



DIRECTIONS

Technology in Special Education

Happy Holidays Issue

Toys play an important role in the development of any child. They help to develop early learning and creativity skills that are built upon when developing self-esteem and life skills. And, since children develop in different areas at various rates, we need to try to match skill levels with the play benefits from a specific toy or game in order to try to reach the 'whole child'. I remember creating shape sorters for my son Matthew out of coffee cans and large wooden dowels! His chubby little fingers could barely grasp the wooden dowel, but boy oh boy he really loved the successes when they came! And they came quite often, because I had created an adaptation so he could reap the same benefits from the toy as a "regular" child could from a "regular" shape-sorter. Bottom line is, ten years ago, it was difficult to find toys for a child with a disability. Today, things are quite a bit easier.

After reviewing the enclosed catalog, we thought, "wouldn't it be nice if more people knew how easy it was to find these *specialized* toys for the super kids in our lives?", "..... and especially with the holidays so close",And then we thought, "hey, wait a minute, we have a list!" :) So.... we decided that this month, we would replace your regular issue of *DIRECTIONS* with the enclosed Toys R Us *Toy Guide for Differently-Abled Kids*. We know you don't mind... And, don't worry, we've already extended everybody's subscription by a month, so there won't be any missed issues :) We think you'll enjoy this innovative catalog of options for kids whose needs are a little bit different.

Actually, there are a number of companies that specialize in providing toys for kids with special needs. Call any of the numbers to the right, and I'm sure all will be happy to send you a catalog of their own products.

So, get ready now... it's time to enter into another "holiday season"..... see what you can find for that *special* child on your list! You'll be amazed at what's available these days!

Finally, we at DREAMMS would like to take this opportunity to say *thank you* for your continued support. We wouldn't be reaching the children that we are without you. Please have a peaceful and joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Warm regards,

Janet

Toy Catalogs & Companies

Switch Kids, Inc.
8507 Rupp Farm Drive
West Chester, OH 45069
513-86-5475

Toys for Special Children
385 Warburton Ave.
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706
800-832-8697

National Lekotek Center
2100 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
708-328-0001

TFG (USA) LTD
4449 Gibsonia Rd
Gibsonia, PA 15044
412-333-6400

Crestwood Company
6625 N Sidney Place
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414-352-5678

Diskovery Toys
Martinez, CA 94553
800-426-4777

The Dragonfly Toy Company
For Children with Special Play Needs
291 Yale Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3M 0L4
204-453-2222