



First edition written and published in 2022 by Sian Thomas of This Playful Home.

Text © 2022

Photographs on page 1 and 3 © 2022

All image products © of original brands that are hyperlinked

No part of this publication may be copied in any form or by any means unless prior written consent is given from the author.

The information within this guide is based on the author's knowledge, experience and opinions as both a teacher and parent. Neither the author, publisher or distributor of this book will be held responsible for the use or misuse of information within this book.

Welcome!

Thank you so much for downloading this guide - I hope that you find it helpful.

I debated publishing a guide this year. With the economic situation being stressful, I wondered whether I would adding more pressure to your plate. Ultimately I decided that sharing toys with real 'play potential' would help you to make more informed choices.

This Holiday Gift Guide is a little different to others available because I do not have affiliate links with any companies and I don't have any brand partnerships either.

All of the present ideas that are listed are items that we own. And it's not just items we own in order to fill out this list, they are all items that my children love. I don't earn any money from this guide, it simply exists to help you find good quality present ideas for your children.

Each item is hyperlinked directly to the brand website so that you can research stockists in your local area.

Have fun shopping!

Sian Thomas







Baby (0-1)



Arguably, babies are happy playing with their own feet and hands, so buy toys with plenty of play potential. The oball can be stuffed with a Sarah's Silk to make a fun pull toy. The Grimm's Rainbow Grasper can be kept for dramatic play in the future - or eventually used as loose parts. Combine these items with classic open-ended items, such as a wooden block set.













Always supervise baby play closely

Toddler (1-3)



When your child reaches the toddler years, you'll start to notice more schema based play as they start to figure out the world around them. Combine these featured products with open-ended and sensory play items to help your child explore.













Preschooler (3-5)



By the time your child reaches the age of 3, you will start to observe more focused play sessions. Combine the toys featured below with items from the dramatic play, small world play and open-ended pages of this guide to provide plenty of opportunities for rich learning experiences.













Open-Ended Play



Open-ended toys can provide your child with endless opportunities to play independently. And the beauty of these resources? Us adults can have just as much fun tinkering with them, making them the perfect toys for connecting via play.



















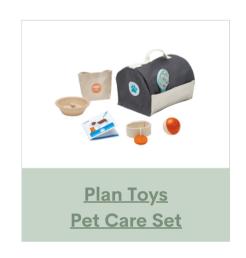


Dramatic Play

Welcome to the magical realm of childhood where you can be anyone you wish to be. Dramatic play items really start to shine when children reach 3. Combine these toys with other items in this guide. The Le Toy Van Doctors Bag and Ollie Ella Dinkum Doll, for example or the IKEA Duktig Kitchen with TickIt loose parts (in place of toy food).













Small World Play



Small world play helps boost language skills and provides plenty of opportunities for children to play in an imaginative, creative way.





Schleich animals



Wonder Cloth



Maileg Mice





Brio Train Set



Ollie Ella Doll House



Grimm's **Rainbow Friends**



Way to Play Road





Sensory Play



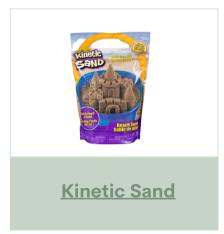
Sensory play might be the last thing on your mind during the winter months but when children get amped up as a result of the excitement of the festive season, a little hands-on sensory play might be just what they need.













Art Supplies



The period just after Christmas Day is the perfect time to get creative. Buying art supplies as part of a present (or stocking filler) will give your child something fun and focused to do during that strangely quiet week between Christmas and New Years.













Stocking Fillers



Stocking fillers can be tricky, because the amount you spend on small items can quickly add up. I like to include artistic or skills-based items within the stocking as well as traditional items like chocolate coins and satsumas.









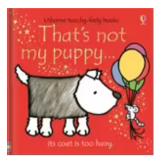


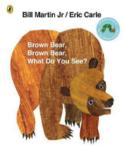


Books We Love



Baby











Toddler







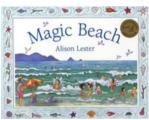






Preschooler













5+









