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One Of The Best Kids Puzzles: The Benefits Of Building Blocks

By Chris Peace

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If you've never thought of building blocks as a type of kids puzzle, then you are in for a huge surprise. These fun toys are definitely one of the best kids puzzles for children thanks to all of their fabulous benefits. Not only are they a great way to keep children of all ages entertained and not only can they inspire a love of design and architecture which could lead to a lucrative career choice but building blocks can be a valuable tool in your child's development. Here are some examples.

Spatial Awareness

Basically, spatial awareness describes the ability to understand dimensions and shapes and how these all work together. For example, spatial awareness is what allows us to park a car, walk through a doorway, and play sports. Without this ability, most of us would have difficult doing more than learning geometry.

Although some people are naturally better at spatial awareness than others, kids puzzles like building blocks give children a great way to practice and to strengthen the part of the brain responsible for this skill.

Logic

When you're building with blocks, bricks, stone, or any material, you have to use a good amount of logic when making your decisions. If not, the whole structure is probably doomed. Logic is the ability to use reason to make decisions. For example, when you decide on a route to work you are using logic to decide which one will be the best. Although you can do this quickly now, that wouldn't be possible if you hadn't developed logic skills at an early age.

These kids puzzles are helpful for logic building because they also give children some trial and error practice. If the building falls down after a bad decision, the child can try again and take a different approach. That's an important part of logic.

Eye Hand Coordination

Clearly, these kids puzzles are going to have a huge impact on these basic motor skills that most of us take for granted. There are people who have a great deal of trouble making their hands and eyes work in unison to complete even simple tasks. Good eye-hand coordination is essential for many future activities, including sports, using a pen for writing, and driving.

Building blocks require the use of eye hand coordination because the child must be able to pick up the blocks and place them in the right spot in the construction. The more the child plays with these kids puzzles the better his or her coordination is going to be.

Social Skills

While it may seem odd that working with kids puzzles like building blocks could also be beneficial for social development, it's true. That's because children love to talk about what they are building. They will talk to adults, other children, even family pets if no one else is around. These kids puzzles give them a great excuse to socialize and that's definitely important for children.

Smalltime Child offers a great selection of Kids Puzzles, Children's Puzzles, & Puzzles for Kids. Check us out on the web at <http://www.smalltimechild.com>

Tips For Choosing the Right Kids Puzzles

By Chris Peace

When you make the wise decision to purchase kids puzzles for your children, the next step is determining which ones on the market are going to be the best for your little ones. That can mean sorting through a few factors. Below you'll find some guidance to help you narrow your search in the world of kids puzzles.

Child's Preferences

One of the most important factors is going to be your child. Children are unique and have their own interests. If your child doesn't enjoy building with blocks, he or she isn't going to respond favorably to those types of kids puzzles. It's that simple.

To get an idea of what your child might enjoy, pay attention to how he or she plays. What types of games or activities does he or she gravitate towards? This can give you some answers. You might also contact the babysitter, daycare manager, or preschool teacher with the same question. They may be able to steer you in the right direction.

Another approach is to focus less on the types of kids puzzles your child might like and more on the subject matter that interests them. For example, if you have a junior etymologist in your midst then he or she might love lacing cards with insects pictures and descriptions.

Age Appropriateness

Once you've gotten a decent idea of which types of kids puzzles to look for, you can start paying attention to the age ranges on some of the items available. These are important guides because you don't want to purchase anything that could be harmful to your child. Some kids puzzles for older children have smaller pieces and parts which could be swallowed and, therefore, should not be given to anyone younger than specified.

Age appropriateness is also important for kids puzzles because it can help you find an activity your child will be able to do well. Remember young children may not have the cognitive skills or dexterity to do the same activities as older children so these guides can prevent you from buying puzzles that would not be enjoyable for your child.

Materials

While kids puzzles do come in a wide variety of materials, there are some that are better than others. As a parent, you may also have your own preferences. For example, some parents are dead set against wood as a material and that's their prerogative. However, you do want to make these decisions before you start shopping around.

Wood is a popular choice for kids puzzles and is quite safe. Painted plastic, foam, and other materials are also going to pop up frequently. If you're not sure of the product's material, you can always send an email or phone customer service with your question before buying.

Goal of the Kids Puzzles

You may also want to think about the specific benefits you want your child to reap from these kids puzzles. If you're more interested in encouraging fine motor skills and creativity then building kits would be a good choice, for example.

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