



Safe and Fun Toys that Match Your Child's Age

By: Division of Early Learning

December 2025

When holiday shopping for your child, keep in mind that the best toys spark imagination and support learning while keeping your child engaged. Following age guidelines will help you choose toys that are not only safe but also align with your child's developmental stage.

For infants from **birth to 8 months**, it is best to get toys that stimulate their senses. At this stage, infants enjoy bright colors, soft textures and gentle sounds. Toys that encourage reaching, grasping and listening give them new ways to learn.

Examples include:

- Soft cloth rattles or wrist rattles
- Play gyms with hanging toys
- Baby-safe mirrors
- Soft fabric books with textures

For babies **9-18 months**, toys should build motor skills, spark curiosity and allow the babies to imitate actions they see adults do. At this stage, children are on the move and eager to explore the world around them.

Examples include:

- Push toys with handles (for example, toy lawn mowers or shopping carts)
- Stacking rings or nesting cups
- Large knob puzzles
- Musical toys with buttons to press

For toddlers **19-24 months**, toys that promote independence and creativity work best. Children at this age enjoy simple challenges that build problem-solving skills.

Examples include:

- Ride-on toys with foot power
- Shape sorters with large pieces
- Pretend cleaning tools (for example, child-size broom or duster)
- Foam bath blocks or pouring toys

Main Article	1
Caterpillars/ Buttercup Butterflies	2
Pixie Butterflies	2
Elf Butterflies	2
Julia Butterflies	2
Important Dates	3
Pinecone Christmas Tree Craft	4

Please check
Procure updates
every day.
There is
important
information
there!

Also, make sure
your child al-
ways has a
change of
clothes and/or
diapers/pull-ups,
if necessary.

Caterpillars/Buttercup Butterflies



Pixie Butterflies

This month, our infants will be *Growing Through Exploration*! We will explore stories through simple books and pictures, engage in sensory experiences with music and movement, and support physical development through tummy time, reaching, grasping, and other age-appropriate activities. December will be full of discovery as our little ones learn through play, sound, and movement.

- Meme

Happy December Buttercup Families! This month, the Buttercups will be learning through exploration! Each week, we will facilitate activities through play, music, language and literature to learn about animals in the forest. We will also explore the concept of balls through activities that support both fine and gross motor development. December will be full of discovery, movement and fun!

-Ms. Denisse & Ms. Yaxi

This month the pixies will be learning through music and through stories and using our imagination! This month will also be about family and traditions. Mark your calendars for the Winter Showcase on December 12th!

-Ms. Ashley & Ms. Rochama



Elf Butterflies



It's winter time! The Elves will be focusing on the different winter animals, talking about and viewing different pictures/videos of snow. Whereas we don't experience the snow, we are trying to make sure they get visuals and still have a complete understanding of the winter experience in other areas. We will also continue focusing on different letters and applying them to their everyday life which will enhance their overall alphabetic and phonological knowledge. Lastly, with the weather changing and the cold and flu season upon us, we will be sure to focus on the importance of hand washing and trying to prevent the spread of germs. Learning about the cold, while being in 80 degree weather is the best!

-Ms. King

Julia Butterflies

Hello Julia butterfly families, This month we will be learning about letters Kk, Ll, and Uu, Country music exploration, Learning about trees, and seasons exploration. We will also be preparing for our winter showcase. We hope to see you there. Please remember to check your child's file folder daily and make sure your child has weather appropriate change of clothes in their cubby in case of accidents or spills.

-Mr. Kaliq & Ms. Paige





Winter Showcase—December 12th
Ms. Keyanni's Birthday—December 14th
Ms. Paige's Birthday—December 21st
CLOSED for Christmas—December 22nd—26th
Ms. Heather's Birthday— December 27th

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For toddlers **2 to 3 years old**, pretend-play toys boost imagination and social skills. Children at this age benefit from toys that encourage active play.

Examples include:

- Play kitchens with pretend food
- Toy tool sets with chunky pieces
- Large wooden building blocks
- Ride-on scooters (three-wheel for stability)

For preschoolers **3 to 4 years old**, toys that support storytelling and hands-on learning strengthen communication and fine motor skills.

Examples include:

- Train sets or car tracks
- Easels with chalk or dry erase boards
- Matching card games
- Playsets with animals or people figures

For preschoolers **4 to 5 years old**, toys that encourage both independence and teamwork build important social skills. Look for games that involve sharing and cooperation to prepare children for group play.

Examples include:

- Board games with simple rules
- Craft kits with stickers or stamps
- Picture books with longer stories
- Child-sized sports gear (for example, plastic bowling sets, T-ball stands)

Supervision matters at every age. Be sure to discard toys with broken parts, loose pieces or sharp edges and clean toys regularly. By choosing age-appropriate toys, you can make playtime safe and fun and support your child's development.

Pinecone Christmas Tree

by PJs and Paint

The best part about this craft is that the main supply is probably already sitting right outside your front door. Pinecones are lying all around this time of year and are absolutely perfect for so many holiday themed projects.

Supplies Needed:

- Pinecones
- Wood Slices (Amazon or Craft Store)
- Wooden Stars
- Acrylic Paint (Green, White, Red, Yellow and Blue)
- Paintbrushes (Medium and Small)
- Hot Glue Gun



Directions:

1. Paint your pinecone solid green. This may take one or two coats of paint.
2. Allow the pinecone to completely dry.
3. Using a small paintbrush, and white acrylic paint, create some snow covered branches by painting the tips of the pinecone.
4. Go in with another small paintbrush and add tiny little Christmas lights to the tops and bottoms of the pinecone needles.
5. Using another small paint brush and the yellow acrylic paint, cover both sides of the star with the paint.
6. Using a few dabs of hot glue, attach the painted Christmas tree to the wood slice.
7. For the final touch, use the hot glue gun to stick the wooden star to the top of the pinecone. It is recommended to hold the star in place for a few seconds while you let the glue fully dry.



Super Supper

Vegetarian
Navy Bean
Soup

Pick up day is:
Thursday,
December 11th.

Chicken
Salad

Pick up days are:
Thursday,
December
18th & 19th.

\$7.00 each

**Payment is
due before
pick-up.**

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Find us on



Mission:

The Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

Vision:

The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

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