

## The Importance of Play for Babies with Special Needs

It's never too early to begin playing with a baby because play is the way children learn best. Introducing play components into the life of a special needs baby can start with a selection of toys and play products chosen for the individual needs of the child.

That's why the website [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) was built, to connect a child's unique special needs with the perfect toys.

AblePlay is a toy rating system and website at [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) that provides comprehensive information on toys for children with special needs. AblePlay was created so parents, special educators, therapists and others can make the best decisions when purchasing products for children in their lives with disabilities. Babies with special needs are a perfect example.

So what should a parent look for when beginning to fill the toy box? Well, here are some product categories that AblePlay likes to focus on because they are just what a special needs baby can benefit from.

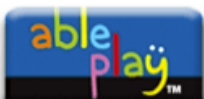
### Seven Great Categories to start a special needs baby with

1. **Activity Panels**—This is a great starter toy for children because it helps them learn cause and effect, hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Examples -- [Sit-to-Stand Learning Walker](#) or [5 in 1 Adjustable gym](#).
2. **Cuddle Toys**—Sometimes a child needs a good friend, something to hold for confidence, or a playmate to take to the park. Cuddle toys help a child express their emotions, explore social realms and provide a whole lot of comfort. [The Buddy Dog](#) is a perfect example of a friend your special needs baby will love and cherish.
3. **Musical Elements**—Musical toys do a great job of soothing a child, or waking them up (depending on the beat). Research shows music helps brain development and aids in promoting movement and communication. We really like the [Mozart Magic Cube](#) because it plays classical tunes, is child-friendly and highly portable.
4. **Blocks**—Block for block, these simple play items deliver big times for kids. Some of the top benefits they serve up are problem solving, spatial aptitude, logical and mathematical skills and learning to plan. For a good starter set look to [One Two Squeeze Soft 123 Blocks](#)
5. **Shape-Sorters**—Every baby's toy box should have a shape-sorter toy because they are a great way for child to learn hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills. We like [DiscoverSounds Tool Box](#) because it morphs into a tool box as well.
6. **Recognition Promoters**—These play products stimulate children's memories by showing them new and familiar objects, people and places. This is an important element in helping kids recognize, prepare and remember. [Zatswho](#) is a great product that allows you to customize a photo of anything you want to familiarize a child with.



7. Memory & Recall Developers—Toys are a great tool to stimulate and strengthen a child’s memory and recall abilities. Products like [What’s Inside? Toy Box](#) are a great way to get a kid started in building these important skills.

So start building your baby’s toy chest with these seven great categories of play products. For more information on toys for children with special needs, including babies with special needs, go to [www.ableplay.org](http://www.ableplay.org) and learn how to fuel fun and build a whole lot of skills that serve babies and beyond.



Play products for children with special needs

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