

Alternative Holiday Gift Ideas

One of the most important factors to consider when evaluating the safety of children’s gifts is the age and developmental stage of the child. Please find the following gift ideas grouped by age. Be creative and as lead-safe as possible.

Newborns (0 – 3 months) do not need toys. It is recommended that their cribs be kept clear of heavy blankets, stuffed animals and other items to minimize the risk of suffocation.

| Infants | Toddlers 1 - 3 years | Pre-School 4 - 5 years | School Age 6 – 9 years |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>0 - 6 months Infant mirror Cloth books Soothing music Cloth stretch toy Cloth mobiles Cloth rattles</p> | <p>Age appropriate soft toys (Raggedy Anne, bean bag chairs) Fabric rocking horses Books Finger puppets Balls Nesting blocks Finger paints</p> | <p>Games and Puzzles Books Jump ropes, balls, hula hoops Fancy, funny pillows for their room Puzzles Tricycles & helmets Beginner skates & safety gear Field trips to fire stations, police stations, jelly bean factory Sports equipment (exercise balls, jump ropes, baseball) Costumes for dress up Library card/regular trips to the library Coloring books with large boxes of coloring crayons Making salt dough ornaments, cookies and gingerbread houses</p> | <p>Books Craft supplies and teaching time (knitting, embroidery, water colors) Sleeping bags for sleepovers Community classes targeting children, dance arts, field trips Musical instruments, (inexpensive wood flutes, drums) Bicycles/helmets Skateboards, skates, safety equipment Sports equipment (exercise balls, jump ropes, baseball) Stickers and sticker books Collections: stickers, sports cards, marbles Playing cards, hearts, creating houses of cards Games (Dominoes, Chess, Checkers, Monopoly, Scrabble) Albums to save pictures, memorabilia School supplies Hair ornaments CD's of age appropriate music Cooking classes and activities Lessons (horseback riding, ballet, dance, sewing) Inexpensive camera to learn to record family events Microscope or science kits, age appropriate Rock collection and guide Parties for friends (including a piñata, pizza parlor, time at an event) Computer games, age appropriate Binoculars for bird watching</p> |
| <p>6 - 12 months Cloth blocks Tummy time mat</p> | | | |

Gifts for the Entire Family

Time together (the most important gift), sports activities and hikes, outings to the zoo, aquariums, museums, picnics at local parks, concert and other event tickets, memberships in family fitness classes, YMCA, YWCA, Bus Pass with movie tickets, gift certificates for movie rentals, family movie nights, a drive to the snow, garden gifts, e.g. trees, bulbs, herbs or flowers to plant together, pet obedience training classes with family dog, donate time together at a “soup kitchen”, beach clean-up, tree planting, gift certificates for family activities.

Get the LEAD Out

A Bay Area Coalition of Lead Poisoning Prevention Leaders