

TOYS – GENERAL GUIDELINES

The gift of a toy will bring a smile to any child's face. Toys can also help children develop motor skills, stimulate learning and imagination, and can be a means to develop social skills.

Please follow these guidelines to insure the toys you donate are appropriate and safe. Let's give these children our very best. **QUALITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN QUANTITY.**

Wood Toys (Cars, blocks and dolls)

- Toys should not exceed 8" x 8" x 4"
- Moving parts need to be securely attached and work properly
- Toys with loose parts need to be in a reusable bag (cloth is preferred)
- Wood glue is acceptable
- Items must be well sanded and finished with mineral oil or sealed paint
- Blocks should be in various shapes sizes 1 ½ inch to 4 inches, thickness no greater than 2 inches

Dolls

- Surface wash faces and bodies
- Please dress dolls in clean, modest clothing
- We cannot accept water filled dolls, Barbie dolls, or dolls with electronic parts or batteries
- Dolls should be less than 24" tall

Stuffed Animals and puppets

- Make sure the toys are clean and in good repair.
- Animals need to be smaller than 18"
- All stitching must be secure

Miscellaneous Toys

- New soccer balls (deflated with needle and pump) are also accepted.
- New jump ropes (not homemade)
- New four-square rubber balls 8 ½ inch balls (deflated)
- Sidewalk chalk (packages of 24 or less)
- Crayons (packages of 24 or less)

Educational Toys

- Fabric activity books (quiet books) to develop fine motor skills should have 10 different fabric pages of different activities such as braiding, buttons and zippers, textures, etc. No words should be included.
- File Folder games must be laminated and include a permanent enclosure for any loose pieces. They must be very basic and not include words. Examples: matching colors and shapes, telling time, basic math skills, or counting.

Please remember that children around the world do not understand American culture. Please avoid military, religious, violent, or scary toys.