

# Toy Shopping Guide

## Selecting The Right Toys For Your Children

(NAPSA)—During the holiday season, the stores are packed with a variety of toys and games, making it hard for parents to know which ones are best for their children. By selecting toys that offer a combination of fun and learning, parents can do more than just entertain their children—they can enhance reading and math skills while nurturing problem solving and imagination.

“Children learn through play and can greatly benefit from toys and games that match their age,

interests, skills and abilities,” says Richard E. Bavaria, Ph.D., vice president of education for Sylvan Learning Center. “To help children learn while having fun, parents should look for toys that hold their child’s attention and give him or her the opportunity to think, discover something new and stimulate creativity.”

To help parents identify toys that nurture learning in key areas of development, Sylvan Learning Center offers the following clip-out shopping guide.



## Shopping Guide For Learning Toys

### Math

- **Blocks, LEGO’s®**, and **Tinkertoys®** help children acquire reasoning skills necessary to learn math more quickly.
- Games like **Connect Four** and **Yahtzee®** teach strategy and problem-solving skills.
- **Dominoes** help younger children recognize similar quantities and older children explore the concepts of probability.

### Reading and Writing

- Find a special **diary** or personalized writing tool for your child and she’ll have hours of fun writing journal entries.
- **Books** help children enhance their vocabulary and appreciate words and literature. For guidance on age-specific books in her favorite subject areas, check out [www.bookadventure.org](http://www.bookadventure.org).
- A **subscription to a magazine** such as *Ladybug* or *Your Big Backyard* will encourage him to learn more about topics that interest him.

- Games like **Blurt!®, TriBond®** and **Mad Gab®** can help build language and vocabulary skills while having lots of family fun.

### Imagination and Creativity

- Pretend play with **dolls, stuffed animals** and **action figures** can spark a child’s imagination.
- Dress-up **costumes, dollhouses** and other pretend props encourage children to tell stories and play make-believe.
- Consider pretend versions of everyday adult items. For example, an **Easy-Bake® Oven** introduces children to basic food preparation skills, such as reading recipes.
- Fun art materials, such as **paint sets** or **craft kits**, can also help foster creativity.

For more help selecting fun and educational toys this holiday season, visit Sylvan Learning Center at [www.educate.com/tips](http://www.educate.com/tips) or call 800-31-SUCCESS.

