

Pointers For New Parents

Helping Moms Spend Quality Time With Children

(NAPSA)—There are ways that first-time moms can spend quality time with their youngsters while still managing to tend to their busy lives.

The key is to make together time more like child's play, whether you're doing chores or taking care of the kids.

For instance, time spent cooking in the kitchen can turn into a game that teaches nutrition, laundry time can serve as a chance to talk about colors, while a trip to the store can double as a journey to a different universe.

There are even a number of toys that can help, with new product lines being designed with both mother and child in mind. Look for brands such as Mommy & Me, which offers innovative, educational and interactive toys meant to help moms and children laugh, love and learn together. Here's a look at some of the brand's newest toys:

Play Time

- **Soft Rollerz**—The set of free-wheeling, soft and squishy vehicles comes with lights and sounds. Available in two versions—Mommy and Baby Duck or Mommy and Baby Turtle—the rollers can be tons of fun.

- **Sing 'N Sounds Keyboard**—The musical keyboard is in the shape of a turtle character, plays musical notes and songs, and even lights up.

- **Mommy Loves Me Plush**—This unique peek-a-boo plush can surprise and entertain your child for hours. When Mommy Duck puts her wings over her eyes and then removes them, it triggers her to say fun phrases like “peek-a-boo,” “I love you!” and “quack quack.”



The right toys can help busy first-time moms spend quality time with their children.

- **Let's Get Dressed! Kangaroo**—This colorful and soft mommy and baby kangaroo help teach young children the basics in getting dressed. The learning includes buttoning, zipping, Velcro-ing and tying.

- **Sing 'N Play Musical Guitar**—The 2-in-1 musical toy includes a fun guitar for child and a tambourine for mom. The guitar's character buttons make animal noises while shape buttons light up, play songs and add jungle noises.

- **Mushy Movers**—Moms and kids can have hours of fun with these plush, walking dogs or cats. Each item has a simple walking motion and makes realistic animal sounds.

- **Jungle Fun Bead Chaser**—The jungle-themed bead chaser comes with three wires and six characters beads. Moving the beads around results in fun sounds.

Classic Toys

- **ABC Blocks**—The 50-piece alphabet block set has uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers,

math symbols and fun images like a dog on the letter “D” block.

- **Build 'N Play Blocks**—The 100-piece building block set is a combination of natural wooden blocks and colored wooden blocks in a variety of shapes and sizes.

- **Discover 'N Learn Puzzles**—The set of wooden peg puzzles comes in themes including alphabet, numbers and weather, and the puzzles are made up of chunky and smaller-sized pieces.

- **Push 'N Play Train**—The train set comes with four “kid-powered” train cars. Each car includes slots, bead wires, a moving screw and an engine that has a moving smokestack when the train is pushed.

- **Easy Grab Peg and Wood Peg Puzzles**—These are two sets of peg puzzles—one for beginners with easy-to-grab large wood pegs, and one with plastic pegs that can be used as children's dexterity improves. The set of 20 puzzles comes in themes including alphabet, numbers, animals, vehicles and left/right.

Bath Time

- **Toot Toot Bath Boat**—The molded plastic boat provides paddle wheel water play and smokestack sounds. It also features a design that can help children learn shapes and colors.

- **Splish Splash Slide**—Attach the colorful and safe plastic slide to your tub and watch the water as it's pumped from the tub onto the slide. Children can place fun characters on the slide and watch them take a ride.

The toys are available at Walmart. For more information, visit www.walmart.com or www.mommyandme.com.