



Radio Stations : **All Community Radio Stations**
Subject : **Early Childhood Development**
Audience : **Parents, caregivers and educators**
Program Topic : **Toys and Toy-making (LOVE)**

Guidelines to the presenter

- Presenter – please familiarize yourself with the brief and the use the facts effectively by referring to them from time to time during the show.
- You should be seen as a peer rather than an authority.
- Offer guidance or opinion rather than telling people what to do.
- Encourage people to seek further information
- Always keep the objectives and outcomes in mind and drive these.

Topic:

Toys and Toy-making

Objectives

- Promote the value of toys for children’s stimulation
- Enable understanding of how to make or source inexpensive but stimulating toys for their children
- Underline that home environments are more stimulating through the provision of appropriate toys
- Promote basic toys such as blocks are made for children and water/sand play is encouraged

Introduction

On this show, we celebrate the fact that you are the most important person in your child's life. You have the power to give your child the best possible start in life and it doesn't have to cost you a cent.

In continuing with series on Play, we discuss toys today. For little kids, playing is everything -- fun, yes, but also vital for their growth. It's how they explore the world and learn to do things like crawl, talk, walk, build, sing, draw, and make friends. We have discussed a number of ways to assist in your children's development and learning over the last few weeks. Today we will discuss toys and their role in children's learning.

Children need toys to stimulate them, and help them learn about the world. Many would think that toys are expensive items that one purchases from Reggies and other shops. This is not the case. Simple toys -- like blocks and balls -- are excellent toys. In fact, when it comes to toys, Basic is better-- one doesn't need expensive toys. Although toys are important, love, attention and talking to your child are still the most important elements a parent needs to provide. So be aware that toys are not something to distract the child while you do other things. They are an important part of learning along with the parent's attention.

Questions	Facts/Information
<p>1. <i>Do I need a lot of toys to encourage my child's development and early learning?</i></p>	<p>Babies and children do need things to explore and learn about in their environment in order to grow, develop and support their brains development. However many of the things that they need to develop can be made or found in our environments, and don't need to be bought. Experts agree that babies need a variety of toys to enrich their lives and encourage learning. While your baby can learn from expensive store-bought toys, she</p>

<p>2. <i>It is very overwhelming when you go into a toy shop - all the expensive toys that claim to make children smarter. What kinds of toys are best to enhance learning?</i></p> <p>3. <i>So it seems basic is better?</i></p>	<p>can also learn from a crumpled piece of paper, a set of measuring spoons, an empty box, or a leaf. Everything is new and interesting to a baby!</p> <p>Don't be fooled by the "make your baby smarter" claims. There is no research that shows that these products boost a child's brain power. In fact, safe household items — such as plastic bowls for filling and dumping, pillows for climbing or making a cave, and old clothing for dress up — are great learning tools. Classics like blocks, dump trucks, stuffed animals, and objects that imitate "real life" such as toy hammers and play kitchens are great for developing the imagination. And don't forget about books! The more a child has to use his mind and body to problem solve and develop his own ideas, the more he learns</p> <p>Haven't you noticed that the toys children often like the most are the simplest? Research also points to the fact that when families choose toys - <i>Basic is better</i>. The highest-scoring toys for learning so far have been quite simple: hardwood blocks, a set of wooden vehicles and road signs, and classic wooden construction toys. These</p>
---	---

<p>4. <i>Do babies need toys?</i></p> <p>5. <i>Broadly what types of toys that can be helpful for learning at what age?</i></p>	<p>toys are relatively open-ended, so children can use them in multiple ways. Also, they have all been around for a long time. There may be a reason these toys have been enjoyed by children over the generations! Simple, classic toys would be the recommendation for families.</p> <p>During your baby's first two months, she doesn't need or want any toys. Your baby won't even discover her own hands until she's about two months old. Your baby may instinctively clutch a toy that you put in her hand, but she can't really play with it. She may enjoy looking at a plaything or listening to it, but she'd much rather look at and listen to you.</p> <p>From two to three months, however, when your baby's hands open up and she first discovers them-and all the things she can do with them-toys become much more valuable as learning tools. Noisy toys are great at this age. (Just make sure they're soft, because your baby will probably hit herself in the head with them.)</p> <p>While they are categorized by age range, you will find that many will be useful at various stages.</p>
--	---

<p><i>you have for inexpensive toys?</i></p>	<p>They make great caterpillars, they're good storage containers for little treasures found on walks, and they can even become airline seats for little animal toys.</p> <p>2. Chalk.</p> <p>On sidewalks, on chalkboards... endless fun, and it hoses right off.</p> <p>3. Water and cups.</p> <p>Children love to "wash" dishes. Just give her a step stool in front of the sink and a few dishes – she's lost in her own world.</p> <p>4. Paper and safety scissors.</p> <p>Old newspapers, expired coupons, scrap paper... give some to your kiddo with a pair of safety scissors, and he'll be engrossed forever.</p> <p>5. Dried beans or rice.</p> <p>It's fun to pour into bowls and cups of different sizes, and it's a good sensory exercise.</p> <p>6. Toilet paper or paper towel tubes.</p> <p>They're great telescopes for your budding pirate, you can cover the ends and pour some dried beans inside for a musical shaker, or you can sit them upright as bowling pins.</p> <p>7. Old clean socks.</p> <p>Roll them up into balls, or get some markers and wear them on your hand for classic</p>
--	--

<p>8. <i>What about making a few simple toys?</i></p>	<p>sock puppets.</p> <p>8. Washed out empty food containers. My daughter loves to play kitchen, and she's stocked with some of our empty syrup, ketchup, and dressing bottles. No need to buy a child-size version of the same plastic thing.</p> <p>9. Balloons. Indoor volleyball is fun for everyone. And armed with a marker, they're transformed into silly faces.</p> <p>10. Books. They were my absolute favorite. The child who doesn't like to read is missing out on adventure, meeting new people, and traveling through time.</p> <p>11. Paper and crayons. It's a classic for a reason – give your child a blank canvas, and anticipate their creation. It's a joy to watch their process.</p> <p>12. A cardboard box. You knew this one would be on the list, didn't you? Every child loves a big, unused cardboard box to transform into a clubhouse, a fort, a time machine, a tent, whatever. Hours of fun, indeed!</p> <p>Here are some examples of a few toys you could make in your home:</p>
---	---

<p>9. <i>How do you make a shape sorter?</i></p> <p>10. <i>I have heard you can make puzzles. How do you do this?</i></p>	<p>For babies: A mobile made out of things found in nature to hang above their sleeping place, a shaker made with beans in a jar,</p> <p>When they grow up, making wooden blocks for them to build with, a bean bag to throw and catch, go cart, a shape sorter and bucket with bottles of various sizes, playdough.</p> <p>For this you need a large ice-cream container, some wooden blocks cut into different shapes, sandpaper and a koki. First you carve 4 different shapes out of the wood (triangle, square, circle, rectangle). Then place the shapes on the lid of the ice-cream container and trace around them. Cut out the shapes (following the lines on the lid) and then place the lid back on the container.</p> <p>Puzzles are very easy to make and so important for a child’s development. Find a strong piece of cardboard and glue an interesting picture on the one side (either from a magazine or you can use a large photo). For your child try to make the image very simple and don’t make too many pieces. For older children this can get more</p>
--	--

<p><i>11. What about making blocks for building?</i></p> <p><i>12. Do you have to teach children how to play with block?</i></p>	<p>complicated. If you can, laminate it. Create some puzzle pieces by drawing the puzzles pieces on the picture and then cutting them out. You can keep making more and making them more difficult as your child grows. Later you can ask your child to chose the pictures themselves and help with the gluing and cutting.</p> <p>Blocks are one of the most important toys you can make for your toddler. She will play with blocks or stones through their preschool years and learn many different skills. Make blocks of different shape and sizes using off-cuts of wood or cardboard. If you can't make blocks, use stone or clay.</p> <p>No your child will learn naturally by themselves. However when they are young, play with them and he will learn best by watching you. Show him hot to build a tower – he will knock it over, but soon he will learn to build for himself and the more he builds, the more he will improve his coordination and balance. Later you can use the blocks to show him different shapes and teach him the meaning of words such as big and small and more and less. These are important numeracy skills which will help</p>
--	--

<p><i>13. What about water and sand play?</i></p>	<p>with counting later on!</p> <p>Water and sand play is very important for developing the whole child.</p> <p>Sand and water play can be important for a child's development. They learn science from pouring and measuring and seeing the consistency of how the water changes. Plus you get so much cooperative play. Sand and water is completely a hands-on experience that is open-ended. The kids can put toys to fish in, or they can make mountains and islands. They can put rocks in the water and work with density and weight.</p> <p>Create a sandy and water play area using buckets and plastic containers (lots of different shapes for pouring and measuring) and make spades out of household items for the sand.</p>
<p><i>14. You mentioned playdough – what is this and how do you make this?</i></p>	<p>Playdough is really fun for playing with but also teaches children about texture, building with their hands and helps with the fine motor skills needed later for writing. It is easy to make playdough at home. You will need 1 cup of flour, ½ cup of salt, 1 tablespoon of oil, 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar and a cup of water.</p>

<p><i>15. What about using household items as toys?</i></p>	<p>Mix these all together and then bring to boil on your stove, stirring all the time. The playdough is ready when the mixture goes lumpy and leaves the side of the pot. Cool slightly and then add a few drops of food colouring if you have to make different colours. Store in an airtight container.</p> <p>Yes. There are many items in your home that can be used as toys and for learning – as long as they are too big to choke on. For example when your toddler is about 18 months he will start to recognise the similarities and differences between things. This is an important thinking skill. You can use items in your house – spoons and forks, different colour items, buttons and stones – to help him learn this by sorting into groups. Sorting helps him make sense of the world.</p>
<p><i>16. As children grow, toys grow with them - Can you describe some of the playtime milestones that one can expect with a ball?</i></p>	<p>A ball is such a basic but very useful toy, and can be enjoyed for many years.</p> <p>At 6 Months: Your baby will stare intently at the ball. He will also enjoy grasping and feeling it, so go for one with interesting textures like nubs or tags.</p> <p>By 12 Months: He can sit on the floor and roll the ball back and forth with you. He</p>

17. Are toys the most important thing you child needs to develop their potential?

might even be able to throw it, although without much aim or purpose. Chat to him while you do this and call his name
by **18 Months:** he will be enjoying throwing the ball to you.

From **2 Years:** He will start to improve his throw as well as to to kick and dribble a ball with his feet. Chasing the ball starts to be a lot of fun

3 Years: By now he might be able to catch a large ball. Some toddlers might be able to kick a ball toward a defined goal. Use the ball to learn about counting and concepts like hard soft, far and near, high and low, over and under.

Your child needs a range of things to develop their full potential – good nutrition (like breastfeeding for as long as possible), early stimulation, access to good health care and love. Love might be the most important so don't forget that you have an important role to play in your child's play. They need your attention so:

■ **Join in her play.** Delight in her discoveries. When learning takes place in the context of loving relationships, children become eager, lifelong learners.

■ **See what your child is trying to do or**

	<p>figure out. Think about all he may be learning, such as sinking and floating when he drops different objects into the bathtub.</p> <p>■ Provide the support she needs to accomplish her goal. Does she need you to lift her up to touch an interesting object; stand behind her to help her make it up the stairs of the slide; provide more blocks to make a taller tower?</p> <p>■ Present new challenges when you see he is ready. When he's learning to crawl, move a desired object a little farther away so he can experience the power and joy of movement. When he's entering the world of pretend, suggest that his stack of blocks might also become a barn for his play animals.</p> <p>■ Be spontaneous and have fun. Playing should not feel like work. It should be a joyful, exciting time that you and your child share. So relax and enjoy yourself. Play is good for you, too.</p>

Conclusion

All these toys will contribute to the development and stimulation of your child but parents need to remember that the cornerstones of parenting—listening, caring, and guiding through effective and developmentally appropriate discipline—and sharing pleasurable time together are the truly important parts of childhood, more important

than toys, and they serve as a springboard toward a happy, successful adulthood.

Learning outcomes

After listening to this show the audience should:

- Understand the importance of providing toys for their children because the value of toys for children's stimulation is understood
- Understand how to make or source inexpensive but stimulating toys for their children
- Make home environments more stimulating through the provision of appropriate toys
- Encourage basic toys such as blocks made for children and water/sand play