



# Special Toys: Gertie Games

## What is a Gertie???

The Gertie ball is an inflatable ball that is brightly colored and invites touch due to its "tacky" surface. The Gertie can be inflated/deflated to any level desired with a straw. When it is left squishy it encourages grasping, when it is fully inflated is easier to roll, bounce etc.

## How can you play with a Gertie????

◆ For a young child the Gertie is fun to grab, squeeze and pick-up with both hands. It is very light and easy to hold. It is also fun to watch the Gertie ball roll across the floor or table. A young child can play with a Gertie on his/her back, side, belly or in sitting. To heighten the sensory impact of the Gertie one suggestion is to put it in the refrigerator/freezer or run hot water over it before giving it to your child.



◆ The child who is a little older may enjoy beginning turn taking as the Gertie is rolled back and forth on the floor between the child and another person. Due to its light-weight the Gertie is slow moving and easy for a child to follow with his/her eyes and anticipate its movement. The Gertie can also be rolled into empty boxes or milk cartons to "crash them down!" Try new ball games by rolling the Gertie back and forth

using different body parts (i.e. head, two feet, etc.)

◆ The Gertie is great for a child who is learning to play catch. It is slow moving and allows the child to prepare for its arrival. It also is so light that it does not hurt if you miss and get bonked in the nose. Parents, in addition it is a wonderful "house ball". It won't damage breakables when your child's aim is a little "off". Since this is the case why not play indoor kickball with the Gertie during the long winter months?



◆ The Gertie also floats in the bathtub or swimming pool. It is fun to try and push the Gertie under water and watch it pop back up.

**\* Caution \*** If your child likes to bite things you may need to watch your child closely with the Gertie. Children have been known to bite through a Gertie when it is held tightly with the teeth and pulled with both hands.

## Where can you get your Gertie?

Gerties come in several ball shapes, sizes and colors and cost from \$4 to \$10. For the aspiring football star there is a Hurly-Gertie, a giant Gertie called the Ultra Gertie, Nobbie Gertie with bumps and one that glows in the dark.

Gerties are available at specialty toy and learning centers.

### On the World Wide Web:

Kids Planet: Toy Store:

[http://www.cybout.com/html/toy\\_store.html](http://www.cybout.com/html/toy_store.html)

Someday Isle Quality Toys:

<http://www.somedayisle.com/index.htm>

### Catalogs:

Sportime: (800) 283-5700

Ball Dynamics: (800) 752-2255