ABLE PLAY™

TOY GUIDE

LEKOTEK
Building Blocks of Inclusion
A division of Anixter Center
Hello and welcome to our inaugural AblePlay™ Toy Guide, designed to give you greater insights into making play successful and accessible for ALL children!

For over 30 years, Lekotek™ and AblePlay™ have been bringing joy into the lives of families of children with special needs. Our expertise is based on shared education and experience in early childhood and special education, recreational and other professional therapies, human development and social work. In addition, AblePlay™ has been working with the toy industry for decades providing consultative and evaluative support for major toy manufacturers, many of whom are featured here in this guide.

The AblePlay™ Toy Guide includes some of our favorite products and as professionals who provide families with the building blocks of inclusion, (by working and playing with all members of the family, including siblings, parents, cousins, grandparents), our experience is not limited to children with special needs. Therefore, every product highlighted in this guide is accessible to ANY child, with or without special needs, and supports diversified and experiential learning through play!

This reference guide includes eight (8) categories that promote key developmental skills that all children need for growth and learning: Cognitive, Communicative, Emotional, Social, Sensory, Physical, Tech and Adaptive. Each of these categories feature toys and products that not only assist in the development of these skills, but are the ones that our team discovered brings much joy to children. As you explore the guide, you will find that each item is highlighted with development benefits, as well as AblePlay™ Play Ideas and tips for enriched and accessible play.

We hope that you find this guide to be a great resource to you and the children with whom you play and we wish you many happy hours of joy and laughter!

Kathryn H. Lavin, MSW, Executive Director
and The AblePlay™ Team

The mission of the National Lekotek Center, a non-profit organization, is to make the world of play accessible to children of ALL abilities, especially those with special needs.
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COGNITIVE
Brownie Match by Educational Insights

Benefits:
- Number recognition
- Develops memory
- Improves attention

Play Ideas:
- Pair the brownies with a play kitchen and baking supplies and pretend to make brownies. Encourage your child to describe what the brownies would smell like as they are “baking”.
- To expand your child’s imagination, have players dress up as chefs and brownie bandits as they play the game.

Adaptation: Eliminate the spinner and have children find the matching numbers, similar to playing a memory matching game.

Letter Construction by Learning Resources

Benefits:
- Problem solving
- Letter recognition
- Spatial skills

Play Ideas:
- Have your child spell out his/her name or various vocabulary words, using flash cards for modeling.
- Provide your child with only the pieces needed to create each letter and have him/her figure out what letter it is.

Expand Play: Have your child locate items around the house that start with a letter that he/she created. For example, “Can you find objects around the house that start with the letter R?”
**DigiArt Creative Easel**
by VTech

**Benefits:**
- Hand-eye coordination
- Number and letter recognition
- Creativity

**Play Ideas:**
- Incorporate this easel into a daily routine. Have your child write up the breakfast, lunch or dinner menu or a schedule of daily activities to develop handwriting and organizational skills.
- For younger children, ask them to draw vertical, horizontal, diagonal, circular, and question mark strokes to develop pre-writing skills.

**Social Play:**
While using the dry erase board, have each child take turns writing a letter of the alphabet. The first child writes a letter and then passes the marker onto the next child for the following letter.

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**Alphabet Learning Locks**
by Lakeshore

**Benefits:**
- Letter recognition (capital and lowercase)
- Hand-eye-coordination
- Develops sequencing skills

**Play Ideas:**
- Create a scavenger hunt! Hide a few letters and keys throughout the house and ask your child to find each key that opens the locks.
- Place locks in alphabetical order then remove a few random ones. Ask your child to place them back in the right sequential order.

**Expert Tip:**
Make the activity more familiar and hook the locks onto objects around the house that correspond with the letter.
Educational Pair Game
by Miniland

Benefits:
- Memory and matching
- Develops visual discrimination
- Promotes attention to detail

Play Ideas:
- As you go through the various sheets, have each child keep track of how many pairs were found after each round of play. At the completion of 3 rounds, tally the pairs up. The child with the most pairs wins.
- Remove all sheets from the tray and have your child find pairs of textured materials. To create, fill pairs of slots with tactile materials such as moon sand, Velcro, cotton balls, or leaves and cover them up. Ask your child to find the pairs.

Creativity Tip: Your child can create his/her own individualized sheets. Begin by placing a sheet of paper into the tray and tracing the circles. Remove the paper and have your draw their own pairs into the circles. Return to tray and cover to play.

Sorting Crayons
by Learning Resources

Benefits:
- Color recognition
- Object recognition
- Builds vocabulary

Play Ideas:
- Play hide n seek throughout the room with objects of each color and have your child sort them as they are found.
- Collect other small objects that match each color throughout the house and add them to the matching tube.

Challenge: Line up 4 objects and have your child examine them. Cover your child’s eyes as you remove a few objects. When done, ask your child if he/she can recall which objects are missing.
NogginStik by SmartNoggin

Benefits:
- Encourages reaching and grasping
- Builds visual tracking
- Cause and effect

Play Ideas:
- Place NogginStik in front of your child and move side to side to encourage visual tracking.
- Play "Peek-a-Boo" by hiding the NogginStik under a blanket. Shake the rattle and help your child discover where it is hiding.

Expert Tip: Using the mirror on the rattle show your child his/her face and take it away to promote object permanence.

Think & Learn Smart Scan Color Chameleon by Fisher Price

Benefits:
- Color recognition
- Number recognition
- Following directions

Play Ideas:
- Encourage your child to go on an indoor color exploration safari and see what colors he/she can find in different rooms in the house.
- Put each one of the paint splats into a bag. Ask your child to pull out a color. Using a timer, ask your child to name as many objects of that color within a certain time frame (30 secs, 1 minute, etc).

Adaptation: Limit the number of color splats and focus on 3-4 colors at a time to simplify use of toy.
COMMUNICATIVE
**Go! Go! Smart Friends Secret Blossom Cottage by VTech**

**Benefits:**
- Imaginative play
- Cooperative play
- Portable

**Play Ideas:**
- To encourage verbalization and promote language, have friends over for a tea party paired with real treats and beverages.
- Build a story together using the Cottage. Have your child start the story and ask each person to continue to create the story by using additional play items.

**Expand Play:** Figures and playset are compatible with other Go! Go! Smart Friends and playsets, so collect them all and create a village.

**Cranium Hullabaloo by Hasbro**

**Benefits:**
- Problem solving
- Encourages listening
- Following directions

**Play Ideas:**
- Children can be the leader and take turns calling out the directions instead of using the Hullabaloo console.
- Have players act out the image of the square they are standing on at the end of the game.

**Inclusion Tip:** Use with an adapted spinner and draw card options on a blank spinner template to include everyone in play, or make your own play pads of different colors, shapes, and objects to personalize the game.
**Spot It! by Blue Orange**

**Benefits:**
- Promotes language
- Develops visual perception
- Enhances matching skills

**Play Ideas:**
- Have your child create a sentence for each picture on the card or pair with a white board and have him/her write the word down.
- For younger children, place a card in front of them and call out an object on that card. Have them point to the correct object and award points for every correct answer.

**Seek a Boo! by Mindware**

**Benefits:**
- Builds vocabulary
- Promotes turn taking
- Enhances memory and matching skills

**Play Ideas:**
- Have each player pick a Find Me card without showing anyone else. One player at a time will describe their picture, without saying the name, as others try to guess it.
- Ask your child to find an object without showing them the card. For example, verbally ask “can you find the goldfish?”

**Expand Play:** If played with a group of children, have them create a story using the pictures on the card. Each time the card is passed over they must add to the story using another object on the card.

**Challenge:** Spread all Seek Me category cards (36) face down throughout the room and have the child match them all.
Apples to Apples: Big Picture by Mattel

Benefits:
- Develops critical thinking
- Develops language
- Promotes turn taking

Play Ideas:
- If your child is not able to make comparisons, but is able to categorize nouns, have a parent or caregiver be the judge for all the rounds.
- Create your own “visual” green cards using images of familiar people, places and things.

Mix it Up: Instead of the most similar comparison to the green card, the opposite of the card wins each round.

Roll & Play by ThinkFun

Benefits:
- Encourages active play
- Builds confidence
- Improves motor skills

Play Ideas:
- Spread all the colored cards throughout the room to motivate children to find them or complete body challenges to earn them.
- Create a “wild” color that allows the player who rolls to decide what category the group will act out together.

Personalize It: Create your own individualized cards to add to each color category using colored construction paper.
EMOTIONAL
New Sprouts: Grow It!
by Learning Resources

Benefits:
• Imaginative play
• Language development
• Early science skills

Play Ideas:
• Encourage conversation with your family by talking about the different parts that make up a plant; stem, petal, root, and leaf.
• To increase confidence, put together a step by step visual schedule for your child that outlines the steps needed to care for a real plant.

Make it Real: Pair with a real garden and create responsibilities for your child to water the plants, make sure they have sunlight, clean the area of weeds, etc.

Care for Me Learning Center by VTech

Benefits:
• Encourages empathy
• Introduces pet care
• Promotes imaginative play

Play Ideas:
• To encourage responsibility, provide your child with a checklist of daily tasks that must be completed to care for the puppy or create a veterinarian's office in your home using a bottle to feed, pillow for examination, table for setup, and other pretend doctor accessories.
• Use the puppy as a companion for the child to care for, play with, and provide emotional support on long car trips, doctor’s visits, etc.

Expand Play: For children that may be afraid of dogs, slowly introduce this puppy’s routine for your child to learn how pets can be lovable and great companions.
**Make a Mood** by Magnutto

**Benefits:**
- Understanding feelings
- Identifying emotions
- Promotes foreign language development (English, French, Spanish)

**Play Ideas:**
- Children can use the board to show how they are currently feeling to help initiate an open dialogue with peers, caregivers, siblings, etc.
- Using the list of emotions, have the child role play a situation or tell a story of a time they may have felt this way.

**Bilingual Tip:** Make a memory game out of the English and Spanish vocab words, where they would have to flip two cards over and find the match. For example, “feliz” would be “happy” in Spanish.

**Kimochis** by Kimochi

**Benefits:**
- Social and self-awareness
- Pretend play
- Emotional regulation

**Play Ideas:**
- Give your child a scenario and guide him/her to discuss 2-3 feelings that describe the way he/she would feel or ask him/her to share a solution for the situation.
- From the pouch provided, have your child choose an emotion card and mimic a corresponding facial expression in the mirror.

**Expert Tip:** At anytime when your child may have a hard time expressing himself or herself, use Kimochis to help facilitate communication. By using the Kimochi to represent your child, they can talk for him or her.
**Tickle Me D Tunnel by Pacific Play Tents**

**Benefits:**
- Promotes social play
- Versatility
- Multi-sensory

**Play Ideas:**
- For children that may be hesitant to crawl through, place a toy at the end of the tunnel as a motivator.
- To build confidence, provide your child with a flashlight, or shine a light through the windows to guide your child through the tunnel.

**Expand Play:** Children can pretend they are a car going through a car wash, as they make their way through the tunnel. Put outside and pair with a hose and sponges for added sensory play.

**Cubes Puzzle by HABA**

**Benefits:**
- Problem solving
- Promotes attention to detail
- Enhances fine motor development

**Play Ideas:**
- Ask your child to describe the colors and animals in each completed puzzle.
- Sing Old MacDonald and ask your child to mimic the sound that each animal makes.

**Make it a Game:** Ask your child to choose which picture he/she would like to complete. Roll all four cubes and try to complete the puzzle in the least amount of rolls.
SOCIAL
**Sophie’s Seashell Scramble Game**
by Educational Insights

**Benefits:**
- Promotes turn taking
- Enhances social skills
- Builds executive functioning

**Play Ideas:**
- Have one player hide the seashells throughout the room while the remaining players work together to find them.
- Before the game begins, assign a gesture or noise for each space on the spinner; each player must make the gesture or sound after each spin.

**Challenge:** Place the seashells in a bin of sand during gameplay to increase the fun and difficulty.

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**Fleece Play Mat**
by MMP Living

**Benefits:**
- Communication
- Imagination
- Parallel play

**Play Ideas:**
- Ask your child "I-Spy" questions and have your child drive cars to the area of the rug to what he/she thinks you see.
- With peers or family, have each person stationed at all four sides of the mat. Take turns calling out locations and racing to be the first one there.

**Expand Play:** Ask your child to pretend that he or she is a tour guide or bus driver. Ask him/her to describe different areas of the city as the “tour” makes various “stops.”

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Products featured here promotes a child’s the use of the child’s imagination and ability to interact with others.
**John Deere Monster Treads**

*Lightning Wheels Tractor* by TOMY

**Benefits:**
- Pretend play
- Visual stimulation
- Cause and effect

**Play Ideas:**
- Pair with or create a dark tunnel for the tractor to move through. While sitting at either end of the tunnel, your child can watch the wheels light up as it moves through the dark.
- With a partner, race the tractor against another motorized toy and discover which one is faster.

**Take it Outside:** Take this tractor out in the yard and have your child and friends create different obstacles or ramps the tractor can drive over (mulch, sand, etc.) for an outdoor adventure.

**Crocodile Dentist** by Hasbro

**Benefits:**
- Strategic thinking
- Develops visual memory
- Concentration

**Play Ideas:**
- Ask each player to write down a guess of how many teeth it will take for the crocodile to chomp down. The player with the closest guess wins!
- From left to right assign each tooth a number in sequential order from 1-10. Using a premade or homemade deck of cards numbered 1-10, have each player pick up one card, find the corresponding tooth, and depress it. See which number is the chomper!

**Adaptation:** Children that may be hesitant to use their fingers to depress teeth, instead use a toothbrush or popsicle stick to press the teeth down.
**Pizza Party**

**by Melissa & Doug**

**Benefits:**
- Cooperative play
- Pretend play
- Communication

**Play Ideas:**
- While playing with family or friends, work together to create your own slice with your favorite toppings and enjoy this “meal” at the kitchen table.
- While cooking, use the play pizza as a model for a “visual recipe” for creating and enjoying your own real pizza.

**Expand Play:** Introduce early math skills by counting the toppings on each pizza slice. For example, how many peppers?, how many mushrooms?, etc.

**Sunny Day Pond**

**by Peaceable Kingdom**

**Benefits:**
- Problem solving
- Cooperative play
- Color recognition

**Play Ideas:**
- Pair with a rainstick and each time the spinner lands on a raindrop do a group raindance. Take turns sharing the rainstick using a timer for turn taking.
- Upon the completion of a puzzle, have the players create an oral story about where the animal goes during a rainstorm.

**Adaptation:** For children that many need decreased difficulty during game play, reduce the amount of raindrops used in the game.
**Gooey Louie**

**by Goliath**

**Benefits:**
- Concentration
- Turn taking
- Sharing

**Play Ideas:**
- Using a ruler, declare a winner at the end of the game by comparing the length of all of your boogers put together. The player with the longest booger wins!
- Have players cooperate and work together to pull 6 or more boogers out of Louie’s nose, as a team, before his brain pops.

**Challenge:** Instead of using your fingers, have your child use pliers or tweezers to pull boogers out of Louie’s nose.

**Moustache Smash**

**by Spin Master**

**Benefits:**
- Memory and matching
- Quick thinking
- Concentration

**Play Ideas:**
- After each turn, players must pass their mustache to the left, this will keep players on their toes as they have to memorize a new moustache on every turn.
- Have players use the moustaches during a play or puppet show for social and imaginative play.

**Get Silly:** Encourage communication with the group by having players introduce themselves in a silly voice, using the moustaches.
SENSORY
Vibrating Pillow by SENSEEZ

Benefits:
- Improves attention
- Regulates
- Soothes

Play Ideas:
- Have your child sit or lay on the Senseez pillow while engaging in an activity to improve attention.
- Remove the vibrating component from the pillow and use as a massager for tactile stimulation.

Bedtime Tip: Introduce the Senseez pillow to your child’s bedtime routine or during times when extra comfort may be needed.

Cozy Caterpillar Body Sock by Sommerfly

Benefits:
- Improves body awareness
- Regulates
- Calms

Play Ideas:
- While your child is lying on his/her back, call out letters that your child must attempt to create with his/her body while in the sock.
- Recite a story about a caterpillar that felt so calm and cozy in his/her cocoon and ask your child to act out the story.

Tip for Meltdowns: Children can use the body sock anytime during the day if they become overwhelmed or at the end of a long day to unwind.

Products featured here promote a child’s ability to gather, process, regulate and understand information from the environment through any of the senses.
**Inflatable PeaPod by Abilitations**

**Benefits:**
- Improves attention
- Regulates
- Calms

**Play Ideas:**
- For younger children, sit inside the Peapod with your child on your lap while you read a book or sing a song.
- Pretend that the Peapod is a boat traveling down a river. While you play music, ask your child to pretend to row the boat. When you stop the music, he/she must freeze.

**Tip for Teachers:** Keep a Peapod in the back of the classroom to help children regulate when they are overwhelmed and need to calm down.

**Rocking Bowl by Weplay**

**Benefits:**
- Regulates
- Versatile
- Pretend play

**Play Ideas:**
- Use the Rocking bowl as a break for children when they become overwhelmed or as an activity to help with transitioning from one activity to the next.
- Flip the Rocking Bowl over to engage imagination. The bowl could be imagined to be a giant lily pad to balance on or mountain for climbing!

**Rainy Day Idea:** Fill the bowl with sensory materials (sand, rice, noodles, water, etc.) and some of your child’s favorite toys for hours of sensory and pretend play!
**Ruff’s House Teaching Tactile Set by Learning Resources**

**Benefits:**
- Tactile discrimination
- Memory
- Color matching

**Play Ideas:**
- Have your child explore the different textures by feeling each bone on their arm, leg, cheek, neck, etc. and describe the different textures (soft, smooth, bumpy, fuzzy, etc.)
- Place 4 different bones in a row and have your child study the texture and color. Place the four bones in Ruff’s house and see if your child can identify the texture and color of the bone they are holding before pulling it out.

**Orbeez Ultimate Soothing Spa by Maya Group**

**Benefits:**
- Multi-sensory
- Regulates
- Soothes

**Play Ideas:**
- If your child is hesitant to touch the Orbeez, give them a measuring cup or large cooking spoon to use to build confidence and have increased control over the water beads.
- Place Orbeez in a small kiddie pool with additional water and have children walk around the pool and feel the Orbeez between their toes.

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Mix it Up: Turn the doghouse on its side and use as a bucket so your child can toss bones into the opening while shouting out the color or texture.

Make it Personal: Add a few drops of essential oil (lavender, peppermint, citrus) to create a more relaxing and enjoyable activity.
**Tactile Discs by American Educational Products**

**Benefits:**
- Sensory exploration
- Balance
- Matching

**Play Ideas:**
- Have your child wear a blindfold and try to match the small and large discs using only the sense of touch (hands or feet).
- To enhance creativity, pair the tactile discs with paper and crayons and trace the different textures with the corresponding color.

**Expand Play:** Create a tactile path around your house or outside for children to walk across and explore.

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**Teeter Popper by Fat Brain Toys**

**Benefits:**
- Regulates
- Balance
- Coordination

**Play Ideas:**
- Have your child stand on the Teeter Popper with feet shoulder length apart and try to hold his/her balance for 10 seconds as he/she bends to the left, right, and center.
- Explore different surfaces around your home to see what the Teeter Popper will suction to and the different sounds it makes!

**Out of the Box:** Use Teeter Popper in a shallow pool to add stability during water play or use in a bathtub to motivate a child to take a bath.
PHYSICAL
**Tubby Table by Tubby Table**

**Benefits:**
- Encourages pretend play
- Builds fine motor development
- Adjustable base

**Play Ideas:**
- Have a tea party with your child during bath time, using the shapes as their teacups.
- Encourage personal hygiene and develop to teach the child how to rinse themselves off during bathtime.

*Inclusion Tip: Use the Tubby Table as a focal point in a kiddie pool to allow more children to play and interact with one another.*

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**Squigz by Fat Brain Toys**

**Benefits:**
- Utilizes both hands
- Strengthens grasp
- Encourages fine motor coordination

**Play Ideas:**
- Create a Squigz scavenger hunt by spreading the Squigz throughout a room (at varying heights) to encourage your child to reach and grasp.
- Place all the Squigz on a table and have your child try to remove them as fast as possible. Use a timer to track individual progress or for a friendly competition with a peer.

*Out of the Box: Incorporate Squigz into bath time by sticking them on the tub bottom or sides. Children can create an obstacle course for their rubber ducky to swim through!*

Products featured here promote the development of either fine (small muscles such as those in hands and fingers) or gross motor development (larger muscles).
**Scramble Board Game**

*by Pavilion Games*

**Benefits:**
- Develops pincer grasp
- Promotes shape recognition
- Hand-eye coordination

**Play Ideas:**
- Eliminate the timer for children that might find it too stressful. Incorporate the timer once your child has mastered the skill of sorting the shapes.
- To simplify, cover up the first two rows with a piece of paper so your child can focus on one row at a time.

**Expert Tip:** Shapes can be paired with Play-Doh and can be used as shape cutters to enhance sensory play.

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**Chord Buddy**

**Benefits:**
- Encourages finger isolation
- Builds hand strength
- Boosts confidence

**Play Ideas:**
- While utilizing the lesson book, blow pages up for easier readability and for enhanced knowledge prior, head to the Chord Buddy website for additional songs, tips, and tutorial videos.
- If you have a guitar at home, try to play together with your child. Strum one note at a time and build off your skills.

**Make it Familiar:** Learn your child’s favorite song on the radio and learn how to play it together.
**Music Blocks by Neurosmith**

**Benefits:**
- Develops dexterity
- Builds self-esteem
- Promotes hand-eye coordination

**Play Ideas:**
- Have your child begin with all the same 5 shapes facing up and after each song is played flip the blocks to another shape, from left to right, to recognize the change that is taking place.
- Use the cubes as a matching tool, by helping your child find similar objects in your home with the same color or shape.

**Music Lovers Tip:** Roll all 5 cubes to determine what unique song you will create next.

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**Yogarilla by Super Duper Publications**

**Benefits:**
- Promotes body awareness
- Improves motor planning
- Boosts self-esteem

**Play Ideas:**
- Develop a routine of doing 3 or more poses before bedtime or in the morning to help your child unwind before bed or energize before starting the day.
- Incorporate a few poses into an obstacle course or relay race as part of a challenge with peers or family.

**Inclusion Tip:** For children that need a more realistic visual support, pair the yoga pose pictures of gorillas with real life pictures of people doing the poses.
**Wavy Tactile Path by Weplay**

**Benefits:**
- Improves balance
- Builds confidence
- Increases body awareness

**Play Ideas:**
- Position the path in a continuous circle and instruct children to perform various movements. For example, “move fast, slow, sideways, backwards, tiptoes, etc.”
- Children may take turns being the leader of the group. Have children follow their lead by placing two hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them.

**Stats XXL10 Pin Bowling Set by Toys R Us**

**Benefits:**
- Balance and coordination
- Promotes counting
- Boosts confidence

**Play Ideas:**
- Create an obstacle course by setting the bowling pins up so your child must weave in and out of the pins. Your child may try using a scooter, bike or roller blades for an enhanced challenge.
- Place pins at one end of the room and have your child start at the opposite end. Your child must run and grab each pin, one by one, and bring it back to the start area as quickly as possible.

**Friendly Competition:** Create 2 identical paths about 4ft apart from each other, linking four pieces together in each path. Children can take turns racing each other across.

**Adaptation:** Attach bells around the neck of the pins to add an auditory indicator or motivator for knocking the pins down.
**Forest Party by Weplay**

**Benefits:**
- Develops motor planning
- Strengthens core
- Promotes balance

**Play Ideas:**
- Alternate the pieces from flat to rounded sides as a challenge to work on balance and stability.
- To enhance balancing skills, have your child shift his/her weight from side to side while standing on the rounded side of the caterpillar. Support your child if needed, or for more of a challenge, gently rock the caterpillar from side to side.

**Expert Tip:** Use the small wedge with a child during tummy time to increase core and neck strength.

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**Balance Bike by Strider**

**Benefits:**
- Promotes trunk strength
- Boosts self-esteem
- Increases stability

**Play Ideas:**
- Create an obstacle course for your child to ride their bike through. If possible, set two courses up and have peers race.
- Have your child practice navigating the environment by riding up a hill to increase trunk and core strength and navigate obstacles in their neighborhood.

**Warm Up:** To limber up muscles, complete balance stretches or yoga poses before getting on the bike.
**Starter Kit (Tangrams, Words, Base) by Osmo**

**Benefits:**
- Shape recognition
- Creative problem-solving
- Early literacy skills

**Play Ideas:**
- Make your own design by using the Tangram pieces without the iPad and pair with a sketchpad to draw the design.
- Using the letter tiles, choose the letters to a word and have your child unscramble the tiles to create that word.

**Adaptation:** Place a piece of shelf liner or Velcro underneath on the table to stabilize the base and pieces.

**Words, Shapes, Math by Tiggly**

**Benefits:**
- Auditory and visual learning
- Tactile stimulation
- Hand-eye coordination

**Play Ideas:**
- Keeping the shapes in the bag, request a shape and have your child find the correct shape using only their sense of touch.
- To increase communication skills, have your child ask for a shape, using spoken or sign language, or matching visual cards.

**Out of the Box:** Children can use their creativity to create animals, similar to the ones created in the app. They can use the shapes to draw or trace on a sheet of paper.
Edwin the Duck

Benefits:
- Multi-sensory
- Cause and effect
- Interactive stories

Play Ideas:
- Have your child read along and repeat the stories with Edwin to build vocabulary and reading skills.
- Hide Edwin around the house for your child to find. Using the built-in speaker, play music to help guide your child to the duck.

Interactive Tip: Record a sound or word that correlates with a main character of a book. Every time that person, place, or thing comes up in the story your child can activate that sound through Edwin.

Interactive Music Player by BEAMZ

Benefits:
- Promotes hand-eye coordination
- Encourages cooperative play
- Supports auditory processing

Play Ideas:
- Your child can activate the Beamz using their feet, legs, nose, or elbow.
- Assign a barn animal sound to each laser beam and incorporate the sounds into a book or a song about barn animals.

Family Play: Incorporate additional instruments while playing with the Beamz player to enhance songs and include the whole family.
ADAPTIVE
**Prism Light Center**
by ALEX Toys

**Benefits:**
- Encourages sensory exploration
- Promotes open-ended play
- Increases attention and focus

**Play Ideas:**
- Use shaving cream on the table to practice educational activities, like counting or spelling, by using your finger to trace numbers or letters.
- Investigate and experiment with various household items and discover how they may look different when placed on the table over the light.

**Nature Lovers:**
Have children collect items in nature and place a piece of butcher paper on top of the light table. Trace leaves, sticks, pinecones, etc. onto the paper.

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**Rib-it-Ball**
by Playability

**Benefits:**
- Easy to grasp
- Tactile stimulation
- Auditory stimulation

**Play Ideas:**
- With a partner, toss up the ball and count out loud and see how long you are able to keep the ball up in the air without it touching the ground.
- Have your child lay on his/her back while you roll the ball over him/her to provide sensory input.

**Inclusion Tip:**
During a game of volleyball or tennis, replace the ball with the Rib-it-Ball. This will allow children more response time to hit the ball and a larger surface for increased success.
Peek-a-Boo Bear by AbleNet

Benefits:
- Cause and effect
- Develops object permanence
- Peeks curiosity

Play Ideas:
- For an elongated stretch or challenge, place the switch in multiple places surrounding the child to encourage the child to move around and reach.
- Use the bear as a visual model and encourage your child to mimic the bear’s motions.

Expand Play: Develop a story and incorporate the bear into a puppet show and have it be the main character.

Playful Penguin Race by DYTOY

Benefits:
- Enhances hand-eye coordination
- Promotes visual tracking
- Cause and effect

Play Ideas:
- For a more sensory experience, pair the penguins with insta snow to create a winter wonderland for the penguins.
- Before introducing Playful Penguin Race, read a book about penguins to increase your child's knowledge and curiosity.

Expert Tip: Use a visual cue of red and green to represent stop and go and guide your child to activate and stop the Playful Penguin Race.
Sleep Tight Weighted Blanket by Flaghouse

Benefits:
- Sensory regulation
- Improves attention
- Calms

Play Ideas:
- Use the weighted blanket during story time for focused attention or before bedtime to prepare your child for a good night’s sleep.
- “Roll” your child in the blanket as an imaginary “burrito” for added proprioceptive input, being sure to keep your child’s head exposed. Add imaginary condiments like cheese and salsa, but providing extra squeezes or hugs.

Calming Tip: Use the Weighted Blanket during long car rides or doctor’s visits when extra comfort may be needed.

Ring Around Bells by Enabling Devices

Benefits:
- Multi-sensory
- Simple activation
- Cause and effect

Play Ideas:
- Bells are removable and can be pulled out and used individually by holding and ringing or remove bells to change the order of the notes.
- Pair Ring Around Bells with a song, such as “Are you Sleeping” (Frere Jaques) and have your child ring the bells during the chorus.

Adaptation: Wrap the wooden ball with cloth to muffle the sound when ringing, for children that are sensitive to loud noises.