## HOW TO CHOOSE AN

# Educational



#### THE BIG PICTURE: Toy Trends in the United States

# TOYS ARE BOUGHT FOR MANY REASONS

- ★ holidays
- ★ birthdays
- ★ child requests





on toys each year

American toy purchases make up approximately



of global toy sales

Educational toys are designed to



not just to entertain

### **Benefits of Educational Toys**

Improve problem solving skills

Encourage socialization and cooperation

Increase fine and gross motor skills



Develop creativity

and imagination

Expand language and vocabulary skills

Build confidence

# What to Look for in an Educational Toy



#### **MULTIPLE USES**

Some toys, like blocks, can grow with a child. Infants can gain muscle development and coordination, older children can use them to learn about spatial relationships, language, ingenuity, resourcefulness and more!



MANIPULATIVE TOYS
Shape Sorters and Puzzles
build cognitive and
perceptual skills.



#### TRUE TOYS

Dolls and blocks allow children to use their imagination and creativity-there is no pre-determined outcome...the sky's the limit!



AGE APPROPRIATE Labels are important.



EXPLORATORY TOYS Children learn about senses, cause and effect.



#### SOURCES

http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/Pages/What-to-Look-for-in-a-Toy.aspx http://www2.aap.org/pressroom/play-public.htm http://www.cpsc.gov/Business--Manufacturing/Business-Education/childrens-products/

http://www.cpsc.gov/business--Mahufacturing/business-Education/childrens-product: http://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/choosing-right-toys-for-right-age?page=2