

Preschool toys emphasize abilities

Easy-to-grasp handles, chunky shapes, rounded corners and bright colors are characteristics all children like.

They also are features many can find in Little Tikes' products, which makes these toys well-suited for children with disabilities. That's why the company received two national awards this year.

Little Tikes was commended by the National Easter Seals Society and by the organizers of National Rehabilitation Week for its efforts to design toys that special needs kids can use easily and for including these children in its catalogs and ads.

Just in time for the holidays, the following toys make it easier for children with disabilities to learn and have fun just like everyone else.

"Play About(TM) Walker" is a sturdy help to children who have difficulty walking. A wide leg

base and large handle make this toy a very stable support. Clicking wheels provide sound stimulation and the legs fold for convenient storage. An activity panel with fun sights and sounds makes this the perfect gift for children 9-24 months (\$30-\$35).

Go fish! That's just what a child in a wheelchair can do with the "Catch 'n Count Fishing Set." Ten colorful fish turn their tails upward so little fishermen, ages 2 to 5 years, can reach down and catch them with the fishing pole and hook.

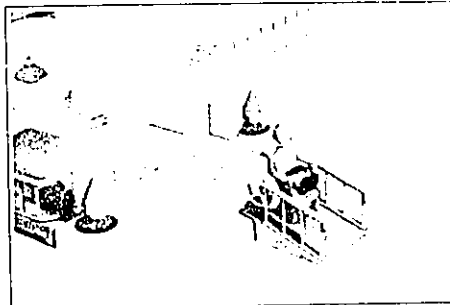
The fish and pole can be stored in the see-through tackle box (\$15-\$20).



Emphasis on ability: Many of today's toys like this Play About Walker and the Wheelchair, Ramp and Friend by Little Tikes offer children with disabilities fun and learning at the same time.

Musical toys like the "Maracas and Tambourine" are great therapy, and easy and fun to play. For children 2 to 6 years, the colorful beads swirl inside the clear maracas, making a wonderfully loud shaking noise. The easy-to-hold tambourine produces a high quality cymbal sound (\$18-\$20).

"Wheelchair, Ramp and Friend" is a toy that features a child with a disability. Used with Little Tikes' Place doll house or on its own, it introduces the idea of disabilities to young children ages 3 and up, and serves as a model to those with special needs (\$9-\$12).

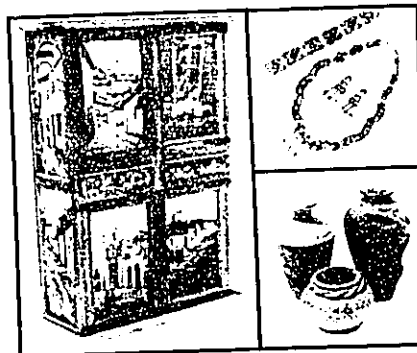


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