

# How to Buy the Toys They Love

## Smart Toy Shopping for Grandparents

The True Cost of a Toy is not what you pay. It is the Cost Per Hour of Play

### Two Different Types of Play

- **DIRECTORIAL**—A child who prefers to be in charge, build the world, make the rules, create all the roles, direct all the characters, decide the boundaries  
Prefer Toys such as Role Play, Construction Toys, Dollhouse & Action Figure Toys, Open-ended Art Projects
- **PARTICIPATORY**—A child who prefers to have preset rules or boundaries, prefers to just be a participant in an existing world, is a character rather than controlling all the characters.  
Prefer Toys such as Sporting Goods, Dress-Up, Kitchens & Workbenches, Board Games, Construction Toys

### MESH—Mental Emotional Social Health

MESH Toys are toys that help build **RESILIENCY** in kids and teach them how to tackle and solve problems and face adversity.

- **STORYTELLING**—helps them learn to talk about their feelings
- **PROBLEM SOLVING**—helps them learn to overcome adversity
- **PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGES**—helps them see they can overcome obstacles through stages
- **PARENT/CHILD INTERACTION**—helps them learn to communicate with adults

### Three Elements of a Great Toy

- **INTERACTIVE**—the child is actively involved in the play, is the “motor” that makes it run
- **OPEN-ENDED**—there are many ways to play, not limiting or narrow in scope or function
- **CREATIVE**—Requires the child to use imagination, to think and create

### The Role of a Parent in Play

- **OBSERVING**—looking for tendencies and preferences such as Directorial or Participatory, Complex or Simple Skills, Short or Long Attention
- **PROVIDING**— a safe place to play and appropriate toys for age & development
- **FOLLOWING**—Joining play at the child’s level and letting them direct

### How Toys Teach

- **BASIC LESSONS**—Math, Storytelling, Problem Solving, Communication, Planning, Cooperation
- **HIDDEN LESSONS**—Biases, Attitude, Quality

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