



MATCHING TOYS TO CHILDREN'S STRENGTHS

Help your child shine by choosing toys that match their natural strengths!

Every child is smart in their own way. When we build on their strengths, play becomes powerful and learning comes naturally. Use this guide to fill MILO's backpack—and your playtime—with meaningful language-building fun!

1 MUSIC SMART



- Musical instruments
- Music Together®
- Animal song playlists
- Scarves for movement
- Classical music during play

LANGUAGE TIP

Pause during songs and let your child fill in the missing word!

2 PEOPLE SMART



- Tea sets
- Play house sets
- Pretend play camp sets
- Games for 2+ players
- Memory games

LANGUAGE TIP

Encourage your child to take turns and talk about their ideas!

3 SELF SMART



- Mirror / colorform
- Feelings books
- Thomas trains
- Mr. Potato Head
- Doctor kits

LANGUAGE TIP

Name feelings and help your child talk about what they see and feel!

4 BODY SMART



- Sensory balls
- Bean bag toss
- Large building blocks
- Dancing to music
- Shopping cart

LANGUAGE TIP

Use action words and show how our bodies can move and play!

5 MATH SMART



- Smart Snacks® counting cookies
- Toy tape measure
- Shape sorters
- Ring stack with numbers
- Books & songs about numbers

LANGUAGE TIP

Count together and talk about "more, less, just right!"

6 NATURE SMART



- Weather toys / books
- Bug catchers
- Planting sets
- DK nature books
- Outdoor scavenger hunt

LANGUAGE TIP

Explore outside and talk about what you see and discover!

7 PICTURE SMART



- Puzzles
- Painting
- Drawing
- Play-dough
- Legos®

LANGUAGE TIP

Describe colors, shapes and creations as your child plays!

8 WORD SMART



- Picture books
- Books on tape
- Letter puzzles
- Letter stamps
- Songs like "BINGO"

LANGUAGE TIP

Read together every day and point, name, and talk about new words!



QUICK TIPS FOR EVERY PLAYTIME

- ♥ Follow your child's lead.
- 🗨️ Talk, describe, and listen.
- ✋ Use gestures and actions.
- ★ Make play joyful and stress-free!

REMEMBER:

The best toy is you! Connection, conversation, and play build a strong foundation for language and learning!