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Four Benefits of Kids Puzzles

By Chris Peace

We all know that our children need certain skills and abilities for success in the future. Without these basic traits, they could end up having trouble in school or even later in their careers. That's why as parents who are committed to providing the best opportunities for their children you'll be interested in learning why kids puzzles of all kinds are always a good choice for them.

Hand Eye Coordination

Being able to make our hands and eyes work together may seem easy to you and me but it isn't a skill we mastered without a great deal of practice. While many parents improved their hand eye coordination through video game playing, there are better ways to achieve the same results with our children, such as kids puzzles.

One example is building toys, such as the Medieval Castle Building Set from Smalltime Child. The set includes more than 100 pieces which children have to arrange in specific ways to create a castle. Each of those hand movements must be coordinated with what the child is seeing or the entire thing is going to fall apart. Continued practice using the set will further enhance the child's abilities.

Fine Motor Skills

Unlike gross motor skills which begin developing as soon as babies begin moving on their own, fine motor skills need more help. You can begin by giving your baby small toys which require gripping and other hand movements. However, when the child reaches the toddler stage you may want to begin introducing kids puzzles as a way to help hone these skills.

Why are fine motor skills important? For one, they are going to help your child develop the physical ability needed to hold a pen or pencil and write with it legibly. Drawing, playing an instrument, working with clay, and even playing some sports requires well developed fine motor skills and the foundation of those begins in early childhood.

Social Development

Regardless of the type of kids puzzles, social development is something that goes hand in hand with

them in many cases. That's because building a medieval castle, connecting rhyming words, and finishing images with laces are great activities to do with others.

Cognitive Abilities

When we're talking about kids puzzles, we're talking about one of the best tools available to help improve your child's cognitive abilities starting at an early age. Cognitive abilities, including problem-solving and reasoning, are going to be essential throughout your child's life. Without them, he or she is likely to face an uphill battle in school, in the workforce, and in every other aspect of his or her life. That's not something most of us want for our children.

With kids puzzles, children are forced to make connections and to determine how to solve problems. They see relationships in the kids puzzles that help them find a solution. By giving your child these kids puzzles, you'll be able to see real improvement in these abilities and will help set your child on the right path for a bright future.

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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