

# Open-Ended Toys That Will Keep Your Kids Busy For Hours

As parents, we go through different stages of finding ways and things to occupy our children. One of these ways is to provide our kids with games, toys, activities, and things to not only occupy their time but to stimulate their development.

A primary way of doing this is through toys and playtime.

## What Is Open-Ended Play Vs. “Closed-Ended” Play?

Closed-ended toys teach kids to master certain tasks and persevere through obstacles. They’re good for learning basic skills such as following directions and completing tasks.

Open-ended toys give kids the opportunity to explore new ideas and make something out of nothing. These toys encourage creativity, imagination, and problem-solving. Kids love playing with them because it gives them the chance to experiment without being told what to do next.

There are several benefits to combining closed-ended and open-ended playtime. Here are some examples:

- Teaching kids to follow instructions and finish tasks helps prepare them for life outside the home.
- Playing with open-ended toys encourages kids to think creatively and imagine possibilities. This fosters curiosity and exploration.
- Children who spend lots of time playing with open-ended toys tend to be happier and more creative.
- Having both kinds of playtime allows kids to develop different skills simultaneously. For example, they might practice working together while building a tower with blocks or doing a puzzle together.

## What Is An Open-Ended Toy?

An open-ended toy is a toy that’s parts are easy to put together and take apart again. You don’t even need instructions because there aren’t any.

Open-ended toys are perfect for creative play and learning how to solve problems. For example, you could use Lego bricks to make a house or Duplo blocks to make a car.

You can find open-ended toys at most stores. Toys R Us, Target, Walmart, Amazon, and many others sell them.

## Why is open-ended play important?

Open-ended play helps children develop key skills such as creativity, problem-solving, self-control, and independent decision-making.

In addition to developing those abilities, it teaches children how to communicate effectively and allows them to practice social skills like sharing, cooperating, and taking turns. These are skills that kids will use throughout their lives.

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## Best Open-ended Toys by Age: Babies (6-12 Months)



Activity Stand

Activity stands are great for babies (6-12 months) who love to move around. These toys encourage children to stand up, crawl, walk and play independently. They help develop coordination and fine motor skills, which will help build muscle strength and endurance. Plus, they're fun!



Mirrors

A mirror helps babies develop their social skills, encourages them to explore their surroundings, gives them opportunities to understand themselves better, and makes them feel good about themselves.

The mirrors are placed in nurseries and daycare centers across the world.



Water Mat



A water mat encourages children to develop their motor skills and helps them learn about different animals. This product is designed to keep kids safe during playtime and will last for many hours of fun.



## Ball

The ball is an age-appropriate toy that promotes hand-eye coordination and gross motor skill development. It comes in different sizes & colors. It is made of durable plastic, making it safe for young children.

## Ages 1- 5 years old

One of the best things about open-ended toys is that they create endless possibilities for play. You can also buy a toy for every age and stage of development.

When it comes to toys for toddlers, you should look for ones that make them want to explore.