

Toys should challenge as well as entertain

examining children's playthings.

Toys. There are more than 150,000 of them to choose from. Each year 5,000 new ones become available. With such as election, it should be easy to acquire the right ones. Yet, it is difficult to match the right toys to the right child.

Toys represent the child's earlising world outside the erib. They are the means through which the child tests and enhances his or her developing world outside such a s

that it is difficult to keep up with an expanding need for toys. The developing infant becomes so-cially responsive from one was to the control of the contr

tion.

It is important to try to find toys that will span needs over a long period of time, and have elements of complexity that will meet the challenges being faced by a developing individual.

tent just to be acted on, a child exhibits apparent efforts to take an active part in living, to touch, squeeze, feel, bounce, reach out for, finger, move things from hand to hand.

The child from newborn to 2 years enjoys toys that can be pulled, bitten, grasped, taken apart, stacked and carried. This requires toys that do something, react or respond in some way when the child does something to the toy. The child at these stages needs toys that reflect these very intense needs, as well as assist him or her in reaching the next stages of development.



It is typical for a 7-10-month-old to sit alone and concentrate intent-ly on matters at hand. A rubber ball that can be picked up, tossed about, squeezed, kicked and licked develops not only coordination but the senses, too.

The toys acquired for this stage should be washable, too big to swallow, with no sharp or rough edges.

Suggestions: squeeze toys that make a sound when squeezed, rattles, strings of large beads, brightly colored rubber balls, rubber chew toys, colorful muscal mob iles, mirror, nesting toys, soft blocks, toys that float in water, books with either cloth pages or hard cardboard pages, stuffed animals, tyke bike or other vehicle that the child can sit on and secoot along.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has taught elementary school and con-ducted workshops and lectures on education. She is a masters degree candidate at Oakland University specialting in early childhood. Write her c/o the Observer & Ec-centric Newspaper, 3021 School-craft Road, Livonia 48150.

Disconnectedness shows objectivity

I've often wondered how unusual my handwriting is, wby some words come out with all the letters connected and then others stop and go? I'm not a frequent eltert writer but I've noticed this for some time now. It would be interesting to know what personality traits this may reveal. Thank you.

M.W., Garden City

The degree of disconnectedness in a handwriting sample relates primarily to the writer's lack of interest in emotional responses or needs of others. By actual count only eight words in your letter had all of the letters of a whole word connected.

When this is considered with your wide word and line spacing it suggests you are quite an objective person. You often choose not to become involved in the needs of others. Your orientation is more toward areas of interest to you personally than toward altruism. You are more concerned with facts than emotions.

To quote from a new and excellent graphology book, "Getting Control of Your Life, A Study in Behavioral Graphology" by Leslie King, "The higher the degree of disconnectedness, the less people-oriented you are and the less you need participation, or involvement with others on an emotional level."

It apears that you are seeking to become a more independent person. A desire to move away from the past and towards new and perhaps different experiences seems evident. There seems to be some conflict here, though. Dependence or attachment to the mother figure is apparent. Perhaps you are experiencing some difficulty becoming as independent as you might like to be. Margins, signature, some left-tending lower loops and pressure pattern all combine to suggest this.

In relationships with people you usually seek to avoid friction since it is distasteful to you. In the area of personal criticism, however, you seem to be quite sensitive, even to the point of becoming rather assertive when you feel criticized. This would probably be in the areas of weight, height, manner of dress or speech. You do have a nice sense of humor and this could be very much of an asset to you at times like this.

You are quite a well-organized person, who makes efficient use of her time. You tend not to become involved in more than you can handle.

Lorene C. Green is a certified graphologist. If you have a question about your handwriting, write to her c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspa-pers, 38251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of untined white paper and write in the first person singular.



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Deaf education to be explored OCC students exhibit Dennis Cokely, author and research linguist at Gallaudet College in 4 pm. Saturday. Participants may register in the science lecture hall on compus an authorise man speaker at a conference bec. 5 and 5 at Madonna College. The conference topic is "Billingual and Bicultural Education: Implications in Deaf Education: Implications in Deaf Education: Implications in General Education: Implications in Deaf Educatio

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"Art on the Ridge," the student art guild spon-sored by Oakland Community College, will hold its first exhibition and sale from 7-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The exhibit, comprised of the work of 26 artists will be in J Building at the Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington. Opening reception is Friday night.

Save with windows? Homeowners planning to add storm windows or shutters can figure their inon," explains how heat energy avaings by following the guidelines of a publication from the Michigan Department of Commerce/Energy Administration. The free leaflet, "Cal-**GARAGE DOOR OPENERS**

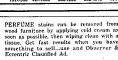
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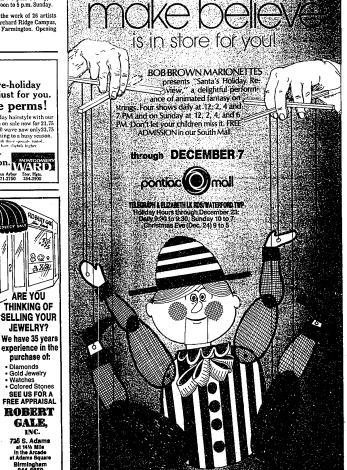
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