

# 0-18 MOS



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## Our Toy-Testing Method

To select the 50 best toys of the year, we first sent hundreds of toys to four of the finest children's museums in the country—Baltimore's Port Discovery Children's Museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, and the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose—so kids could play with and evaluate the newest playthings on the market. Those that passed the test were then examined by a panel of top experts at our offices: Helen Boehm, Ph.D., a children's media and play expert and author of *Fearless Parenting for the New Millennium* and *The Right Toys*; Judy Ellis, founder and chairwoman of the toy design department at the Fashion Institute of Technology; Dana Levy, infant and toddler early intervention specialist/special educator at the Bank Street Family Center; Tanya Chin Ross, senior public policy associate for the National Safe Kids Campaign; and Diana Rudman, owner of DiDi's Children's Boutique in New York City.

**previous page: 1. GIANT SOFT BLOCK & BALL SET** Babies adore these oversize shapes in fun colors and soft, cuddly textures. Babystyle, \$28 (birth and up). **2. RETRO ROCKET** Get ready for takeoff! This cute ride-on features working lights and space sounds. Radio Flyer, \$60 (10 months and up). **this page: 3. QUATRO LARGE** Four times bigger than traditional Lego bricks, these blocks are easier for small hands to grasp. Lego, \$20 (1 year and up). **4. TOOTLE TURTLE SHAPE SORTER** Easy-to-fit shape compartments help babies develop fine-motor skills. Mamas and Papas, \$22 (birth and up). **5. SNAIL PULL-ALONG ANIMAL FRIENDS** This bright wooden pull-toy follows your child wherever he goes. Guidecraft, \$15 (1 year and up). **6. CARS, TRAINS & PLANES** Vehicles, tunnels, and traffic lights give kids control of the road. Little Tikes, \$26 (9 months and up). **7. LAUGH & LEARN LEARNING HOME** This activity house incorporates real-life objects, like a doorbell, into its design. Fisher-Price, \$60 (6 months and up). **opposite page: 8. LEARNING BAND WALKER** When pushed, this musical walker plays instrument sounds. LeapFrog, \$35 (9 months and up). **9. WONDER DICE** Soft blocks with Velcro, foil, and other materials stimulate a baby's senses. Haba, \$30 (6 months and up). **10. MUSICAL STACK & PLAY** Sounds and lights enhance this elephant stacking toy. Tiny Love, \$20 (6 months and up). **11. MY PIRATE SHIP** This fully equipped boat sports a cannon and hammock. Mega Bloks, \$30 (1 year and up). **12. FABULETTES PLAYMAT** Gorgeous images decorate baby's first mat. Jacadi, \$114 (birth and up).