

GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE LENDING LIBRARY



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
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Lending Library Items

1) Kaye Kinder Stability Chair



Age: Up to 48 inches tall

Issue: Alignment and Posture

Purpose: Maintains alignment and posture so that the child can focus on developing arm and hand skills, self-feeding. Helps with attention focus

Targeted Body Part: Hand and arm skills

How to Use: Place child in seat and adjust seat depth and foot rest based on their size. Child can focus on hand and arm skills while stability chair holds them into position.

2) RIFTON Prone Stander (Small) Model E930



Height for Use: 25-48 inches

Issue: Muscle Strength and alignment. Lower extremity weight bearing and hip development in addition to muscle strength and alignment.

Purpose: Used to hold the child in an upright position for physical development and social interaction. It helps the child stand and tolerate body weight on feet by supporting feet, ankles and trunk. As the child begins to tolerate body weight, they will slowly move to an upright position which will prepare them for standing, cruising and walking.

Targeted Body Part: Hip alignment, head control, lower body muscles

How to Use: Place the child into the stander and make adjustments based on their size. The stander helps to keep the child busy and not focus on standing

3) Learning Table



Age: 9 months-3 years

Issue: Vision, Standing, Balance, Fine Motor Skills

Purpose: Used to work on attention and focus. Can help strengthen leg muscles if standing while using and child can cruise around table. Lights and color provide stimulation for eyes. Different items on the table work the child's hands in many different ways. This table can also be used by typical toddlers and can support social skills with siblings or peers.

Targeted Body Part: Leg Muscles, Eye Muscles

How to Use: Can sit in chair or stand to use. Legs of learning table can be removed for use when sitting. If standing, put learning table against the wall to provide support to prevent falling from leaning into the table.

4) Inflatable Aquarium Water Mat



Age: 6 months-2 years

Issue: Used to increase tolerance of tummy time and weight bearing on arms/hands. NOTE: The child should not be left alone with the water mat. If the baby cannot lift their head well, do not leave the child unattended with the mat. If their head drops onto the mat, they will not be able to breathe against the plastic surface.

Purpose: The tummy time water mat helps the child build strength on the back, legs, arms, and neck and helps hand-eye coordination. It provides visual stimulation and helps with core strengthening, balancing and head control. The child will be attracted by the color and movement and will have a great time playing on the mat while increasing their tolerance for tummy time and weight-bearing on arms and hands. The mat is a fun and engaging way to provide infants with interactive sensory stimulation that supports their visual development.

Targeted Body Part: Eyes, arms, legs, core

How to Use: Inflate the outer sides with air and fill the inner portion with water. The water-filled middle has many colorful fish that will move around as the baby presses on the surface.

5) Compression Vest (Spio)



Age: Birth to mid-teens

Issue: Hypotonia (low muscle tone or muscle tension)

Purpose: The vest acts like a second skin. Provides stabilizing pressure for improved motor control and balance. The pressure provided by the vest has a calming effect on sensory systems. Aids in sitting, crawling, walking and balance.

Targeted Body Part: Midline of body, core strength, sensory awareness

How to Use: Wear and close with Velcro straps. Proper sizing is needed. Wear throughout the day when moving around. Remove for napping or sleeping.

6) Castle Slide



Age: 2-8 years, up to 110 lbs

Issue: Muscle tone, strength and balance, social (play) skills

Purpose: Improve climbing, crawling (tunnel), weight transitioning, balance, sliding skills, stepping, throwing (net), visual skills, social skills

Targeted Body Part: Upper, mid and lower body muscles, entire body

How to Use: Walk up ladder, sit on platform, slide down board, crawl through tunnel underneath. This toy is good for play with typical children for socialization.

7) Mini Trampoline



Age: 3 years and up to 60 lbs

Issue: Muscle strength and balance

Purpose: Improve balance, motor skills, muscle strength, control and coordination, improved sensory processing

Targeted Body Part: Upper, mid and lower body muscles

How to Use: Stand on mat, hold handles and jump. Can begin by sitting on trampoline and having someone else jump to bounce them by stepping up and down. Can put the trampoline against the wall for older child and throw the ball against it and have the child catch it to work on higher level visual motor skills. This toy is good for socialization and play skills with peers.

8) Nike Kids Flyease Zipper Shoes (Size 6c)



Age: Size 6c

Issue: Foot joints with excessive flexibility. This shoe fits over orthotics (braces).

Purpose: Zippered shoes are needed to help with achieving proper alignment of child's foot. These shoes allow for easy insertion and removal of the ankle orthotics into the shoes. Orthotics are needed when the child begins to walk to hold the foot in the proper alignment to enable the bones of the foot to grow correctly. The child may have limitations in walking and mobility without receiving orthotics for their shoes when learning to walk.

Targeted Body Part: Feet, Ankles

How to Use: Unzip shoe, insert brace into shoe, put shoe on child, zip up. Use all day when child is walking.

9) Boppy Support Pillow



Age: 3 months-1 year

Issue: Improve muscle strength in upper body and core, sitting, laying on stomach

Purpose: The Boppy is a C-shaped pillow that helps the child improve muscle strength in their upper body and core when it is used for propping, tummy time and sitting. The Boppy allows for the child to stay propped up in a sitting position before they have the core strength to sit fully on their own. It can also protect the child from getting hurt, if they get tired and fall over while learning to sit up. Also, when supported by the Boppy during tummy time, the child's arms are free to grab, play, and work on other skills.

Targeted Body Part: Upper body and core

How to Use: Position the pillow and child as needed.

10) Activity Walker (multi-color with blocks)



11) Activity Walker (green)



Age: 9 months and up

Issue: Balance, strength and walking

Purpose: Stepping, walking, balance, holding onto a handle Motivating child to walk. Activity walker provides stability and control.

Targeted Body Part: Arm, leg, abdominal, leg, foot muscles, core for balance and walking

How to Use: Add weights to the storage area at the bottom area of the walker to add stability to the walker so that child can slowly start walking.

12) Hip Helper Support Shorts (6 are available)



Age: 6 months to 3 years old

Sizes Available: Size B (2), Size C (2), Size D (2)

Issue: Excessive hip abduction in babies and toddlers with low muscle tone

Purpose: Improve rotational movement and limit leg splay (W sitting that stretches out the muscles). Hip Helpers support the legs and improve rotational movement and strengthen knees and legs when crawling, standing and walking. Prevents the child from doing splits.

Targeted Body Part: Hips and legs

How to Use: Wear (like shorts) all day when crawling, sitting, walking, standing, playing. Remove during naps or sleep time.

13) Mirrors (2 are available)



Age: 6 months to 3 years

Issue: Muscle Strength, Self-Awareness, Attention/Focus

Purpose: Strengthen arms when pushing up to look in the mirror. Child gets sense of body awareness when feeling and seeing himself in mirror. Use in sitting to teach body parts, understand concept of “me.”

Targeted Body Part: Strengthening Elbows and for practice propping on hands with hands forward, in front of his shoulders.

How to Use: Position child on stomach on floor in front of the mirror or in sitting or standing.

- 14) Plastic Buckets (4 are available)**
- 15) Sponge Sets (4 packages of 4 are available)**



Age: 4 months-1.5 years

Issue: Low muscle tone and strength, improve vision

Purpose: Teach beginning sitting, head control using arms. Muscle strengthening while child's body is stabilized in bucket

Targeted Body Part: Upper body muscles, neck strength

How to Use: Place child into bucket and sponges are tucked around him so that he can sit upright. This technique is used so that the child's body will be held in an upright, sitting position so that the child can begin to learn to sit.

16) Sensory Activity Panel (large)



17) Sensory Activity Panel (small)



Age: Small unit – 6 months to 2 year; Large unit - 9 months to 5 years

Issue: Gross and fine motor skills, attention focus, standing/balance, hand skills, vision, cause-and-effect, coordination of movement, sensory ability, cognitive growth

Purpose: Both of the sensory activity panels assist in developing the child's gross and fine motor skills as well as their sensory ability with different elements of the board having diverse surfaces and textures. It also helps with cognitive growth, vision, attention focus, coordination of movement and parallel play.

The panels will also aid in the development of logic and problem-solving skills. The child will learn that if they want to open a door, they first need to open a latch. The activity panels can help a child's understanding of cause-and-effect, when the doorbell button is pushed, it makes a ringing noise. The child will also learn skills for everyday tasks such as plugging/unplugging, zipping, flipping switches, using doorhandles, opening doors, pushing buttons, latching and unlatching locks. The mirror in the smaller panel can help the child with body awareness and spatial development.

Use of the sensory activity panels will help build nerve connections in the child's brain which will enhance the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks on their own.

Targeted Body Part: Fingers and hands

How to Use: Both units can stand upright on their own and the child can sit on the ground to work with them.

18) Pop-Up Toy



Age: 9 months to 1 year

Issue: Cognitive, Fine Motor, Speech, Attention Focus

Purpose: Develop hand skills. Child can also learn cause and effect (logic). Parents can work on language skills when animals pop-up by playing “hello” and “bye-bye.” Can be used to learn turn taking.

Targeted Body Part: Cognitive, Finger Muscles, Fine motor

How to Use: Child can be seated to increase their focus on the toy or used while standing if child needs to work on standing skills.

19) Swing



Age: 9 months to 4 years old

Issue: Can be used to calm the child or may be used to stimulate the vestibular system. As a stimulation tool, swinging the child can provide the needed stimulation to allow the child to practice, understand and learn another skill after swinging. The swing stimulates the vestibular system and allows the brain to process more information so that the child can work on other physical skills (outside of the swing), like walking or crawling.

Purpose: Stimulate vestibular system or calm the child

Targeted Body Part: Vestibular System, Motor Skills

How to Use: Hang as indicated in instructions and secure the child with safety straps.

20) Nuk Brush (10 are available)



Age: 6 months to 10 years

Issue: Low muscle tone/sensory awareness in lips, cheeks, tongue, face

Purpose: Stimulates muscles inside and outside of mouth to increase range and variety of movements. Rubbing, tapping and allowing child to chew on the soft rubber tip builds strength and oral awareness for sucking, munching, chewing, sipping, and making speech sounds.

Targeted Body Part: Muscles of face, lips, tongue and cheek

How to Use: Stroke areas of face/lips in playful stimulation. Allow child to put into mouth, suck or chew on it. Rub brush on inner cheeks, tongue, roof of mouth, teeth in rhythmic tapping/stroking movements. Make sure that experience is fun and positive for the child by singing/counting/chanting at the same time.

21) Overhead Activity Toy



Age: 6 weeks to 1 year

Issue: Arm strength, beginning use of arms and legs

Purpose: Toys can be hung on specific side of unit so that child can focus on and strengthen a particular eye or arm. Child will bat the toys and learn the basics of cause-and-effect. The movement of the dangling toys will encourage the child to interact with them again and again, learning how to use arms and hands.

Targeted Body Part: Eyes, arms and hands

How to Use: Lay child on back under the overhead activity toy and adjust toys, as needed. Can also be used for sitting or balance.

22) Baby Signing Time 4 Disc Set DVD



Age: 1-6 years

Issue: Expressive and reception language, communication skills

Purpose: Early sign Language is a way that all young children can express their wants/needs/intent before they can easily coordinate speech sounds and words. Signing is used a bridge to spoken language. It gives children access to communication while strengthening the ability to produce expressive speech. Sign language essentially jump-starts the areas of the brain that are linked to speech and language development.

Body Part: Communication/cognitive/attention/social skills

How to Use: These videos are to be viewed by the child and all involved family members to learn the signs and gestures and to incorporate them into the daily routines of the child. These videos provide fun ways to build functional use of gestures and basic signing and increases the bonding between the caregiver and the child. This DVD set exposes the child to a real second language-American Sign Language, and teaches over 98 signs.

23) Echo Mic (7 are available)



Age: 1 year-6 years

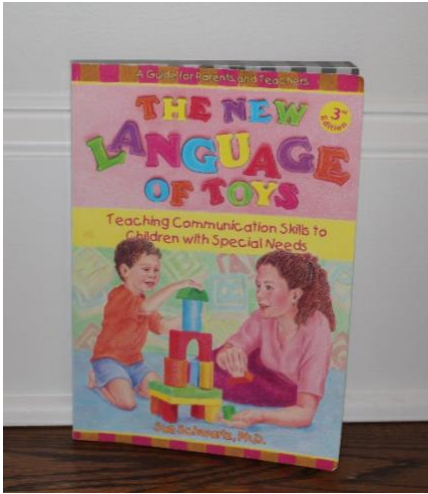
Issue: Produce sounds and vocalizations, auditory attention

Purpose: Makes sounds and words louder and more fun when produced into tube. Used for oral language exercises, sound manipulation and encouraging correct pronunciation

Targeted Body Part: The Echo Mic is used to improve auditory skills and to improve control of muscles that produce sounds such as trunk, larynx, tongue, lips and face

How to Use: When sounds are made into the tube of the microphone, they become amplified. The child can improve auditory skills by playing games with a caregiver such as a “sound imitation game.” The caregiver would speak into the mic and then move it to the mouth of the child so they can mimic the sound or word. The child can progress from imitating single sounds to imitating sequences of sounds and then eventually be able to mimic words and songs. For optimal sound, hold the microphone several inches from the mouth.

24) New Language of Toys (written by Sue Schwartz)



Age: Birth through Preschool

Issue: Language, communication, social and play skills

Purpose: This book by Sue Schwartz is a how-to guide about using everyday toys, both homemade and store bought, to develop communication skills in children with disabilities and to make playtime a fun, exciting and educational experience.

Body Part: All of them! Young children learn best through movement, exploration and manipulation of objects, while at the same time developing strength, coordination, memory, attention and vocabulary. This book helps emphasize the value of play in emotional, physical, social, and cognitive growth of a child.

How to Use: The book begins by addressing basic concepts of language and its development in children. It then reviews the association between play and learning in young children and discusses “toy dialogs” that address the need for age appropriate toys in each age range. It provides a framework for parents to evaluate their child’s development for each age range and for parents of children with disabilities to identify areas of need. The book has interactive dialog, which helps parents understand the appropriate use of language, while trying to play with a new toy with their child. At the end of each chapter, there is a summary of the toys, vocabulary, concepts, and books that are age-appropriate and provides a table for recording a child’s developmental milestones.

25) Clear Plastic Cups (6 are available)



Age: Toddler

Issue: Muscle strength and coordination of the mouth and face to build control for open cup drinking.

Purpose: Assists with adult management of cup as child learns to sip with control from an open cup.

Body Part: Muscles of face, lips, tongue, and larynx

How to Use: The small clear lightweight cup allows the adult to manage the cup with one hand, see where the liquid is and to control the flow for the child for safe open cup drinking. The cup is strong and lightweight for the older child to work on drinking independently.