

before you buy another toy...

The 7-Point *Montessori Toy Test*

Run the toy through these seven questions and tick yes or no. A label that says "Montessori" is not one of them.

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| 1 | Does It Match What My Child Is Doing Right Now?
Watch for a few days first. Posting, pouring, climbing, naming? Buy for the skill you see. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 2 | Does It Do One Thing Well?
One clear task, like stacking or fitting shapes, is easier to focus on than ten features. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 3 | Does My Child Do the Work?
If lights, sounds or a motor do the playing, your child mostly watches. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 4 | Is It Real or Realistic?
Real tools at a small size, realistic animals and pictures help children make sense of the real world. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 5 | Is It the Right Size and Safe?
Fits small hands, sturdy, no small parts for children who still mouth objects. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 6 | Will It Last More Than a Week?
Good materials and a little challenge to come back to. Wood is nice, not required. | ☐ yes ☐ no |
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| 7 | Do I Need to Buy It at All?
Count what you already own. A kitchen object or a DIY version often does the same job. | ☐ yes ☐ no |

6 or 7 yes · a good fit, if you have space on the shelf.

4 or 5 yes · maybe later, or look for a simpler version.

3 or fewer · skip it, whatever the box says.