

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH & HEARING: MYSORE

Engaging kids in constructive ways is daily challenge for most parents, teachers and caregivers. It is not simply a question of keeping them occupied. They must be engaged productively. The Toy Kit for Kids with Developmental Disabilities and its User Manual is a unique attempt to keep preschoolers, toddlers and infants engrossed in their home/school. Based on research, a readymade list of nearly 400 absorbing activities is included in this booklet for preschool kids below six years. It is a kind of readymade and idea-provoking inventory so that trainers do not run out of goals while planning activities for kids during a teaching program.

As essential ingredient in engaging kids constructively is the use of appropriate toys or teaching aids. Kids vary in the types of play they like to engage according to their physical or mental age levels. Toys need to be safe, simple, sturdy, accessible, durable, non-toxic, portable, user friendly, age-appropriate and above all “teaching-task” oriented. They need not necessarily be expensive or exotic in order to be engaging. Of course, toys entertain kids. But, they should also educate, albeit tacitly.

This “Toy Kit” is NOT a random assembly of materials. Each item in the “Kit” is included after a great deal of thinking and deliberation between professionals-parents through several workshops and clinical meetings. Each kid is a unique entity. Despite individual differences, certain specified age groups of children share some common features. On this understanding, the “Toy Kit” has been divided into three parts and designed separately for sub-groups of children below six years. They are:

- a. Toy Kit: Infants Version (IV): 0-2 Years
- b. Toy Kit: Toddler Version (IV): 2-4 Years
- c. Toy Kit: Preschooler Version (PV): 4-6 Years

The items are different under each Version just as the activities for training also vary according to the mental age levels of each child. The kits are graded in such a way that a kid can cross over to the next version after achieved proficiency at the lower levels. The toy kits along with its manual is a useful material for every parent/caregiver of preschool aged kids with or without disabilities attending Special Schools, Child Guidance Clinics, pediatric Centers, Montessori/Kindergarten Schools, Play Pens, Crèches, etc., across the country. For more details visit www.aiishmysore.com