



Teacher Recommended Gifts for Preschoolers

Are you looking for gift ideas for a young child? Our staff has put together a list of our favorite books, games and toys for young children that support development and learning.

Books

Our favorite authors:

- Jan Brett
- Eric Carle
- Mem Fox
- Bill Martin, Jr.
- Laura Numeroff
- Dr. Seuss

Our favorite books:

- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom!" by Bill Martin, Jr.
- "Count the Monkeys" by Mac Barnett
- "Froggy" (series) by Jonathan London
- "Have You Filled a Bucket Today" by Carol McCloud
- "I Feel" (series) by DJ Corchin
- "Llama Llama Red Pajama" (series) by Anna Dewdney
- "No, David" (series) by David Shannon
- "Not a Box" and "Not a Stick" by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- "Pete the Cat" (series) by James Dean
- "Press Here" by Herve Tullet
- "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn
- "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak

Why we like books...

- Reading is a vital life skill
- Positive experiences with books and literature correlate with later reading and academic success

Skills developed reading books:

- Vocabulary
- Knowledge
- Language and literacy skills
- Concepts of print

Board Games

- Chutes and Ladders
- Candyland
- Hi-Ho! Cherry-O
- Hoot Owl Hoot
- Melissa and Doug's Sandwich Stacking Game
- Memory
- Zingo

2500 N. Northern Ave. Waukegan, IL 60087

Phone (847) 623-0550 Fax (847) 623-0343

www.aauwpreschool.org





Why we like board games...

- They provide opportunities for social interaction and learning to take turns
- They foster coping skills of winning and losing appropriately

Skills developed playing with board games:

- Language and literacy concepts
- Math concepts
- Attention span

Building or Construction Sets

- Blocks
- Gears
- Legos or Duplos
- Magna-Tiles
- Marble Run

Why we like building or construction sets...

- Children tap into their imaginations
- Children learn vital skills of creative thinking, critical thinking, planning and organizing that are essential to executive function and later school success

Skills developed playing with building or construction sets...

- Math concepts
- Science concepts
- Fine and large motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination

Art & Drawing Materials

- Construction paper
- Crayons, markers, pencils
- Glue, glue sticks
- Paint, watercolors
- Scissors

Why we like art and drawing materials...

- Art provides an opportunity for self-expression
- Children have opportunities to experiment with various tools and mediums and learn an appreciation for art

Skills developed playing with art and drawing materials...

- Visual-spatial
- Decision-making
- Fine motor coordination and pencil grip

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Discovery, Science & Sensory

- Sand, moon sand, rice, beans, corn
- Playdough and tools
- Magnifying glass
- Bug catchers

Why we like discovery, science and sensory activities...

- Children learn to experiment with materials and outcomes
- Children learn to appreciate our natural environment

Skills developed playing with discovery, science and sensory materials...

- Observation
- Fine motor
- Sensory perception
- Science concepts

Music

- Musical instruments
- CDs
- Tape recorder

Why we like music activities...

- Music has a positive influence on cognitive and language skills and correlates to better school success

Skills developed playing with music...

- Cognitive
- Attention and focus
- Social and emotional

Puzzles

- Simple to complex
- Floor

Why puzzles?

- Children gain a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence as they complete puzzles

Skills developed playing with puzzles...

- Language
- Perseverance
- Problem-solving
- Math and spatial reasoning

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Props for Dramatic Play

- Dress-up clothes and costumes
- Cars, trains, planes, boats
- Plastic or felt food, dishes
- Keys, purses, wallets, phones
- Dolls, blankets, clothes
- Puppets, stuffed animals

Why props and dramatic play materials?

- It provides opportunities for children to role play to learn about the world around them
- Children can express themselves and tell stories through play with props

Skills developed playing with props and dramatic play materials...

- Language and communication
- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Social and emotional
- Attention span

Resources for Purchases

- Scholastic Book Orders (available at AAUW)
- Smile.Amazon.com
 - Choose to support AAUW Preschool and we will receive a portion of the sale from Smile.Amazon.com
 - Same pricing to consumers as Amazon.com
- Mindware.com
- Kohl's – Kohl's Cares for Kids merchandise (books & accompanying stuffed animals)
- Brainstorm in Lindenhurst
- Lakeshore Learning in Palatine and online

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