

Montessori Holiday Gift Guide

The holidays are almost here, which means you are most likely being bombarded by commercials and ads wherever you turn. There is such a wave of commercialism that surrounds this time of year, and parents feel a lot of pressure to have a huge pile of presents waiting for their children under the tree. But the truth is that kids don't need a ton of stuff, especially the kinds of things that are marketed to them constantly. In contrast to the cheap-o plastic toys that your child will tire of after five minutes, beautiful, simple playthings that are open-ended, educational, and promote exploration will be treasured for a long time to come. Here are our suggestions for the best Montessori-approved gifts for children of every age.

Infants

At this age (birth to 12 months), toys are all about sensorial experiences.

1. [Infant toy set](#)
This set of five toys is recommended during the Montessori Assistants to Infancy (ages 0-3) training, and is designed for babies ages three months and older. The progressive toys help a child develop hand and wrist dexterity, establish cause and effect, and hand-eye coordination.
2. [Object permanence box](#)
As its name implies, this toy helps a child with their object permanence skills- understanding that even when the ball is not in sight, it continues to exist. A staple in many infant classrooms.
3. [Fabric ball](#)
The tags and soft texture are sure to please even the pickiest baby.
4. [Walker wagon](#)
For those little ones just learning to walk, pushing a stable wagon will help develop their strength and confidence.

Toddlers

Toddlers (ages 12 months to 2 years) are all about movement, order and developing fine-motor control.

1. [Freight train by Donald Crews](#)
This beautiful book's bright colors and simple text will be sure to capture your little one's imagination.
2. [Blocks with a pull wagon](#)

These wooden blocks are a beautiful take on a classic toy. Your toddler will have fun stacking them up and knocking them down over and over (and over!) again.

3. [Shape sorting box](#)

Children love finding the correct spot to fit every shape, and hearing all of the shapes rattle in the box is so much fun.

4. [Doll or stuffed toy](#)

Toddlers love mimicking the actions of adults, and a doll is a wonderful way for them to practice taking care of and loving someone else.

Preschoolers

At this age, (3 to 6 years) children have a very strong desire for independence, curiosity about the world, and a developing imagination.

1. [Children Just Like Me by Anabel Kindersley and Barbara Kindersley](#)

This book contains beautiful pictures of children from around the world, along with information about each child, such as their hobbies, families, and homes. Young children will want to look at this book over and over again.

2. [Memory game](#)

This classic game increases concentration and spatial memory.

3. [Pattern blocks](#)

This block set provides patterning cards to get your child started, and encourages imagination and creativity in making your own designs.

4. [Child-sized kitchen tool set](#)

Children love to be involved in the everyday activities of the home, and baking is one of their favorites. A set of child-sized tools will help your little one be independent in the kitchen, which does wonders for their self-esteem and shows that they can be a contributing member of the family.

Elementary

Six to twelve year olds are interested in the big questions about how the world works, and their imagination is really taking off.

1. [The Way Things Work Now by David Macaulay](#)

The best book for explaining how everything works in simple, easy to understand language.

2. [Stick-lets Mega Fort Kit](#)
What child doesn't love building stick forts? This kit will take it to a whole new level of fun.
3. [Nature Study Kit](#)
Children are attracted to the natural world, so why not channel that interest into a productive activity?
4. [Illustory Make-a-Book Kit](#)
Let your child's creativity shine in a book that they write and illustrate themselves, then send it in to have it published into a hardcover book.

Adolescents

Kids ages 12 to 15 are looking for activities that give them a feeling of autonomy and fit with their interests.

1. [Holga camera](#)
Do you have a budding photographer on your hands? A Holga is a film camera that takes beautiful, dream-like photos. The best part is it comes in a ton of fun colors.
2. [DIY telescope/microscope kit](#)
If your teenager enjoys building things with a little science on the side, this telescope and microscope kit could be right up their alley.
3. [Raspberry Pi Microcomputer](#)
Programmers-in-training will love these microcomputers that they can build and program themselves.
4. [Puffin in Bloom Collection](#)
Reignite an interest in the classics with this beautiful set of books.