

SELECTING AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS FOR CHILDREN

Kids love to play. Don't we all? If you have a younger sibling or are babysitting, it's important to know how to select age appropriate toys for them. The younger children, especially babies and toddlers, love to put things in their mouth. As they get older, they want to throw those same items, or draw over every available surface.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

Spend an hour helping to entertain a young child, select appropriate toys and eliminate potential dangers, with the parent's supervision.

LEVEL E

PERIOD 1

TASK 4

For this task, we're going to look at some ways of defining age appropriate toys so we don't have to deal with any huge issues afterwards.

- If you have the packaging, you should be able to see a recommended age for use. These recommendations are a good guide, but you still need to use your common sense.
- Never give a young child a toy with small parts. Babies and toddlers love to put things in their mouth, and given half the chance, they'll swallow them and choke. Make sure floors are picked up and all choking hazards are removed.
- Kids love keys, and they love pencils. But keys are full of sharp edges and pencils have that sharp point along with the eraser on the other end that will be chewed off in seconds. Keep these items away from play areas.
- Many children will start to climb, and in such a case you may have to remove items they will fall from and hurt themselves. Start thinking through scenarios and move items away.
- If you're helping with a child who loves to throw any and all objects, nerf toys are a good move. Remove those hard plastic toys that are projectiles waiting to happen.
- Younger children often love those high detail toys that big brother plays with. When you confiscate these items, you may create a few tears temporarily, but you can find a different toy and quickly distract them.
- It's easy to distract a young child with screens and cartoons, but they need to develop their mind and motor skills. Resist the temptation to take the easy way out, and strive to give the child age appropriate toys to play with, and interact with them yourself.

