

TOYS & GAMES

ACTIVE PLAY

We have to understand that the world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation. The hand is more important than the eye. It is the hand that drives the subsequent evolution of the

brain. I have described the hand when it uses a tool as an instrument of discovery. We see that every time a child learns—to lace his shoes, to thread a needle, to fly a kite or to play a penny whistle.

With the practical action there goes another, namely finding pleasure in action for its own sake—in the skill that one perfects by being pleased with it.

This at the bottom is responsible for every work of art, and science too: our poetic delight in what human beings do because they can do it. The hand is the cutting edge of the mind.

—Jacob Bronowski
The Ascent of Man

ZECAR VEHICLE

Hold it by the front and back, give a very little shove, and watch the gears make the car move. This little car uses the stored potential energy of its brightly colored flywheel to send it scooting across the floor and with its optimal gear ratio, *Zecar* can climb up inclines and over obstacles like you would not believe. The amount of energy depends on the object's rate of rotation as well as the quantity and distribution of mass in the object (gears!). Read the enclosed directions. Not only it is a wonderful toy, but proceeds from the sale of *zecar* go toward reforesting Brazil. *Zecar* is 3.5" long.



DT090

\$12.50

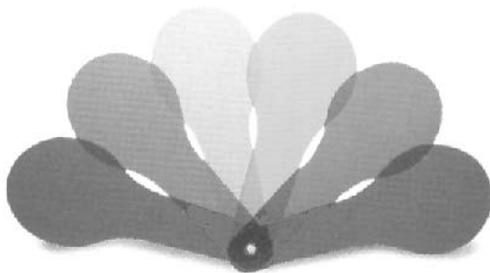
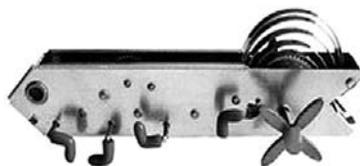
BONGA VEHICLE

The *bonga* is another wonderful mechanical "vehicle" that entices the child to investigate the mechanics to figure out why it moves the way it does. The shape of the "legs" affects the movement, and the winding up and tightening of the spring introduces the child to a principle of physics.

Bonga is 4.75" long, has a colored rubber wind-up handle and 8 rubber-coated colored feet. It moves like an insect or what one would imagine an 8-legged creature would move. As *zecar*, it is a study in the science of motion and the proceeds go toward reforesting Brazil.

DT800

\$12.50



COLOR PADDLES

This is a fun and clear introduction to the concept of color mixing and a preparation for art and for physics. These six transparent plastic paddles can be combined to show the formation of the secondary colors. The primary colors are red, blue, and yellow. If we combine any two of these we will make one of the secondary colors of green, purple, or orange. Along with the primary colors, there is one paddle each of the secondary colors for further exploration. 6 inches long.

DT347 Color Paddles, Set/6

\$8.00



SKIP ROPE TOY

Toys that get the child out into the fresh air, breathing deeply, laughing, these are the most important first activities. Jumping rope is a favorite child's activity in many, many countries. It is fun, it gradually develops balance and strength. Combined with the rhymes handed down from generation to generation it teaches rhythmic movement, and it can be done on one's own as easily as with friends, siblings, or parents.

Our favorite version is a 9' brightly colored rope with wooden handles. It comes in a metal box with a little booklet containing several skipping rhymes from ages past.

DT630

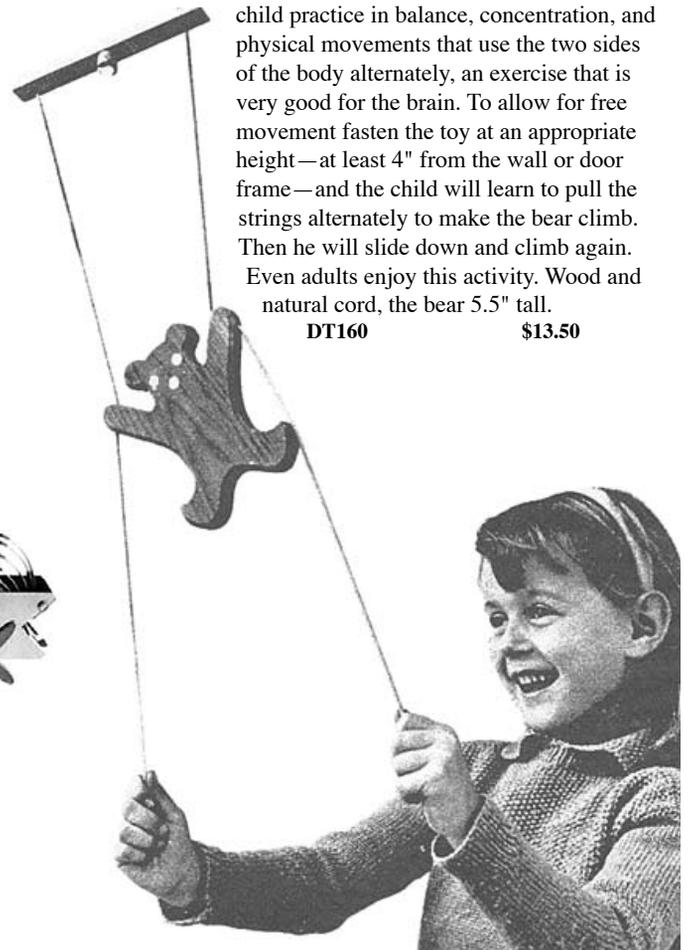
\$10.00

CLIMBING BEAR TOY

This ancient traditional toy gives the child practice in balance, concentration, and physical movements that use the two sides of the body alternately, an exercise that is very good for the brain. To allow for free movement fasten the toy at an appropriate height—at least 4" from the wall or door frame—and the child will learn to pull the strings alternately to make the bear climb. Then he will slide down and climb again. Even adults enjoy this activity. Wood and natural cord, the bear 5.5" tall.

DT160

\$13.50



MOVEMENT

It takes work on the part of the adult to withstand the temptation to let the child spend hours in front of the television or the computer, but it is well worth the effort to support the natural development of the child. Television accustoms the child to be a passive receiver of information rather than an

active questioner or researcher. And the intelligence of computers does not hold a candle to the kind of creativity inborn in the human being. The child needs large muscle movement and gradually more and more refined large and small muscles—legs, trunk, arms, hands, to the *pincer* movement of thumb and fingers.

THE SENSES

The young child is vividly aware of the world, taking in impressions through all of her senses. This is the time of life when lifelong habits are formed. To help lay the groundwork for the child's ability to think, create, experience, and create throughout life, we must help now. We take special care in providing toys that support this development,



SOUNDTRACKS

A classic game to refine listening skills while having a fun game of lotto, *soundtracks* contains a CD of familiar and interesting sounds such as a bee, lightning, the click of a camera, splashing water, a car, a frog, the sound of a potato chip being eaten, ocean waves, laughing, and a piano. Contains 4 lotto cards, a CD, and game pieces.

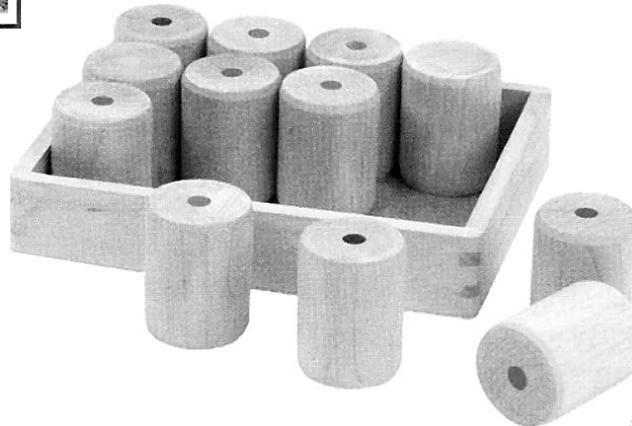
DT060 \$17.50

SWEDISH ANGEL CHIMES

A charming, delicate, musical sound to focus a child's listening, and watching, as the angels turn with the rising heat of the candles. These chimes are known in different countries, as *Los Angelitos*, *Carillon des Anges*, and *Anglaspel*.

We almost never use it without someone wanting to experiment to see how fast the wheel goes with one - two - three or four candles burning, or with tiny birthday candles. What a wonderful memory this makes, watching and listening, with the lights out. Brass, about ten inches tall, from Sweden. The chimes come with 4 candles.

DT375 Chimes & 4 candles \$16.00
DT38 Box of 20 candles \$7.50



WEIGHT CYLINDERS

These six pairs of wooden weight, or *baric*, cylinders invite children to pick them up and weigh them with their hands to discover a match. They are color-coded on the bottoms for self-correction.

This work builds concentration and perception skills and provides the experience for meaningful language: heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter, lightest. As with all sensorial work the child then becomes more aware of the environment and more precise in using language. The cylinders are 2.5" tall, 1.75" in diameter. The wooden box is 8" x 6" x 1.5". The set weighs 9.7 pounds.

DT001 \$36.00

MATRESHKA NESTING DOLLS

We have seen matreshkas used in schools for children of all ages—from 1-doll in an infant class, to 6-doll in the 6-12 classes where they are used to demonstrate the relationship in plant and animal classification, one category within another. Matreshkas are often collected as family heirlooms.

Beautiful, delicately hand-painted, fun, "Russian Nesting Dolls" are a traditional folk toy representing the passing of one generation to the next, one inside the other. Each region has its own traditional style of doll, the styles occasionally are different than those shown here, but they are of excellent quality, not to be confused with mass-produced contemporary dolls.

DT14 Matreshka—4 Doll \$14.00
DT15 Matreshka—6 Doll \$17.00



toys made of natural materials. Toys rich in variety of weight, color, texture, and purpose, of the best quality available, these toys engage the child's intelligence as well as his body.

SENSORIAL MATERIALS - TOYS

There are special toys or *sensorial* puzzles in the 3-6 class, such as the *pink*

tower, the *color tablets*, and the *sound boxes*, that illustrate concepts such as *large* and *small*, *hot* and *cold*, *loud* and *soft* and so on.

These materials have a specific way to be used because it is in this way that the child develops an understanding of the concept each is designed to teach. These can be thought of as *puzzle* toys

because of the specific way to use them or to put them together, uses as specific as with woodworking and cooking tools, or musical instruments. The understanding of such concepts contributes to the creativity of the child in the home and school. These *sensorial materials* are not necessary in the home, where parents can find other ways of introducing these



HAMMER BOARD

One of our most popular toys, this version of the favorite traditional hammering toy is made in Germany. It comes with a natural cork base for pounding, that is 10" x 6.5". There are 100 wooden pieces—triangles, circles, trapezoids, squares, rectangles—painted red, green, blue and yellow. The nails are rounded at the top and easy to handle and the wooden hammer is just the right size and weight for this work.

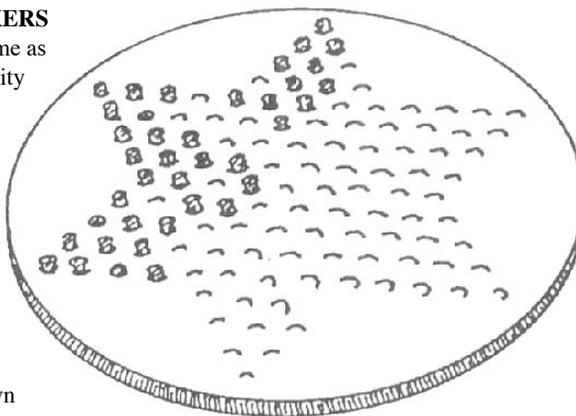
DT42 \$35.00

PEGBOARD CHINESE CHECKERS

We recommend this old-favorite game as a valuable peg board and patterning activity for children. The young child will spend a long and happy time taking the pegs in and out of the holes of the wooden board, gradually learning to sort them by color and then to make patterns and designs. She will be proud to have important work to do with something she sees older children and adults "work" with (when playing Chinese checkers).

Even older children have been known to have their handwriting magically improve after practice with small knobs. 12" in diameter.

DT32 \$19.00



3-OBJECT SORTING TRAY

Classifying and sorting 3 types of objects into this beautiful wooden tray is a favorite, very satisfying activity for children. They do it first visually, then even blindfolded. Sorting is a function of the mathematical

mind and a lot of fun. The beautiful wood tray adds satisfaction to this work. It can be used for sorting many kinds of small items—rocks, buttons, beans, coins, seeds, etc. The tray is 11", handcarved in the Pacific islands.

DT400

\$18.00



4-OBJECT SORTING TRAY with SHELLS

We have this tray made locally exactly to our specifications. The smooth sides of the indentations make it possible for the child to feel the shape of even the tiniest bean or seed, for sorting with eyes open, and eventually blindfolded.

This tray is for sorting 4 kinds of objects. It is 7" x 12", made of finely polished hardwood. The set of forty small shells contains ten each of four different kinds. One can also, of course, use pebbles, beans, buttons, many different sorting objects.

DT12 Sorting Tray \$33.50
DT13 Shells \$2.75
DT125 Tray/Shells \$35.50

experiences in the daily life of children—feeling the temperature of the bath water, exploring tastes while baking, and color or size with toys, etc.

Different than *puzzle toys* are those with open-ended use. These also teach valuable skills when combined with specific abilities. For example a child learns how to hold a nail and use a

hammer safely before she makes pictures with the hammer board. Learning how to carry blocks and put them away is an important part of block play.

If a child is included in the regular food preparation in the family and the real table setting and dish washing, he is not going to be interested in pretending to cut a wooden banana with a play knife. If

children are raised without early exposure to television and computers, they get used to the wonderful feeling of physical movement and work, and of reading and interacting with people, and have much less patience for passive entertainment.

The most important element in selecting toys and creating an environment for children is to include

BEAD STRINGING

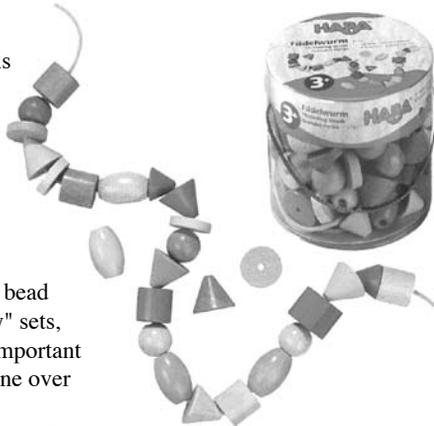
Bead stringing is often one of the first toys a child is given in the Montessori 3-6 class, a link-with-the-home toy that provides practice with the pincer movement (thumb and index finger working together) and practice with concentration. Even though bead sets sometimes say "jewelry" sets, the bead stringing is more important than jewelry, and will be done over and over.

The *large bead set* (pictured) contains 72 wooden beads in various shapes and colors, and three 27" cords.

The *small bead set* contains 42 round beads (.6" in diameter), two heart shaped beads and a 30" cord for stringing

NOTE: because of the size of the pieces this toy is recommended for children from age 4 and older.

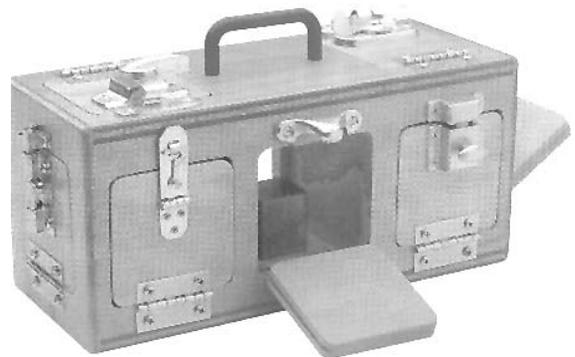
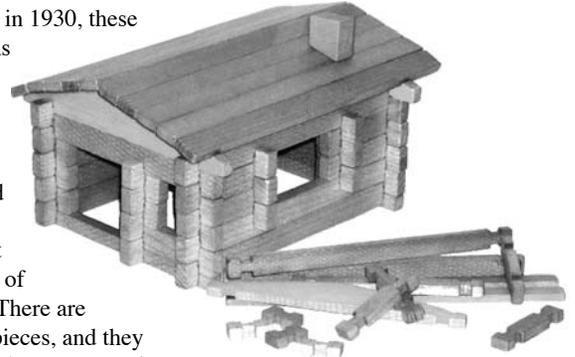
DT762 Large Bead Stringing Set \$20.00
DT763 Small Bead Stringing Set \$12.00



LOG CABIN PLAYSET

Invented in 1930, these were known as *Lincoln logs* when we were little, and we still have fond memories of them. This set is the favorite of all available. There are 140 wooden pieces, and they come in a handy storage canister. They have a classic handmade look, an expertly engineered fit, and are stained with a non-toxic dye—brown logs, the original red wooden gables and green roof planks.

DT580 \$30.00



LARGE LOCKS BOX

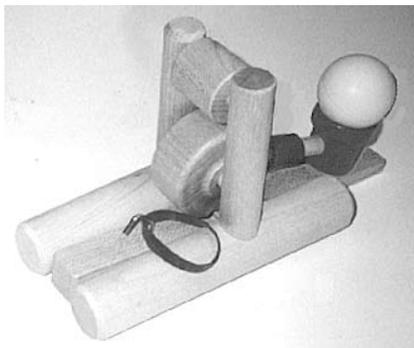
This is a toy, a place to hide things, and excellent practice for learning to manipulate many of the locks and latches one finds around the house—without getting into forbidden cupboards! There are three compartments to be opened, each from two or three different doors. There are ten doors and ten different locks, each with its own set of difficulties and techniques to learn while the child opens and closes. This work develops hand control, muscle strength, and finger dexterity. The superbly crafted box is made of Baltic birch plywood. The length of the box is 19", and it is 6" wide and 7" high.

CT44 \$96.00

CATAPULT

The *wooden catapult* demonstrates basic physics of movement and is operated by the energy of a taut rubber band. It will accurately toss a ping pong ball 12 to 14 feet. We recommend that this be used for an older child, age five or six, and under adult supervision at first. Wood and rubber, 7 inches long. Six ping-pong balls and directions are included. CONTAINS SMALL RUBBER BANDS. USE UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.

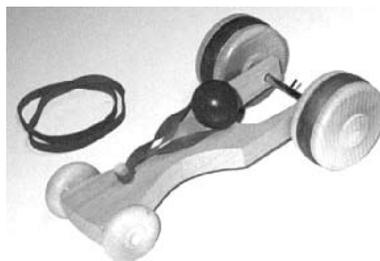
DT710 \$23.00



RUBBER BAND CAR

This wooden car is operated by energy stored in a wound rubber band. In the process of winding, once or twice or a lot more, a child learns about the physics principles involved. With two cars children can compare the distance cars can go when the rubber band is wound a contrasting number of times. Wood and rubber, 7 inches long. CONTAINS SMALL RUBBER BANDS. USE UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.

DT700 \$14.00



materials that will engage the child's mental faculties for a long period of time, combining movement of the body with the work of the brain. Toys should lead to concentration and fun.

INTRODUCING TOYS

In the Montessori 3-6 classroom the teacher shows each new piece of

sensorial material to a child with great excitement, showing how to handle the materials, where it goes, and a first presentation of what to do with it. It is the same at home. Sometimes, when it is not obvious what can be done with a toy, or there are no older siblings or neighbors around to imitate, the adult can simply play with the toy in front of the child as

an inspiration. At home as in the class, the adult can watch for the moment when the child is finished and offer to help put it away, having thought out ahead of time where it might go. This prevents mishandling of toys and provides the needed order in the environment and is an example of the saying:

Teach by teaching, not by correcting.

THE FARM

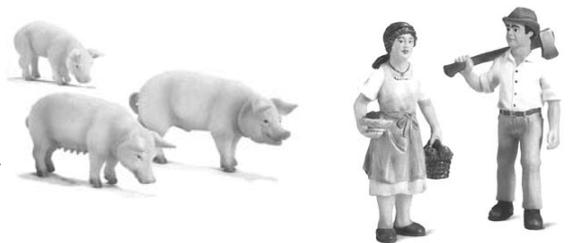
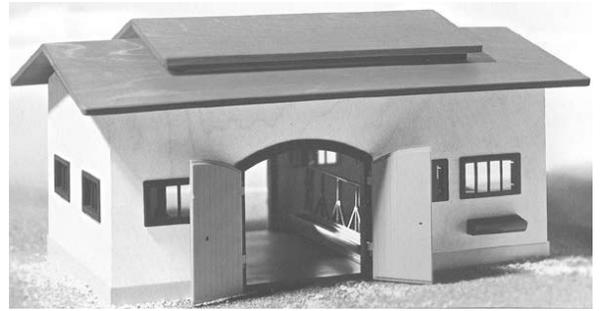
A *Farm* is found in almost every 3-6 classroom. Besides the value of arranging the farm and acting out the daily life of the humans and animals, it is used in the language area. Vocabulary is taught and little language games are played: for example the child learns about nouns and adjectives by labeling the animals which vary in size and color.

This *stable* or *barn* is made in Germany. It is constructed of wood and wood particle board. It is 21" long.

The *beginning farm animal set* of eight farm animals is the *Farm Animal set* offered in *Michael Olaf's Joyful Child, for Birth to Three*. It contains a pig, goose, cow, hen, turkey, goat, sheep, and horse.

The *advanced farm animal set* contains a complementary collection of animals, especially for the variety needed in the grammar games. For example the pig in the beginning set is a sow. In the advanced set there will be a boar and a baby pig. The animals may change but we will always provide a wide variety of color. Set: farmer, farmer's wife, male and baby pig, male and baby cattle, rooster, male and baby goat, male and baby sheep, male and baby horse. The animals are from 2" to 6" in size, the best made.

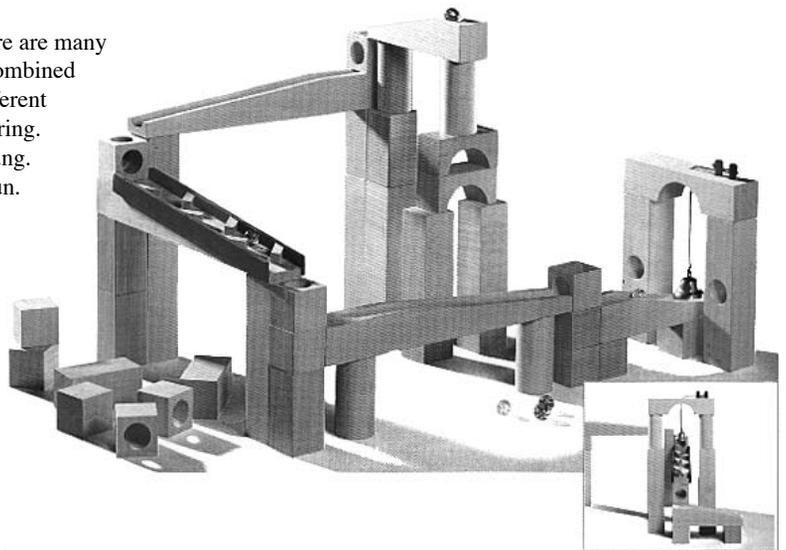
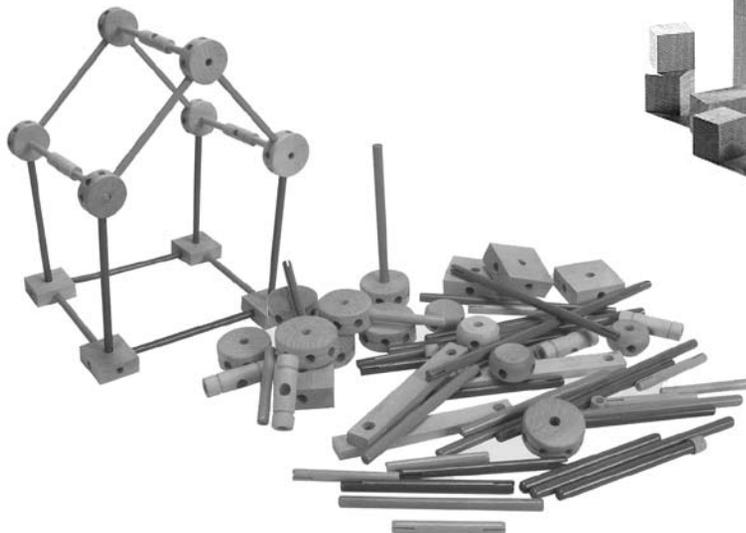
DT550	Barn/Stable	\$110.00
CA300	Beginning Farm Animal Set/8	\$33.00
DT560	Advanced Farm Animal Set/13	\$48.00



BALL TILT

Who would think problem solving could be so much fun. There are many ways that these hard Maple blocks with grooves and holes can be combined and arranged to make the marbles roll at different speeds and in different directions. One of the units contains a brass bell hung from a red string. The blocks can be arranged so that, as the marbles roll, the bell is rung. This set can be combined with any building blocks for even more fun. There are 48 carefully sanded and finished pieces in all.

DT023	\$90.00
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MAKIT TOY

This toy is very similar to the old favorite tinker toys of our youth, and will provide hours of experimentation and building. It contains 70 assorted pieces and comes in a 11" tall round tube container that makes it easy to put away the work when the child is finished. The wheels and other pieces with holes are natural wood colored, and the wooden dowels come in various colors.

DT1765	\$25.00
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