

## **GIFT IDEAS (approx 0 – 6 years)**

The following are some ideas for gifts which will support the developmental abilities of children with Down syndrome aged approximately 0 – 6 years.

### **Gross Motor/ Sensory**

Activity table

Ball pool with balls (can use cheap paddling pool)

Balls (with sounds, textures, lights, etc.)

Electric toothbrush (2 years+)

Bouncy castle

Sit and Ride toys (weight them down with sand)

Trampoline (needs close supervision)

Tricycle

Swing

Climbing frame

Slide

Sit-n-Spin

Rocking horse

Push and pull toys (weighted with sand where possible)

Massagers

Fiber optic lamp

Toys with various textures

Finger paint

### **Fine Motor**

Peg board

Blocks

Pens/ crayons/ paint

MegaBloks/ Duplo

Large shallow plastic box for indoor sand/ rice play

Chalk and chalkboard

Write on wipe off board

Finger and hand puppets

Lacing toys (3 years+)

Water guns for bath time target shooting (not for the feint hearted)

Toys with small buttons

Toys with items to pull or turn

Inset puzzles (go for categories rather than character themes)

Jigsaws (again, go for educational rather than fashionable themes)

Squeezy bubble blower/ plant mister

### **Cognitive/ Language/ Speech**

Lotto games

Books

Music cassettes (baroque, classical, children's, etc.)

Musical instruments

Dolls (you should have at least one for pretend play practice- very important for language skills) Dolls that talk can help hold attention.

Doll's high chair, bath, bed and simple accessories

Unfussy doll's house (3 years+)

More advanced home play for older children (e.g. vacuum, etc.)

Marble run toy

Farm/ wild animals

Simple, clear posters (i.e. don't get poster combining colors and shapes)

Cassette player with microphone

Echo microphone

Voice modulating microphone

Simple kitchen set with play food

Simple tea set

Simple vehicles and possibly a car play mat

Cause and effect toys (always fun even with older kids)

Sorting and stacking toys

Simple graduated size toys

Toys featuring opposites (e.g. cold, hot)

Toys featuring sequences of events (3 years+)

Toys featuring things that go together (e.g. hand and glove)

Soundtracks games (matching sounds to photos)

Playdough

### **Emotional/ Social**

Mirrors

Toys featuring faces with clear basic emotions (e.g. happy, sad, mad)

Gift voucher for group play experiences Dress-up clothes

**Self help**

Unfussy toy for teaching dressing skills

Small table and chair

Dinner set featuring a character that will motivate your child to eat or drink

Small, light graspable toys that can be added to zips for easy opening

Clothes that are easy for the child to put on/ take off

Low-level coat peg for hall or bedroom

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