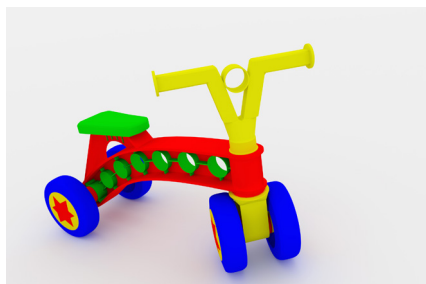


Toys and Books That Support Your Toddler's Development

Between 12 and 24 months, it is wonderful for children to begin moving their bodies and exploring through activities such as pushing cars, riding on a bumble bee or rocking on a horse! Action-focused toys have multiple benefits, including supporting pretend play, advancing finger strength and coordination, and encouraging the use of imagination for open-ended and independent play.

Reading about everyday things, such as brushing their teeth or going to the market, and acting them out in pretend play helps toddlers make sense of their life and their world in a relatable way. Pretend play also encourages talking, brain development and thinking skills. Communicating your unconditional love to your child helps them feel secure and worthy, and books about this emotion can help you start meaningful conversations.



Fun fact: Playing with dolls using pretend play skills, such as feeding and rocking to sleep, encourages empathy. Dolls are great for both girls and boys.

We know toys are expensive these days. There are great options for getting used toys, such as from Goodwill, from a friend whose children are older and from groups and platforms online that sell or give away toys. There are also many things you can create using objects at home that stimulate your child's development. For example, you can use an empty box or a short laundry bin and put it on the couch to make a basketball hoop.