



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

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**.