the pot without it spilling.

**Swat That Fly**-This game encourages tracking as the child follows a fly and tries to swat it.

**Hands Down**- requires speed and visual matching

**Squiggly Worms**- requires color matching

**Elfin Game**- trains keeping the eye on the target as your child nets butterflies flying out of the elephants trunk.

**Crazy Crab**- a motorized game involving a large crab guarding pearls in the ocean. The player has to steal them by picking them up with large tongs which look like crab claws.

**Fishing Around Game**-Child coordinates putting rod in fish mouth as they move

**Mr. Caterpillar Alphabet game**- teaches letter recognition as children gather letter cards.

**Ants in the Pants**-press down on ants to make them jump into pants.

**Hungry Hungry Hippos** - press a lever to feed opening mouths.

**Cootie**- first player to finish building the strange creature wins

**Crocodile dentist game** - players take turns counting teeth until the crocodile tires to give a friendly bite

**Whack a Mole**- when the mole pops up, the player whacks it.

**Monster Mash**- discriminate which monster is different before mashing

**Toy Darts**

**Chutes and Ladder**-move pieces on board, no reading required

## *Five Year Olds and Older*

### Toys to Encourage Eye-hand Coordination and Perceptual Skills

Rubber Band ball kit

Complex puzzles

Scratch Art

Paper mache kit

Hole punchers (hand squeezed and finger pushed punches)

Etch and Sketch

Color by Number Books

Ed Emberley learn to draw step by step books

Dolls with complex clothing fasteners, squeeze clothespins to hang out doll clothes

Leather Lacing

Gimp

Hama beads

Simple cook books with pictures and numbered steps

Crafts kits- i.e. make a bird house, soap molding kit, etc.

Lego and other construction toy kits with diagrams to follow

Cut out dolls and other complex shapes

Developed by Barbara A. Smith, OTR and taken from her website

[www.barbarasmithoccupationaltherapist.com](http://www.barbarasmithoccupationaltherapist.com)

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Cut paper flakes  
Pot Holder Weaving  
Hair braiding and other braiding or knot tying craft kits  
Activity books- crossword puzzles, anagrams, decoding, Word Search, unscrambling words, Hang Man, Jotto)  
Balloon Sculpture books and supplies  
Origami  
Tissue Paper Flower crafts  
More complex weaving activities  
Yo Yo's  
Juggling  
More complex musical instruments

## Games to develop coordination and concepts

**Booby Trap** requires the player to gently remove a shape from the board without moving the other pieces

**Checkers**

**Chess**

**Cranium**

**Pictionary**

**Life**

**Risk**

**Taboo**

**Othello**

**Yahtzee- teaches math concepts**

**Operation-** Use tongs to remove body parts

**Perfection-** quickly match shapes into board before all pop out.

**Don't Break the Ice** players use a mallet to tap plastic pieces of ice without the ice man falling through the openings

**Guess Who-**players need to find out who the friend's mystery person is by eliminating all other possibilities.

**Simon** develops visual and auditory memory

**Slamwhiche** -requires speed and matching

**Sorry**

**Traffic Jam Junior** and **Traffic Jam**-a player maneuvers vehicles on a grid to get an ice cream truck out of traffic.

**Clue Junior** and **Clue**

**Monopoly Junior** and **Monopoly**

**Parcheesi**

**Boggle**

**Plunk A Skunk** - As each of the skunk heads on the playing field light up you have to whack them with the Plunk-A- skunk mallet to score points

**Blast Out-** a motorized air power action game requires keeping eyes on a ball while it is catapulted into a large cup and air pushes the balls up into another level.

**S'getti Scatter** -plastic spaghetti is in a bowl. Children remove pieces one by one without letting the plastic meatballs fall through to the bottom.

**Loopin Louie** -, a motorized flip-flopping flier game requires visual tracking to follow Louie in his air plane as he flips around. The player tries to keep him from knocking over the tokens by hitting him with a paddle

**Mouse Trap-** constructed project is used to send a ball cascading.

**Toss -Across-** toss a bean bag into board attempting to create a tic tac toe pattern

**Bingo**

**Kerplunk-** players attempt to remove sticks from the marble filled tube without losing any marbles.

**Barrel of Monkeys-** players need to hook the next monkey to bottom of strand

**Labyrinths** –there's a variety of games on the market which are like three dimensional mazes.

**Pick - Up-Sticks-** require removing a stick without touching any others

**Jacks-** gather the jacks before catching the small ball.

Lots of card games(i.e. Rummy, Spit, War, Crazy Eights)

Dominoes

String games (i.e. Klutz book which teaches Cat's Cradle)

**Snafu-** players push buttons and turn dials to speed a ball over a maze course.

Dice games

Magic Tricks

Air Hockey

Toy Fooseball

**Trouble** -move pegs on board amount on die.

Connect Four

Junior Scrabble/ Scrabble

Jenga

Bed bugs

**Battle Ship-** teaches graphing concepts