

**THE FIRST YEAR
SITTING UP, WORKING**

THE BABY'S WORK

A good definition of *work* is "an activity that involves both the mind and the body and has some purpose which fulfills the individual." When his concentration is respected, the child will become active, creative, happier, and more peaceful.

It is as if nature had safeguarded each child from the influence of adult reasoning, so as to give priority to the inner teacher who animates him. He has the chance to build up a complete

psychic structure, before the intelligence of grown-ups can reach his spirit and produce changes in it.

—Dr. Maria Montessori

As the child grows, her important work continues. She will work on vocalizations, hand grasps, body movements, etc. Sometimes the child will want to work on the same ability—usually verbal or muscular—for several days until he is finished with whatever he is trying to learn, and then not work on this again for several weeks. Each child is different, and only careful observation will reveal what he wants and what he is learning.

**EATING AND WORKING
WHILE SITTING UP**

As the child learns to sit on his own, a natural developmental process begins and the relationship to the adult changes to support the child's growth and independence. Gradual, child-led weaning from the breast or bottle to the glass and spoon happens quite naturally if we observe and follow the child—and prepare the environment according to his development. Instead of eating while being held close to the mother's body the child begins to spend some time facing the adult, learning to drink from a little glass and to use a small spoon

FIVE BABY TOYS IN A BAG

A set of five Montessori baby toys in a lovely cloth bag.

Each of these gives the child practice in using both hands in interesting new ways, beginning around 2-3 months of age. A wonderful shower gift.



The toys are made of natural materials, wood or yarn. Simple directions are included with the set. The toys are very much like the ones made during the Montessori Assistants to Infancy training course: *Interlocking Discs, Grasping Beads, Crocheted Rattle, Egg with Cup, Peg with Cup*. To give an idea of sizes the *egg with cup* is 3" tall, and the *grasping beads* (five) are 4.25," and the *crochet rattle* (black and white) 3.6" long.

(*) **BR201**

\$35.00

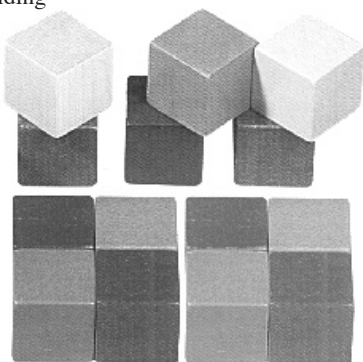
BABY'S FIRST BLOCKS

These lovely, solid-colored blocks introduce the child to color without distraction of symbols and pictures he is not ready for. These are fun to grasp, and later to stack and use to build structures with other building blocks. We recommend putting them, one of each at first, in a basket so the child can exercise choice of color.

A set of 12 hardwood blocks, two each of the primary colors (red, blue, yellow) and the secondary colors (orange, green, purple). 1.5" cubes. Made in Germany.

BT010

\$17.00

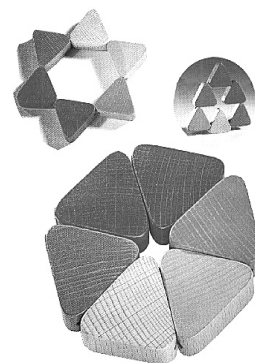
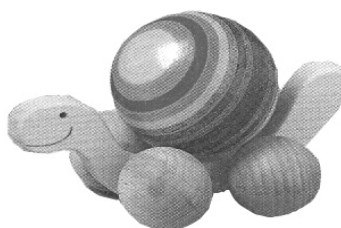


ROLLING BALL TURTLE

This beautiful little toy is found in art museums around the world. As the turtle is pushed along on the table or floor, the striped ball, which can be placed in any way on the back of the turtle, makes fascinating patterns. At first the child will just be able to push the turtle with his/her hand, and later to move the ball into different positions for different artistic effects. Even adults and older children enjoy changing the position of the ball and watching the different patterns. Solid wood, natural wood and earth tones. 4" long, from Germany.

CT050

\$19.50



TRIX

This very interesting manipulative baby toy can be explored endlessly as it is twisted (another two-hand challenge) and turned into three different patterns of triangles, a first exploration in geometry! It is made of hardwood, in red, orange, yellow, green and two shades of blue. The size is 4.5". From Germany.

BT030

\$15.00

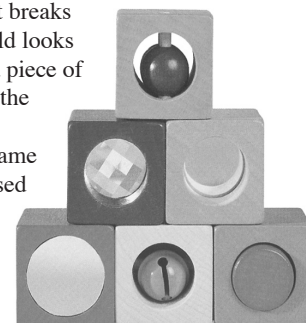
DISCOVERY BLOCKS

This set of 6 fascinating blocks is like having 6 separate toys to explore. One has a plastic facet piece that breaks the room into multiple images when the child looks through it. Another is a mirror. A third has a piece of yellow plastic to look through, and three of the blocks are each a different variety of rattle.

The *discovery blocks* are exactly the same size as *baby's first blocks* and they can be used together. What a surprise it is to find one of these in the basket of blocks each day. Made in Germany.

BT777

\$29.00



and fork. This is nothing that is forced upon the child, but over and over we see that children are thrilled to be able to emulate those around them and to feed themselves.

Sometime during the first year the child will sit up on his or her own. Whenever the child is helped to sit up, as at the little table with the first chair for the first meal, be sure that this is only for a very short time. Yes, the child has an inner teacher that knows exactly when it is best to learn to crawl, sit, stand, walk. They need us to respect this inner guide and trust their efforts. Sitting may happen either before or after crawling and is a great step in independence

because the hands are freed for more work, more challenges, and more exciting discoveries. When the child has not been artificially helped to sit it is as thrilling to reach this stage, as it would be for us to learn to ski or windsurf!

It is important at this stage to give toys and materials with an intelligent purpose—rattles that make interesting movements or sounds, toys with different grasps, and spoons and tiny cups to practice eating and drinking.

SAFETY

As we have said before, the jury is not in on the safety of giving children

plastic toys during the age when everything goes into the mouth! The mouth is important not only for eating and communicating but it is a sense organ for young children and they put objects to their mouth to check them out. We do not want to get in the way of this exploration but we DO want to be sure that everything the child handles is safe to explore in this way.

We highly recommend sticking to wood that has been left natural or stained, rather than wood that has been painted in countries where there is no control over the safety of the paint used. There are also lovely toys made of cotton, wool, and metal. These are all more pleasing

BOX WITH WOODEN BALL

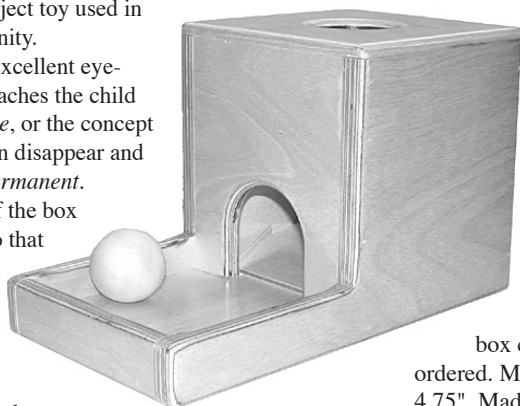
This is the first "disappearing" object toy used in the infant community.

Along with excellent eye-hand control, it teaches the child *object permanence*, or the concept that something can disappear and still exist; it is *permanent*.

The inside of the box contains a slide so that no matter where the ball lands in the box, it comes out onto the tray for the child to see, and to use again, and again.

The box is constructed of heavy plywood so that it sits soundly on the surface for use with the child who is just learning to sit and use her hands. It is Birch plywood, 9.5" long, 6" tall, 5.25" wide. The ball is 1.5" in diameter. Made in the USA.

- CT100 Box and 1 Ball \$49.00
- CT101 Package of 3 extra balls \$4.00



BOX WITH SOFT BALL

New challenges: dropping or pushing, reaching into the box.

With this box the child lines up the soft, crocheted Guatemalan ball with the hole on the top of the box and drops or gently pushes it through. Then she must reach inside to get the ball to put it in the hole again.

NOTE: each of these handmade balls is different, sometimes the ball drops through and sometimes it must be pushed through the hole—both placing and pushing are valuable to development. The

box comes with one ball and a pack of 2 extra balls can be ordered. Made of birch plywood, 6.5" tall, the top is 6" x 4.75". Made in the USA.

- BT500 Box with 1 ball \$49.00
- BT510 Package of 2 extra balls \$7.00

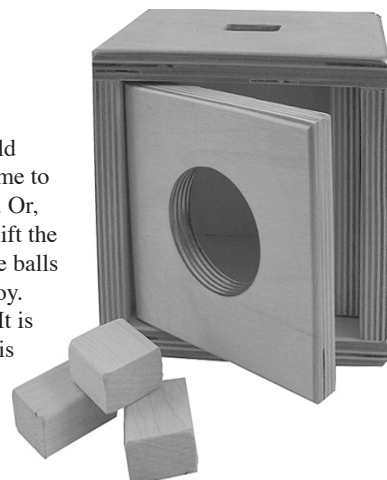


BOX WITH DOOR AND BLOCKS

This toy can be used in two ways. It gives the child the opportunity to open and close a door for the first time to retrieve the rectangular prism blocks that come with it. Or, placed on its side with the door on top, the child can lift the door up after putting the cubes into the round hole. The balls from the *box with soft ball* can also be used with this toy.

The box comes with three wooden prism blocks. It is made here in California from birch plywood. The box is 4.5" x 5.8" on the top, and 5.8" high.

- (*) CT875 Box with 3 blocks \$49.00
- (*) CT875A 3 extra blocks \$7.00



MIRACLE PUSHING TOY

There are 5 colored wooden balls for the child to push into either the front or back of this toy. As she pushes in a new ball one is forced out—then the child grasps it and pushes again. The fascinating movement draws the child in to repeat the activity over and over. The miracle pushing toy is 6.5" tall, 3" wide, and 9" long. From Thailand.

NOTE: A hammer comes in the box with this toy but we do not recommend using it as it is much more satisfying for the child to push, rather than pound, the balls.

- BT600 \$35.00



FIRST YEAR - SITTING UP, WORKING

than plastic and teach the child much more about the natural world, such as weight, texture, sound, and beauty.

Some toys at this age can be left out for the child to use at any time and some will need the adult to sit and work with the child. All of the toys in *The Joyful Child* have been tested by children and can safely be used either alone or with the adult.

NUMBER OF TOYS & "PUTTING AWAY"

It is necessary to have only a few toys out for the child at this age. If possible have a small bookcase with toys in all of the places in the home where the child spends time with the family. It

is quite easy, when there are only a few objects, for the adult to constantly put things back on the shelf.

Children at this age are very pleased when we respect their "sense of order" in the environment and put objects in the same place each time we put them away. We are the models and when the child sees us putting toys away, and even more important, enjoying putting away toys, she will naturally imitate us as soon as she is able.

Keep out the favorites, constantly offer all toys to the child, and rotate toys that are not accepted or do not get used by the child. Variety is important when each toy is selected carefully and calls

forth a new ability for the child.

FURNITURE FOR SITTING UP

The second half of the first year is the time also to get the child a heavy, safe chair for working and eating in a new position for a short time each day.

But we say again: be careful that the child does not become frustrated with her own efforts to learn to sit up by being put into an artificially supported sitting position too often or for too long.

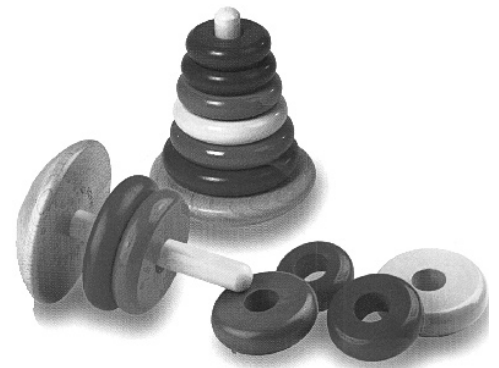
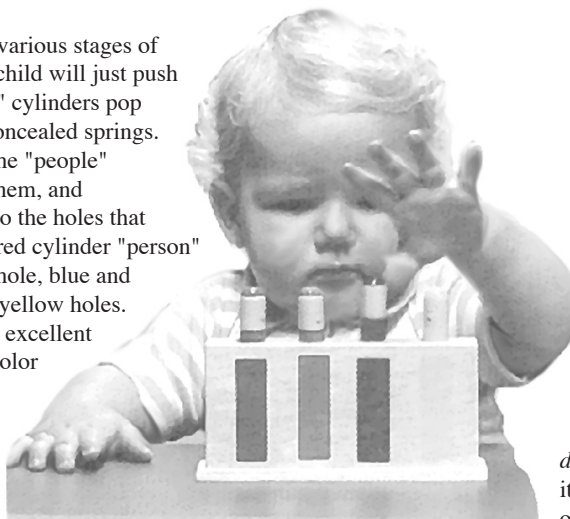
A child who gets to reach the sitting up stage as a result of her own effort and work will get more exercise, and learn to find satisfaction through effort at an early age.

POP-UP TOY

This favorite toy is good for various stages of development. At first (above) this child will just push gently and watch the little "people" cylinders pop back up because of the action of concealed springs.

Later she will be able to put the "people" cylinders into the holes made for them, and eventually put them "correctly" into the holes that match the color of the cylinders—red cylinder "person" in the red hole, green in the green hole, blue and yellow cylinders into the blue and yellow holes. Crafted in hardwood, this toy is an excellent aid to hand-eye coordination and color awareness. The main box is 6.5" long and 3" high. The colored cylinder people are 3" tall. Made in China by a European company. Lead tested.

BT14 \$19.00



ROCKY COLOR CONE

This is probably the most popular first *ring and dowel* toy. Because the dowel rocks toward the child it is sometimes easier to reach. We would begin with only one or two rings when the child is first learning the concept, and gradually add the others; the last stage is putting the rings on the dowel in order of size. The base is a light natural wood, and the wooden rings are painted bright colors—the order of size showing the order of the color wheel, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple. 4" in diameter and 5.5" high. Made in the USA.

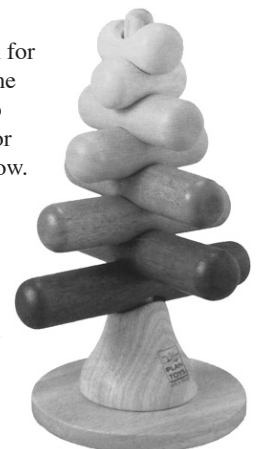
CT03 \$19.50

STACKING TREE

The *stacking tree* is a really fun toy even for older children. When a rod is placed on the one below it, it automatically turns and clicks into place, as is seen in the illustration; each rod, or *branch*, settles perpendicularly to the one below.

The trunk and base are natural wood finish, and the rods are graduated dark green at the bottom, then lighter and lighter shades of green, to yellow at the top. Just like a tree. The longest rod is 5.5", and the overall height 8.5". The bottom of the base is slightly rounded, like the *rocky color cone*. From Thailand.

(*) BT700 \$24.00

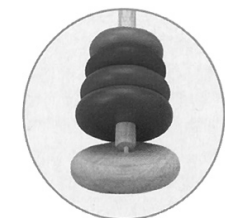


STACKING RINGS

This stacking toy has a central post that is flexible and leans toward the child to make it easier to place the rings.

There is no right or wrong way to arrange the discs, but important exploration and eye-hand control is the purpose.

The base and central dowel are natural wood, and the rings are each a different color. The red ball for the top



(which we recommend keeping back till the child can do the other rings well), is 2" in diameter. Total height of the toy 7.5". Made in Thailand.

(*) BT820

\$19.00