

TOY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXCEPTIONAL PARENT MAGAZINE

The October 2004 issue (volume 34 #10) of Exceptional Parent includes their yearly review of the best new toys for special needs infants and children. Those rated as the best for children with visual impairments include:

- Farm Friends Fuzzy Puzzle. (<http://www.lcitoys.com/>) Geared for the child over a year old, this puzzle offers different textures and shapes. The puzzle pieces are easy for small hands to manipulate.
- Folkmanis Puppets (<http://www.folkmanis.com/>) The numerous puppets, which come in many different sizes and themes, are suitable for children over three.
- Gigglewings Characters (<http://www.learningcurve.com/ourProducts/gigglewings.asp>) There are many different dolls in this series, which “help children celebrate emotional milestones, cares and everyday worries”. The doll giggles when pressed on the tummy.
- Large Quatro Bucket (<http://shop.lego.com/product.asp?p=5357>) Similar to other Lego products, these blocks are four times the standard block size. The buckets come in 20, 50 or 75 block sizes.
- Mix and Match Doughnuts. (<http://www.learningresources.com/Product.pasp?txtCatalog=Toys&txtCategory=&txtProductID=7205>) This memory game is geared for children ages three or over. The removable patterns have many different configurations.
- Shape Sorter (<http://www.maplelandmark.com/>) Geared to children ages 2-5, there are 4 shapes and colorful blocks to fit in the shapes.
- Story Reader (<http://www.storyreader.com/>) The Story Reader “reads” the pages as they are turned. In addition to various Disney titles, there are titles featuring Scooby Doo, Nickelodean and Beatrix Potter characters.