

TOYS IDEAS (2 years and older)

Animal Hospital:

It is a nice way to develop pretend play skills. First children are interested in locking and unlocking the doors and then they move into pretend play with the animals. Add some other small stuffed animals you have into the hospital.

https://www.amazon.com/B-Critter-Clinic-Toy-Play/dp/B00B16U50C/ref=sr_1_1?crd=318YMFQ4O76Y1&dchild=1&keywords=animal+hospital+toy+with+key&qid=1603905776&srefix=animal+hosp%2Caps%2C253&sr=8-1

Cutting Food Set:

Grab an extra bowl and spoon. This toy is a nice way to build on sequencing steps in play. You're child can pick a food, cut it, put it in a bowl, stir it, serve it and eat it.

https://www.amazon.com/Melissa-Doug-Cutting-Self-Stick-Construction/dp/B000GKD09C/ref=sr_1_3?crd=XCN4WQZ094NX&dchild=1&keywords=melissa+and+doug+cutting+food&qid=1603906022&srefix=melissa+and+doug+cutting%2Caps%2C251&sr=8-3

Playdoh

Any playdoh set will work. You would want to have a couple tools, like a knife, roller and some cookie cutters. My favorite things to do are cook food for plastic animal figures or even yourselves, make animals like snakes and snails, make snowmen, or make rocks for trucks to pick up.

Duplo/Early Lego Sets

I love to use duplo sets for following directions and pretend play. I use things like houses, animal houses or pizza delivery sets. It is a great toy, because you have to build it together and then you can play out little pretend play scenes with what you build.

https://www.amazon.com/LEGO-Duplo-Truck-Building-Blocks/dp/B07GXPZ9PP/ref=sr_1_22?dchild=1&keywords=duplos+for+age+2-5+house&qid=1603907188&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-22

https://www.amazon.com/LEGO-Bakery-Educational-Toddlers-Pieces/dp/B07WM7CZNN/ref=sr_1_11?dchild=1&keywords=duplos+for+age+2-5+house&qid=1603907350&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-11

FAVORITE GAMES (3 years and up to early/mid elementary school)

Go Away Monster

This is a perfect beginning game for children around 3 years old. Great vocabulary and they think it is really funny to throw the monsters.

https://www.amazon.com/Go-Away-Monster-Board-Game/dp/B01EB2SRPC?ref_ast_sto_dp

Charades

This old game is tried and true. There is so much vocabulary and social use of language that comes into play. The child has to understand the most important features of the item, then they act it out without talking and they have to problem solve when you don't get the correct answer.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0014J63WI/ref=sspa_dk_detail_9?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B0014J63WI&pd_rd_w=7HiNL&pf_rd_p=f0355a48-7e73-489a-9590-564e12837b93&pd_rd_wg=QfaRd&pf_rd_r=6EK0CB159241H46W8Q7M&pd_rd_r=761969e7-1e6f-45cf-9621-1af688ebe7fc&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUE1MTY1Tjg2U1ZRMzMmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA2OTA5MjVESI BJN0xTUjFRWjEmZW5jcnlwdGVkQWRJZD1BMDAwMzc3ODFGWEVUWVBCUE1XVDAmd2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9kZXRhaWxhdGhlfWF0aWMMmYWN0aW9uPWNsaWNRUmVkaXJlYjY3QmZG9Ob3Rmb2dDbGljaz10cnVI

Zingo

This is a great game for vocabulary building. Kids love the card dispenser too!

https://www.amazon.com/ThinkFun-Zingo-Winning-Pre-Readers-Readers/dp/B01DY818JG/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Zingo&qid=1603907874&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-1

Sleeping Queens

I have not met a child who doesn't like this game. I love the pictures on the cards. It is a vocabulary builder and great for expressing cause and effect and there are good math tasks within it too.

https://www.amazon.com/Sleeping-Queens-Card-Game-Cards/dp/B0009XBY3A/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2XODFU3TQ7R4P&dchild=1&keywords=sleeping+queens&qid=1603907466&s=toys-and-games&sprefix=sleeping+%2Ctoys-and-games%2C229&sr=1-2

Connect 4

I love this game for social thinking and pragmatics. Even though the game seems easy, it is actually complex. You have to keep track of so much in your head. You have to think of getting four in a row, but you also have to block the other player and anticipate where they might move next. It is a great game.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XY881H4/ref=sspa_dk_detail_2?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B06XY881H4&pd_rd_w=duf8Z&pf_rd_p=f0355a48-7e73-489a-9590-564e12837b93&pd_rd_wg=yI2ch&pf_rd_r=2XEB6331TP0370J92WN5&pd_rd_r=a0527a38-c8db-41f8-a407-f22c56f0d122&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUE1MTY1Tjg2U1ZRMzMmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA4NzUyNDdYNDdFSEE4UlpUMUcmZW5jcnlwdGVkQWRJZD1BMDk1MTMxNzJIWFRETjNIUFMzN08md2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9kZXRhaWxhdGhlfWF0aWMMmYWN0aW9uPWNsaWNRUmVkaXJlYjY3QmZG9Ob3Rmb2dDbGljaz10cnVI

Farkle

This game is best for elementary age students. I like this game for social thinking and problem solving. In this game you have to take a calculated risk. You want to roll enough to score, but if you go too far you will lose all your points. The added bonus to this is it is great for mental math. You only add in increments of 100s and 50s.

https://www.amazon.com/Brybelly-Farkle-Classic-Scorecards-Storage/dp/B07GC9PXF2/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=11C8FDASO6LEC&dchild=1&keywords=farkle+classic+dice+game&qid=1603907603&s=toys-and-games&sprefix=farkle%2Ctoys-and-games%2C238&sr=1-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUE1MTY1Tjg2U1ZRMzMmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA4NzUyNDdYNDdFSEE4UlpUMUcmZW5jcnlwdGVkQWRJZD1BMDk1MTMxNzJIWFRETjNIUFMzN08md2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9kZXRhaWxhdGhlfWF0aWMMmYWN0aW9uPWNsaWNRUmVkaXJlYjY3QmZG9Ob3Rmb2dDbGljaz10cnVI

Labyrinth

This game is great for older children. It is a nice way to build vocabulary but also fantastic for problem solving.

https://www.amazon.com/Ravensburger-Labyrinth-Board-Game-Adults/dp/B00000J0JF/ref=sr_1_2?crd=3VD48725PG0N0&dchild=1&keywords=labyrinth+board+game&qid=1603907691&s=toys-and-games&srefix=lab%2Ctoys-and-games%2C230&sr=1-2

There are so many more games that are not on this list. If you want to explore more on your own, I love the brands Gamewright and Think Fun. Just search those on Amazon and see what topic or characters might interest your child.