



## National Lekotek Center's Top Ten Tips to Consider When Buying Toys for Children with Disabilities

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### 1. Multisensory appeal

Does the toy respond with lights, sounds, or movement to engage the child?  
Are there contrasting colors? Does it have a scent? Is there texture?

### 2. Method of activation

Will the toy provide a challenge without frustration? What is the force required to activate?  
What are the number and complexity of steps required to activate?

### 3. Where toy will be used

Will the toy be easy to store? Is there space in the home? Can the toy be used in a variety  
of positions such as side-lying or on wheelchair tray?

### 4. Opportunities for success

Can play be open-ended with no definite right or wrong way? Is it adaptable to the child's  
individual style, ability and pace?

### 5. Current popularity

Is it a toy that will help the child with disabilities feel like "any other kid"? Does it tie-in  
with other activities like books and art sets that promote other forms of play?

### 6. Self-expression

Does the toy allow for creativity, uniqueness, and choice-making? Will it give the child  
experience with a variety of medium?

### 7. Adjustability

Does it have adjustable height, sound volume, speed, level of difficulty?

### 8. Child's individual characteristics

Does the toy provide activities that reflect both developmental and chronological ages?  
Does it reflect the child's interests and age?

### 9. Safety and durability

Consider the child's size and strength. Does the toy have moisture resistance?  
Is the toy and its parts sized appropriately? Can it be washed and cleaned?

### 10. Potential for interaction

Will the child be an active participant during use? Will the toy encourage social  
engagement with others?

The **National Lekotek Center** leads the way for accessible play for children with disabilities and their families through a nationwide non-profit network of 62 play centers, toy lending libraries and technology programs. For more information, call the **Lekotek Toy Resource Helpline: 1-800-366-PLAY**.