



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.

As we did last holiday season, our November issue will be replaced with the Toys R Us *Toy Guide for Differently-Abled Kids*, and your subscription will be lengthened by 1 month. This guide, developed by the National Lekotek Center, Toys R Us, and the National Parent Network on Disabilities, gave me so many ideas for toys for Matthew that take his "whole person" into account. The easy symbols shown with each item helped to determine which skills are being used with the toy. The toys in the catalog were chosen for their developmental and educational attributes, along with their strong play value. I'm sure you'll find something appropriate! Listed below are a number of companies that provide toys for kids with special needs. We've really updated the list from last year with lots more toy manufacturers and retailers who offer adaptive toys. Again this year, we at DREAMMS would like to take this opportunity to say *thank you* for your continued support. Our organization continues to grow and we certainly wouldn't be reaching the children that we are without you. We wish you a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Warm regards,
Janet

Toy Catalogs & Companies

Antoni Toys and Products for the
Physically Challenged
232 S.E. Oak Street Ste. 103
Portland, OR 97214
800-826-8664

Carolyn's
1415 57 Ave. W
Bradenton, FL 34207
800-648-2266

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

Discovery Toys
Martinez, CA 94553
800-426-4777

The Dragonfly Toy Company
291 Yale Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3M 0L4
204-453-2222

Flaghouse - Special Populations
601 Flaghouse Dr.
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604
800-793-7900

Kapable Kids, Inc.
P.O. Box 250
Bohemia, NY 11716
800-356-1564

Lakeshore Learning Materials
2695 E. Dominquez
Carson, California 90749
800-421-5354

Switchworks
P.O. Box 64764
Baton Rouge, LA 70896
225-925-8926

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

Worldwide Games
P.O. Box 513
Colchester, CT 06415-0517
800-243-9232