



The Toy Trap

Buying & Creating Toys

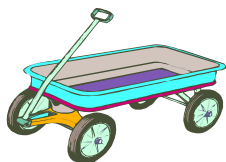
Play

is an important part of childhood and should be encouraged

Toys can be used to enhance the imagination which nourishes creative minds. When purchasing commercial toys....



Prevention is the key! Sometime in your life you have experienced either having been the pleading child, seen the pleading child or have had your own pleading child at the cash register.



If going to a store with your child, set the boundaries before

you leave the house.....not the car!



If you feel the toy your child wants promotes destructive or violent behaviors, try to find an alternative solution that meets similar needs. Children will be more willing to accept the bans you impose if they feel they have been heard and that you have tried to take their point of view.



If a single-purpose toy is selected, help your child get away from imitating television scripts with the toy by providing open-ended play materials or props to be used with it.



When you are shopping for a toy, use it as an opportunity for consumer education. Ask your child...

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County head start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

How will you use the toy?
 What will you do with it?
 Once you have done that

What else can you do with it?

Will it break easily?
 Will it do what the

Advertisement says?

Can it hurt someone?
 Where will you be able to



use it?

Creating home-made toys...

Make a "Creation Station" in your home. You can set it up in the garage, porch, kitchen area, family room or a corner in your child's bedroom. Make sure your child can access the station without enlisting your help.

Materials can...
 be placed in boxes or plastic clear tubs that stack! Letting your child organize the center will provide a sense of ownership and develop responsibility for cleaning and caring for the center.

Materials can...



be used to create new toys or to use as props with commercial bought toys.



- ☆ Pillows
- ☆ Flashlights
- ☆ Laundry bags or pillow cases
- ☆ Old sheets (tear easily & make great capes)
- ☆ Empty suitcases or brief cases
- ☆ Lunchboxes or small containers with lids
- ☆ Kitchen tools
- ☆ String, yarn & glitter
- ☆ Plastic liquid squirt bottles and jugs
- ☆ Cardboard tubes
- ☆ Empty boxes of all sizes
- ☆ Fabric remnants and sewing materials
- ☆ Glue & scissors (Fiskers are a great brand)
- ☆ Comic section of the news paper

SET THE RULES BEFORE THEY BEGIN!

You may play with the creation station...

*W*hen...

(I'm home, after lunch, Saturday's)

*W*here...

(on the patio, in the garage)

*H*ow the materials are

to be used... (glue and scissors)

Clean up...

(allow plenty of time for clean-up)

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPI (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

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