



Active Play



24 mos +

CONSTRUCTION SANDBOX

LITTLE TIKES
COMPANY
4127

Bucket of fun! This large, unique sandbox made of durable plastic featured a popular construction theme. Kids enjoyed the fully functional crane and dump bucket that came with the unit for lots of sandy digging play. The crane was unable to dump outside of the sandbox area, so there were no worries about sand getting outside of the sandbox. For extra activity, the lid for the unit doubled as a roadway; when it was placed at the end of the sandbox, kids could use this area to "drive" their toy vehicles in and out of the job site. A terrific outdoors toy.



24 mos - 4 yrs

READY-STEP-GO ROLLER SKATES

LITTLE TIKES
COMPANY
4142

Radical roller skates! These small, plastic roller skates came with four wheels, a Velcro strap and three adjustable levels to let little skaters gain confidence on their feet. These skates were very stable and offered an "anti-rollback" feature so that the skates would only move forward when activated. Young children loved "rollerblading" just like older siblings, and these proved to be excellent first skates. NOTE: Helmet, knee and elbow pads pictured on box not included, but recommended for safe skating.



24 mos +

VARIETY CLIMBER & SWING EXTENSION

LITTLE TIKES
COMPANY
4414/4175

Climb up! This colourful play structure provided hours of active play for children who loved to climb, swing and explore. Platforms at different levels were joined by a tunnel or bridge--parents' choice--to give kids a safe place to play. Toddlers and preschoolers could choose a small or large slide. The structure also provided a rope ladder and a play steering wheel (very popular). The swings were comfortable, and two children could swing at the same time. This proved to be a fun and durable play structure. NOTE: Assembly will take time; supervise children during play.

Arts & Crafts



24 mos +



MY ART

TRAGO PUBLISHING
INC.
ISBN 0-9683883-0-2

Words and pictures! These well-designed art pads for colouring came in three sizes--small, medium and large (easel sized). Kids liked the simple, strong, single designs of animals plus the names in English clearly printed below the images. The paper stock was sturdy and proved a good medium for pencil crayons, crayons, markers, fingerpaints, spongepaints, etc. Each pad had 35 pages which easily tore out for display, making many young colourists very proud. NOTE: Art supplies not included.

Construction Toys



24 mos - 4 yrs

MEGA BLOKS POLICE STATION

RITVIK TOYS INC.
8810

Calling all cars! This 22-piece building and play set featured an appealing police theme that kept kids engaged in play. This set included blue and white police vehicles and two police officers in addition to the blocks and other pieces to build the police station. The plastic pieces were durable and nicely detailed; stickers could also be added. A fun activity for police fans.

Construction Toys

<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos - 5 yrs</p>	<p>MEGA BLOKS RADIO CONTROL ACTION BUILDER RITVIK TOYS INC. 8914</p>	<p>R/C racing fun! Kids enjoyed building five different remote-controlled vehicles with this 27-piece set with durable, brightly coloured plastic pieces. The remote-control chassis allowed young adventurers to create a race car, helicopter, submarine, tractor and airplane, allowing for lots of versatile play. The remote control function worked well, but kids soon learned that the unit needed to be turned off after play or batteries would be used up quickly. NOTE: Four "AA" batteries and one 9-Volt battery required (not included).</p>
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Educational Toys

<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos - 4 yrs</p>	<p>3-IN-1 MUSICMACHINE LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 0013</p>	<p>Three times the music! This electronic music toy was shaped like a guitar, but opened up to reveal a piano-style keyboard and also featured large drum pads. The toy inspired lots of musical fun as kids played tunes, made different drum sounds, or "strummed" the guitar. There were also different buttons to vary the kinds of sounds. Once functioning, there was no way to turn off the toy, but junior rock stars quite enjoyed creating and dancing to the music. NOTE: Three "AA" batteries required (included).</p>
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<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>MUSIC BLOCKS NEUROSMITH 663488-12210-9</p>	<p>***CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD 2002***Music for your mind! This electronic toy looked simple in its design--five blocks and a cartridge plugged into a durable plastic base with handle--but it yielded big results. Kids were encouraged to create their own classical music by placing the blocks in certain sequences based on colour and shape, and then pressing a button to play back their musical creations. While Mozart (cartridge provided) provided the original inspiration, children had a blast making their own musical versions as they matched up the blocks. Other cartridges sold separately. NOTE: Four "C" batteries required; battery consumption good.</p>
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<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos - 5 yrs</p> 	<p>PICCOLO INTERACTIVE DISCOVERY CENTRE & JIGSAW PUZZLE EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS K-2605, K-2606, K2610</p>	<p>Travelling teacher! Kids loved playing with this compact, easy-to-carry electronic learning system. Players would use the toy's pen to point and press onto a book or puzzle (sold separately) situated on the unit to hear words and sentences, play games or sing along to well-known tunes. The toy featured high-quality sound and colourful, vibrant graphics. The toy came with a 18-page sampler book that included shapes, colours, ABCs and more. Additional books are available (sold separately) including Elliott Moose and Franklin. A great take-along learning toy. NOTE: Four "AA" batteries required.</p>
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Imaginative Play




<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>ELECTRONIC PROJECT WORKSHOP LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 0914</p>	<p>Workshop winner! This sturdy plastic workbench with peg board and storage tray kept little handypersons busy for hours. Each toy came with a play saw and sander that made realistic sounds, and included other toy tools (hammer, wrench, screwdriver, chisel, level, gauge, nails and screws). Kids could also put together a bird house (parent's help needed). Assembly is clear and straightforward, but do not take apart once assembled as parts may break. NOTE: Two "AA" batteries required.</p>
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<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENTS 2-SIDED WORKSHOP LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 4146</p>	<p>Tool time! This well-made durable plastic workshop featured a two-sided design that provided kids with lots of "do-it-yourself" fun. The workshop came with colourful play tools and hardware that were easily handled by little ones, and detailed enough to interest older children. Realistic features included a working vice grip, a pegboard for hanging tools, plus a storage compartment for screws, nails and a screwdriver. A hanging work light with a working bulb (and auto shut-off) was a huge hit. Two children can play together. NOTE: Three "AA" batteries required.</p>
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Imaginative Play

<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>SHOP AND SCAN SOUNDS STORE LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 4143</p> 	<p>Fun in store! This large, durable, plastic electronic toy grocery store featured a cash register, play money, "credit cards", lights and sound. The check-out counter had a "scanner" which read different prices as items were passed through. Kids enjoyed loads of imaginary play as they could be the check-out clerks or go shopping and pretend to buy five different grocery items (included). NOTE: Three "AA" batteries required (not included).</p>
<p>★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>SUPERGLOW ELECTRONIC KITCHEN LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 624917090-R2-6/99</p>	<p>This was a stylish little plastic play kitchen that featured electronic sounds like a cooking stove, etc. The unit took about one to two hours to assemble. Kids enjoyed playing with the pretend dishwasher, sink, microwave, oven, refrigerator, phone and storage shelves, but experienced some frustration when doors would not stay shut and the faucet fell off. Water should not be put into the sink as liquid can seep into the battery area; for pretend play only. NOTE: Two "AA" batteries required in stove, and two "AA" batteries in phone.</p>
<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p>	<p>TALKING FASHION VANITY LITTLE TIKES COMPANY 4147</p> 	<p>Looking good! This pretty vanity made of durable plastic talked to children as they engaged in pretend make-up and dress-up play. The make-up side of the vanity included a lighted mirror, two play lipsticks, two nail polishes, comb, hairdryer storage compartment and stool. The dress-up side offered a full-length mirror, hooks, and shelves for storage. A positive, friendly voice responded as make-up was picked up, saying "You look pretty." Kids loved the realistic hairdryer sound. NOTE: Three "AA" batteries required; toy starts automatically when make-up removed; two-minute auto shut-off.</p>
<p>★★★★</p> <p>24 mos +</p> 	<p>TRAVELING TALES FINGER PUPPETS MANHATTAN TOY COMPANY 100790 & 100800</p>	<p>A world of puppet play! These finely crafted sets of finger puppets delighted kids who greatly enjoyed their storybook themes. Each set included four finger puppets with beautifully detailed costumes based on the concepts of "Rogues to Riches" and "Dance Around the World". The high seas set featured a pirate, sailor, mermaid and treasure box; the dancers set featured hula, flamenco, belly and Thailand dancers. These puppets were enjoyed on their own or incorporated into other imaginative play, and their size made them great for travel.</p>



A good choice for a birthday gift, rated at *** and priced under \$15



A good choice for a travel toy, rated at *** and compact



An Energizer® recommended toy, rated ***