

Every Popular Toy Is 'Educational' - But Some Are More Potent



IS IDAHO NEXT TO Montana or South Dakota? Lots of people, long out of school, haven't the faintest idea. A reasonably easy way to grasp the location of the states, learn their capitals and important products is with a board game.



HE MAY blow up the place, but meanwhile, he's learning chemistry at home with the classic kit.



IF BUSTER IS MAD to drive a sports car to school, perhaps he can be diverted with a scale model to put together. It may keep his hands off Dad's car, but Dad certainly won't return the compliment—he'll help.

Every good toy has its "educational" aspects. If parents grasp this idea, they will be spared the needless work of hunting down toys that seem improving only to find that the child won't take to it at all.

From the first squeaky animal that allows the child to find out how his hands work up to the complex scale models that practice a teen-ager's expert manual skills, every toy is part of learning. Children learn through playing all through their lives.

Here are the requirements for good toys and play materials, as compiled in the "Encyclopedia of Child Care and Guidance":

1. They appeal to the child, not necessarily to the adult.
2. They are suitable to the child's abilities, physical and mental. They should not be so large, so heavy or complicated that the child cannot handle them.
3. They should stimulate the child to try to do things himself rather than be a passive onlooker.
4. They can be used in several ways rather than only one or two.
5. They work as they are supposed to work and do not get out of order easily.
6. They are safe, with no sharp protrusions, rough edges, or harmful coloring matter and sturdy enough for rough handling.

child's play can see, this includes kitchen pots and pans, a stool or a leaf as much as it includes complex expensive toys.

School age toys generally pertain to gaining skills and maintaining a child's place in a group. Roller skates, a bike, jump rope, war games—all are skills that children undertake to learn when they enter the school world.

Things that the child does in school are attractive at home. Paint sets, modeling clay and games of house fall into this category. Six-O-Paint, by Milton Bradley, can be used as crayons, water color or fingerpaints and might help the budget-bound family to give a youngster different kinds of painting at home.

Blocks are appealing to nursery schoolers and kindergartners. Bigger blocks for little children is the rule. When they get to building realistic structures, Anchor Blocks, by A. C. Gilbert, may be just the thing.

Board games start to be interesting from the age of seven on. At first, they should be games of pure chance, where the child has an equal chance to win. Later, skills and knowledge can be incorporated. Board games involving the states or money can be fun later on as the child develops the necessary knowledge.

As girls get interested in dramatic play and dressing up, boys

get interested in tools and building things. Models that can be built with increasing difficulty are fun here. Doepke's Jaguar model interests the car-minded boy. Chemistry sets, like the classic Gilbert one, cooking and sewing sets command more interest as kids move on into the world of adults.

But child-test every toy. Don't expect Junior to like what you like. He is an individual.

Thrill of the Two-Wheeler— Think of Safety When Buying Bike

Schools may have changed, and teaching as well, but the favorite transportation system of millions of U.S. students still is a two-wheeler bike.

In many suburban and rural areas where bus transportation does not fill the bill, a bike is not only a pleasure item, it is also a basic necessity. Ditto at many a college which boasts of a sprawled-out campus.

Which means that a bike's selection should always be carefully made, as the youngster who rides it in traffic will be facing serious hazards.

The main consideration for a child who is still in grammar school is choosing the proper size. If the bike is too large or small, it won't be easy to ride and may even lead to an accident.

Sizes are measured by wheel diameter. And according to the Bicycle Institute of America, here are the ones you should get for a youngster of normal height:

For children of six to eight, the safest-handling bike is usually 20 inches. The 24-inch is proper for eight-to-10-year-olds. For 11-year-olds and up, the size should be 26 inches. And for all children younger than six, the usual best selection is a 16-inch with training wheels.

But the question of safety does not end with size. Included in new designs of the better American wheels are several important features, designed for the rider's protection, which the wisest parents always will look for.

Coaster brakes, for instance, are the bicycle's greatest safety de-

vice—and now they've been made even safer. Most of the newer versions can bring the bike to a stop faster than ever before. So be sure that the bike you buy has one as standard equipment.

An advance of equal importance is a new-style low-pressure tire. This gives better control on wet or slippery pavements, and is made for easier pedaling. It often can mean the difference in preventing a serious mishap.

Other needed features, such as rear reflectors and headlights, may not come as standard equipment,

but should always be purchased as "extras" if Junior will ride after dark.

An especially good idea is a strong wire basket for school books and packages, attached at the front or the rear. And be certain to check the handlebar grips to see that they're large and tight.

As far as styling goes, the choice is unusually wide. Still the biggest favorite are standard balloon-tired models noted for sturdy construction, and many of these have been re-designed to give them a racy, sports-car look.



JUNIOR CAN BONE UP on current events or music on the way to school, when he rides this radio bike. The weather proof radio is encased in the bike frame, has tuner and speaker on the side. Radio reception within 100 miles.

Anyone Can Be A Snapshot Sniper -- Use of Flashbulbs Has Made Picture Taking Easy

It happens in a flash—the snapping of a shutter for a wonderful indoor picture. There's nothing complicated about flash snapshots. In fact, indoor pictures are just as easy to take as outdoor pictures.

Most simple cameras are equipped to take flashshots. With a flash camera your school youngster can take pictures any time—day or night, indoors or out, in color, or in black-and-white. The out-of-town student may be reminiscing in letter-writing, but you can be fairly sure of seeing—and sharing—those school activities in snapshots.

If your youngster doesn't already own a camera, there's a new sturdy, inexpensive model that really hits the bull's-eye. This camera, called the Bull-Eye, is also available in a set complete with a Midget Flash-holder that is one of the newest things in flash. The flashholder uses low-priced bulbs, so small that eight may be carried in a pocket.

No matter the camera, picture opportunities for the student are many. He can make his own personal yearbook to supplement the school's official record—pictures of the class play, the big dance, commencement exercises—even the gang at the soda shop.

Football becomes even more fun for spectators when they bring along their cameras to record the game. With just a little "know-how" a beginner can develop into a specialist at taking action pictures. The Argus Super 75 is an especially good inexpensive camera for young sports enthusiasts. The camera's f3 lens and three



TEENAGE gatherings are more fun if a flash camera "breaks the ice." Pictures taken at this kind of party or outing are the mainstays of high school yearbooks and provide fodder for teenager's bulging wallets.

simple "click" settings meet many exciting varieties of situations found in vigorous school sports.

The following are some pointers on action photography suggested by professionals at Argus:

1. When possible, locate your subject to the left or right of vertical center of picture. In a shot of a player running, for example, this technique means that space is left in the picture for him to "run" into.
2. For special effects, take your football player from interesting angles. For instance, if you take your football captain from below waist-level, he'll look especially big and powerful.
3. Although it may mean standing behind the goal post at times, maneuver yourself directly in front of the moving subject rather than shooting from the side; not only will your picture be less apt to have any blur, but you'll catch realistic facial expressions.



IMMORTAL on the gridiron, even if he plays strictly for the neighbors, if gal friend uses her camera often.

4. Since football games shift continually, follow along the sidelines. To anticipate the most exciting moments, of course, you'll need to know the game.



THIS IS SLEEPWEAR but you don't have to sleep (obviously) to wear it. At left are teesucker shorties suitable for study time before sack time. At right: the old-fashioned flannel night-shirt, usually worn by the same guys who drive antique autos.

Pajamas More Popular

College men are 16 per cent more modest today than they were six years ago, according to the Mens Pajama Institute. In 1949, a third of a pair of pajamas was bought for every male in the United States, collections included. Today it is up to half a pair. Whether it is the bottom or the top half, they don't say.

Two factors have inspired this upsurge. After World War II schools were jammed with young vets studying under the G.I. Bill. The one article of clothing never issued by the Armed Forces are pajamas. Teen-agers got used to sleeping in their skivvies. When they went to college, the habit persisted. Fewer youngsters in the draft in recent years have put more of them into pajamas. Meanwhile, the older vets, more settled and settled, have taken to wearing them again.

The most important factor, however, has been the change in pa-

Boys Shouldn't Overlook Careers in Selling Field

When boys reach their teens, it's common for parents to start giving thought to their future careers. "What is he going to do?" is a question that's a poser for many a dad and mother—particularly if they see no sign of special talent or interest in their young man. But instead of pushing a boy into a field he may not like, as is sometimes done, or letting the problem "solve itself," parents and son might give some thought to a career in selling.

One branch of salesmanship in particular has proven to be a fine one for young men, direct selling—bringing the sample line right to the living room of the customer.

Thousands of boys have learned how to get along with all kinds of people—a priceless lesson in life—by ringing the doorbells of neighbors and selling their wares. The money earned has paid their college tuition.

In recent years, opportunities in

direct selling have widened, so that high school seniors and young college men are out selling such varied items as aluminum cooking ware, ladies' hosiery, household brushes and vacuum cleaners. Many begin such work during summer vacations and like it so well that they continue on a spare-time basis after school sessions start in the fall.

Chief Larson, who started selling aluminum ware to "earn spending money while going to school," found that he could earn enough to pay all his expenses at State College, Pa., with no hindrance to his studies. Direct selling happens to be the type of job in which a person can set up a work schedule to suit his own convenience.

"WHERE'S MY SHIRT?" A man's shirt, worn backward, is a perfectly acceptable smock for the paint-smearing stage.

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