

Pointers For Parents

Toys To Make The Most Of Everyday Moments

(NAPSA)—For young children, the best way to spell love may be t-i-m-e.

Children want to spend time with their parents—the kind of time in which parents are not answering phones, reading a paper or watching TV. Children want to know parents really care about them and what they have to say.

One way to accomplish this is to play together.

Fortunately, finding developmentally appropriate toys for such fun and educational play sessions is now easier. For example, the Mommy & Me company has teamed up with Dolly to create toys that encourage family playtime, while developing young minds.

Designed for children under 24 months, the Mommy & Me line is based on child development specialist Dr. Cindy Nurik's successful Mommy & Me playgroups, classes and videos that help parents make the most of time spent with their children.

The line of toys incorporates the colors, sounds and textures that are most stimulating to babies. The toys easily entertain baby on their own and invite parents to play along with a host of interactive features such as magnets, mirrors and sounds.

The newest toys in the line are musical instruments such as the



The Musical Shakin' Choo Choo vibrates and plays "Working on the Railroad."

Shake & Strum Guitar, Shake & Rattle Maracas, Tap & Toe Trumpet, Bing Bang Boom Xylophone and Shake & Rattle Tambourine that introduce babies to the world of music.

Another new addition is the Wheels on the Bus toy, which moves and plays the popular song, inviting Mom to play along with windows that go up and down, wheels that go round and round and wipers that go swish and swish and even a child that goes up and down.

The Musical Shakin' Choo Choo is a similar toy that vibrates and plays "Working on the Railroad."

A Mommy & Me bedding set

comes with reusable packaging that can be used as a coordinating hamper.

It contains a 3-D interactive headboard, three-sided crib bumper, crib blanket, dust ruffle and comforter. The comforter also serves as a play mat, since comforters cannot safely be used with infants under 12 months.

The comforter/play mat incorporates a peek-a-boo window, a butterfly with magnetic wings, mirrors, a crinkle texture flower, a rattle and four corner hooks to attach mobile figurines once the child outgrows the mobile it comes with.

The line of toys has received several industry awards for innovations and quality, including *Parenting Magazine's* Best Toys of the Year, the National Association of Parenting Publications Gold Award and the Oppenheim Gold Seal.

The line's award-winning toys include the Magnetic Flower Stacker, with its colorful collection of soft, stackable parts; The Storybook Puppet, for interactive storytelling that literally jumps from the page; and Fun Knee Pony, which provides padding and a handhold for baby for hours of knee-bouncing fun.

The toys can be found at Baby's R Us. For more information, visit www.dolly.com or call 1-888-GO-DOLLY.