

# Phil's Top Ten Toys



## The Terms:

### **INTERACTIVE:**

A toy is "interactive" if it requires active participation by the person playing to make it work.

### **OPEN-ENDED:**

A toy is "open-ended" if there are many different ways to play, limited only by the imagination.

### **CREATIVE:**

A toy is "creative" if you *must* engage your imagination in some way to play with that toy.

<b>WOODEN BLOCKS</b> (AGES 2 AND UP)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – they are just expensive pieces of lumber until a child picks one up <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – from stacking to building, there's no wrong way to play <b>CREATIVE</b> – with endless possibilities for play, the child's imagination creates the toy <b>BONUS</b> – quality blocks last forever and will be enjoyed by your grandchildren just as much as you children	
<b>PUPPETS</b> (ALL AGES)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – the puppet doesn't work until you put your hand inside and move it <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – you give it the voice, the actions and the directions <b>CREATIVE</b> – develops fantasy and role play skills <b>BONUS</b> – puppets are great for families of multiple ages; your 9-yr old will even play with your 2-yr old	
<b>LEGO®</b> (AGES 5 TO 12)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – teaches fine motor skills through building and following directions <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – you can build the model shown or make up your own creations <b>CREATIVE</b> – combines both creative building and creative role playing in one toy <b>BONUS</b> – every time you buy a new Lego® set you make the "old" Lego® new again	
<b>DRESS-UP CLOTHES</b> (ALL AGES)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – without a child inside, dress-up clothes are just glorified rags <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – role-play has no structure other than what child develops on his/her own <b>CREATIVE</b> – with each costume the child creates whole new worlds of make-believe <b>BONUS</b> – probably one of the easiest toys to make or get	
<b>WOODEN TRAINS</b> (AGES 3 TO 10)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – skip the battery-operated trains, the manual trains make this toy fun <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – you can be the track builder, engineer, passenger on a ride, or just the storyteller <b>CREATIVE</b> – different elements of creativity from layout design to role playing <b>BONUS</b> – offers progressive skills as each age group "plays" differently	
<b>STORY BOOKS</b> (ALL AGES)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – engages the mind and also offers parent/child interaction <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – you can read the book, or make up your own story from the pictures <b>CREATIVE</b> – develops the imagination as images form in the mind of the reader <b>BONUS</b> – reading takes us places our pocketbooks can't, including places that do not exist in our "real" world	
<b>PLAYMOBIL®</b> (AGES 4 TO 10)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – many moveable parts and accessories that require <i>manual</i> operation <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – although limited in what you build, there is no limit to how you play <b>CREATIVE</b> – develops imagination through role playing <b>BONUS</b> – quality and attention to detail keep child's interest in the toy for long time	
<b>DOLLS</b> (AGES 3 TO 10)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – rule of thumb: the less it does by itself, the more a doll is loved <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – some dolls are the child's baby, some her friend, and some her dream <b>CREATIVE</b> – a doll's life is only limited by the mind of the child who plays with it <b>BONUS</b> – watching your child's interaction with dolls helps you reinforce positive behavior patterns	
<b>PLAY DOH®</b> (AGES 2 TO 8)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – the ultimate build, destroy and rebuild toy <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – it's a sculpture, a piece of art, a finger therapy tool, a paper weight... <b>CREATIVE</b> – oh, the endless possibilities of a lump of clay <b>BONUS</b> – Play Doh® stimulates the creative mind and develops fine motor skills & hand-eye coordination	
<b>KLUTZ PRESS® ACTIVITY BOOKS</b> (AGES 7 AND UP)	<b>INTERACTIVE</b> – gives you both the means and motivation to <i>do</i> the activities described <b>OPEN-ENDED</b> – the books teach the skills, how you use those skills is up to you <b>CREATIVE</b> – many activities are arts & crafts skills where the design is of your own creation <b>BONUS</b> – they are great for older children and even adults, and the skills last a lifetime	