Toy Ideas for Blind Babies

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Last night, during our parent support group, a mom asked an important question to the group. She asked about what kind of toys would be best for her baby. I’d like to summarize and share my ideas:

1. Consider toys that have interesting texture, scent and sounds (instead of colors).
   - A small keyboard,
   - music box
   - or textured blankets
   - Scented container with spices inside

2. Toys that will engage your child in pretend play with you. Make interesting sounds and have conversations.
   - Baby doll
   - Stuffed animals
   - Real (non-breakable or safe) household materials like spoon and cup, baby blanket

3. Think of toys that have multiple purpose or multiple levels and ways of playing.
   - Small empty boxes that can be stacked on top of each other

4. Toys that help build your child’s basic concepts like open and close, inside and outside, put on and take off, etc.
   - Bottles with lids or twisty caps
   - Shape sorters
   - Any toy for peek-a-boo with a blanket

5. As the baby gets older, think of toys that may increase your child’s mobility and movement.
   - Push Toys
   - Hanging toys that encourages reach
   - Small shopping carts
   - Bouncy balls
   - Trampoline

6. It’s never too early to build literacy!
   - Homemade tactile books
   - Children’s music
   - Children’s audiobooks
After saying all these, I want to say, AVOID BUYING TOYS. I challenge every parent to be creative in finding things in your home that has the same qualities that I mentioned above. They will be far more interesting and fun than any single use store-bought toy you find. If you are creative, your baby becomes very creative too!

Have fun searching around your home. Don’t forget to engage your child in your search. Talk to them a lot in many interesting ways. Babies love to smell, taste, touch, listen, bang on things, throw things, kick and jump. These are all super important for your baby’s development. Invest in these ideas and have fun.

Meet our toy pet Mr. Piggy. He is homemade. He is made from a wipes container. His body is covered in a soft green towel. He has a tail behind him which you cannot see in this photo. He has 2 eyes, a nose, and when you open the lid, you will find his mouth.

Mr. Piggy loves to eat crackers. We keep feeding him crackers and taking the crackers out, and feeding them again. He eats very loudly “Yum Yum Yum!” he says when he’s eating! He always makes children laugh.

Mr. Piggy also helps babies develop bilateral fine motor control as they have to use one hand to stabilize Mr. Piggy, and use the other hand to feed him. He also builds cognitive skills as babies need to problem solve how to get the crackers out of Mr. Piggy!

Have fun making your own Mr. Piggy!