

Stages of Play

Stage	They are learning:	STAR TOY	
		Best toys for pre-schoolers:	Best toys for older children:
Exploratory <i>using their senses of smell, taste and touch to explore and discover the texture and function of things around them</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> about cause and effect lots of useful concepts and ideas that they can attach words to later! 	Bubbles Baby gym Activity boards Musical instruments Marble runs Play-doh	Space putty Dance mat Science kits Microscope
Constructive <i>Putting things together to create something new</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to start to use imagination concepts like big/small; on/in and colours To cope with frustration! 	Bricks Wooden track sets Brio Duplo	Model making kits Craft kits Lego K'nex Art/drawing set
Pretend play <i>Using their imagination to pretend something new – getting the concept that something can stand for something else</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the world works to use language to get what they want to play with co-operatively with others 	Tea set & play food Dress up clothes Dolls & teddies Doctor sets Dolls' house Garage	Lego sets Collectibles e.g. Moshi Monsters Paw Patrol Action figures Electronic games eg. Minecraft
Games with rules <i>Playing co-operatively with other people following other people's rules</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to follow another's lead to operate within social rules to take turns to lose! 	Turn taking games such as Pop up Pirate Lotto games Snap Snakes & Ladders	Board games e.g. Cranium Jenga Connect 4 Electronic games e.g. Mario Carts