

SMART TOY BUYING —

(Continued from Page 18)

mechanical toy that he can only look at or an expensive doll that she can only look at on the shelf.

Why don't you consider some of the crative toys? They will help the children to develop

their muscle coordination, work independently, develop various manipulative techniques and skills through practice, and learn more about the world around them through sensory perception.

Creative materials can be inexpensive. Why not give them a box of collage materials? Fill a box with plastic screen wire, macaroni and noodles, nature materials (pine needles, leaves, seeds), scraps of fabric, beads and buttons along with some paste and paper. Very inexpensive but it will probably turn out to be the favorite gift under the tree.

While buying good sturdy equipment may be initially expensive, the cost in the long run will be small considering the equipment use by several children in the family.

Some gift suggestions for the various ages include: Under 18 months--squeaky animals and dolls, soft woolly animals, exercise crib toys, small blocks, push-pull animals, simple musical toys, squeeze toys, nursery mobiles, books.

One to three years: tricycle, trucks big enough to straddle, play table and chairs, dress-up clothes, puzzles with few pieces, clay, stuffed animals, play furniture, telephone, many take apart and put together toys.

Three to six: doctor and nurse kits, hand puppets, peg boards, set of farm animals and equipment, easy construction sets, puzzles with more pieces and shapes, wheelbarrow, additional dress-up clothes, store-keeping toys including scales, cash register, telephone.

Six to nine: more house-keeping toys, more doll accessories, doll house and furniture, paper doll sets, simple sewing and embroidery sets, more carpentry tools, electric train sets, dominoes, gun and holster sets, good grooming sets, garden sets, baseball and football equipment.

Nine to twelve: hand-craft sets of all kinds, model kits for boats, space toys, hobby kits, marionettes, science toys, jigsaw puzzles, card games, make-up and good grooming kits, character dolls.

Angles we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

--From "Angles We Have Heard" in Singing Worship.

FILLS THEIR NEED

In your readings from John's Gospel this week you can see how Jesus Christ answers the needs of men. If you are hungry, remember that he is the living bread. The thirsty turn to him for the water of life. Those in darkness discover that he is the light of the world. And those who so easily lose their way, like sheep without a shepherd, find in Christ their good shepherd.

Read John 10:14-18.

The good shepherd knows his sheep well enough to call each one by name. He guards and protects them as he leads them beside still waters and even through the valley of the shadow of death. He seeks to save each one and is willing to give his life for his sheep. In such language Jesus described the love of God for every person. God does know your name. He is personally interested in you.

In your prayer time today, recall any phrases of Psalms

23, the Shepherd Psalm, that stick in your memory. Think of them quietly. Let them become your prayer.

An honest man's the noblest work of God.--Alexander Pope

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