



Toys Age Grading

Understanding children's development is critical to proper age grading for toys. UL helps you better understand the functionalities of your toy products and match them to the suitable age range.

Through play, children make sense of their environment, improve cognitive skills, explore cause and effect relationships, and problem solve. Children learn important social and cultural roles through interaction with adults, peers, and the use of toys and props. Toys are important tools that support physical and cognitive growth.

In order to offer stimulating and appealing toys, manufacturers must take into consideration the development, interests, and social influences at various ages and stages of child growth for safe product use.

UL child development experts can help determine the most appropriate age grading of toys on the basis of developmental factors such as cognitive and motor abilities, as well as play behavior and interests.

An accurate age grading evaluation will increase toy preference and safety for the child, and can help increase the brand loyalty of parents and children alike.

Examples of Suitable Toys For Different Age Groups

- 0-3 months: sensory and musical items, multi-textured toys, activity gyms and play mats
- 3-6 months: rattles, teething rings, fabric and textured balls to grasp, play mats, activity gyms
- 6-9 months: rubber or plastic keys and rings, plush and stuffed toys and dolls, textured geometric shapes, squeeze toys
- 9-12 months: musical and chiming toys, plastic, paperboard and cloth books, push/pull toys, nesting/stacking toys
- 12-18 months: shape sorters, water toys, small vehicle toys, trains without tracks, simple role-playing toys (i.e. toy phones, kitchen/cooking sets, push lawnmowers, brooms)
- 18-24 months: toys for sand and water, puzzles with insert frames, rocking and ride-on toys, stacking and simple interlocking blocks, baby dolls with simple accessories, push toys with high handles





- 2-3 years: strollers and baby buggies for dolls, shopping carts, outdoor play houses and slides, 4-12 piece puzzles with insert frames, talking dolls, stove and kitchen sets, telephones, cash registers, cranes, trucks, simple musical instruments, coloring and painting materials, small vehicle toys, toy audiovisual equipment
- 3-4 years: tricycles, bicycles, doll houses with furniture, doll clothing, doctor kits, soap bubbles and accessories, action figures, card and board games without strategies, computer toys, small vehicles with realistic details, trains with tracks, costumes and dress up accessories
- 4-5 years: 15-20 piece puzzles, building/construction sets with interlocking systems, coloring books, arts and crafts, water guns, remote controlled vehicles and vehicles with moving/electronic features, sports and recreation toys
- 5-6 years: sports equipment toys (baseballs, basketballs, rollerblades, skates, etc.) scooters, mechanical/electrical powered vehicles/machines, spelling and math games, puppet theaters, painting and craft sets
- 7-8 years: strategic board and card games, electronic and computer games, jump ropes, flying discs, magic kits, construction kits, clay, and crafts for modeling, sewing/bead/needle crafts
- 9-10 years: science and chemistry sets, magic tricks, building and model kits, mechanical sets, jewelry, beading, and hair accessory kits, role-playing games with strategies and competition
- 10-14 years: sophisticated microscope and science equipment, competitive games and sports, electronics, video and computer software

Examples of Warnings & Age Recommendations for Toys

WARNINGS - Certain toys intended for children over 3 years of age require hazard warning labels:

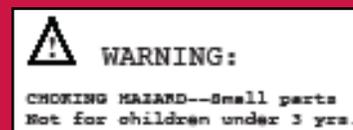
For example, according to EU Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC and the ISO 8124 International Standard, the following graphic shall be used accompanied by the word **WARNING** and with the statement of hazard (i.e. small parts):



This means that there is a hazard for children aged under 3 years.

The age warning symbol can be substituted by the following indication “Not suitable for children under 3 years” preceded by the word **WARNING** and with the statement of the specific hazard (i.e. small parts).

For the US market, a warning statement is required for toys and games containing small parts that are intended for children at least 3 years old but less than 6 years old:



Mandatory elements are an exclamation mark inside an equilateral triangle, the word “**WARNING**”, and the statement of risk and hazard.

AGE RECOMMENDATIONS - Indicate the correct age grading of a toy:

Ex. “For children aged 2 years +” or just “2+”

