



# PARENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

## Choosing Quality Toys

Quality toys support healthy play, engage all of the senses, allow children to use their imagination, and let children make decisions about their play. Toys should be washable, without sharp edges, and small to grasp but not small enough to fit entirely into the mouth.

**Birth to 4 months** -You are the greatest toy available! Talk to your baby in a playful way. Sing and repeat soft sounds she responds to again and again. Gently dance with your baby. Play with her hands and feet. Pedal her legs, and make silly sounds.

Infants investigate their world with their senses. Choose mobiles with bright moving objects that are interesting from the baby's point of view. Mirrors also offer great benefits in baby play.

**Four to 8 months** – Infants use their eyes, ears, hands, and mouth to explore. Toys that make a sound response to his actions are best. Look for toys that pop up, turn, honk, rattle, or play music when baby pushes, punches, or pokes at them.

**Eight to 12 months** –Babies are fully active in exploring their world at this age. Provide objects, such as plastic lids, small blocks, soft balls, and stacking rings, to place in containers and spill out.

Choose toys that help her practice making sounds and saying words as well as practice in pulling, pushing, poking, and punching. Toys that fit together are interesting to children at this age.

Provide opportunities for your child to move through space in swings and wagons. You are still the best toy even at this age. Play Peekaboo, Pat-a-Cake, and Copycat with your baby.

**Twelve to 18 months** –Infants explore to see what will happen. Provide safe places for her to climb in, over, under, and through. Toy replicas of grown-up items offer endless opportunities for pretense.

**Eighteen to 36 months** – Toddlers are developing coordination and strength. Provide push and pull toys and balls. Toys that encourage rhythmic play, such as musical instruments, are good choices. However, pots, pans, and spoons often become favorites. Encourage problem solving skills with puzzles, stacking cups, and shape sorters. Choose open-ended materials to promote creativity, such as sand and water toys, fabrics, animals, vehicles, building blocks, dress-up clothes, and dolls.

### Toys to Avoid

- High Tech Toys and DVD's – The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no electronic media before age two. The more time toddlers spend watching DVDs, the less time they spend interacting and engaging in creative play.
- Flashy Toys with Lights and Sound – While flashy toys are appealing and entertaining, they limit creativity and discovery.
- Toys based on TV Characters – TV characters capture a toddler's attention. However, whatever a child views that is associated with that character he may want, can lead to nagging, unhealthy eating habits, and limit your child's imagination.

### Toy Recalls

Make sure toys are safe! Obtain the latest recall information at [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov).

# INTRODUCING THE FALL UNIT

September/October/November

## THEME CONCEPTS

### Theme 1 • Forest

**New Words:** baby, up, down

**Book:** *Rock-a-Bye Baby*

**Basic Skills:** red, triangle

### Theme 2 • Helpers

**New Words:** friend, help, he, she

**Book:** *All About Me!*

**Basic Skills:** red, triangle

### Theme 3 • Music & Song

**New Words:** write, sing

**Book:** *Five Silly Monkeys*

**Basic Skills:** red, triangle



## SING-A-LONG SONGS

### "Two Little Bears"

*Sung to "Two Little Blackbirds."*

Sing the song and do the actions.

**Two little black bears playing on a hill, (wiggle fingers of both hands)**

**One named Black, (make left hand into a fist)**

**One named Bill. (make right hand into a fist)**

**Run away Black. (hide left hand)**

**Run away Bill. (hide right hand)**

**Come back Black. (show left fist)**

**Come back Bill. (show right fist)**

**Two little black bears playing on a hill, (wiggle fingers of both hands)**

**One named Black, (make left hand into a fist)**

**One named Bill. (make right hand into a fist)**

### "A Helper, That is Me!"

*Sung to "The Farmer in the Dell."*

**A helper, that is me.**

**A helper, that is me.**

**See me pick up toys.**

**A helper, that is me!**

## FALL BOOK LIST

*Curious Creatures: Whispers in the Woods*  
by Jean Christie and Sally Chambers

*I Am an Owl*  
by La Coccinella

*My Grandpa and I*  
*Grandma Loves You*  
both by P.K. Hallinan

*Down in the Woods at Sleepytime*  
by Carole Lexa Schaefer  
and Vanessa Cabban

*Forest Babies*  
by Kristen McCurry

*Bright Baby Colors*  
by Roger Priddy

*Bear's Day Out*  
by Michael Rosen and Adrian Reynolds

*Noisy Forest!*  
by Harriet Ziefert and Simms Taback

*Going to the Dentist*  
by Anne Civardi

*Pocoyo Discovers Shapes: A First Book of Shapes*  
by Red Fox

*Fireman Sam and His Friends*  
by Helen Lloyd

*Policeman Small*  
by Lois Lenski

*Visiting the Doctor*  
by Dawn Sirett

*Little Helper* by TickTock Books Ltd  
*The Lady With the Alligator*

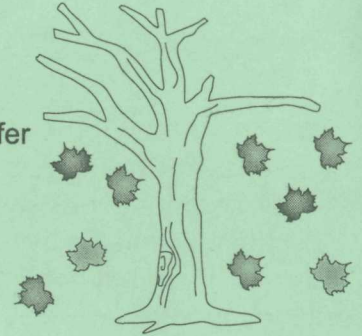
*Skip to My Lou* both  
by Nadine Bernard Westcott

*Wee Sing The Ants Go Marching*

*Wee Sing If You're Happy and You Know It*  
both by Pamela Conn Beall, Susan Hagen Nipp,  
and Hala Wittwer

*Rhythm Band Board Book: Bells*  
*Beat the Drum!*

both by Billy Davis



## DON'T FORGET/PLEASE NOTE:

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## WE COULD USE:

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[www.funshineexpress.com](http://www.funshineexpress.com)

1.800.340.8103