Engaging a child with special needs may not be an easy job, but the rewards make it all worthwhile. When you play with your child, you help develop your child’s skill set, strengthen your relationship, and have fun. In support of playtime, the Koch Young Resource Center offers a library collection of several hundred developmental toys available for loan to children receiving services from the KYRC and Lanterman Regional Center. The collection features a range of toys that will help stimulate your child in variety of ways. The collection is organized into the following categories:

SENSORIMOTOR – Sensorimotor toys involve either sensory activity and input – sound, sight, touch, smell and taste – and/or motor activity and development – pressure, balance, dexterity, body awareness and motion.

MANIPULATIVES – Manipulatives are various objects that can be moved or arranged by hand as a means of developing motor skills or understanding abstractions. These include blocks or other materials for stacking, building or sorting.

DRAMATIC/PRETEND PLAY – Dramatic/pretend play includes role-playing, puppetry and fantasy play. In this section of toys, you will find props to support your child’s imagination, such as dolls, puppets, costumes, pretend food, animals and other props.

ART/MUSIC – The toys in this section support a child’s creative side and some include supplies for a home art project. This section also has a variety of instruments, some standalone and others part of a kit that has the makings of a home band.

LANGUAGE OR COGNITIVE SKILL BUILDING – All toys fit this category to some degree, but some toys have the intent of teaching a specific vocabulary set, such as colors, shapes, numbers, animals, body parts, etc.; or a skill such as grouping items, sequencing, etc.
CAUSE AND EFFECT – Learning that our actions impact the world around us is a critical skill and one that promotes language and socialization. Children can begin to explore this concept with simple cause and effect toys – a twist of a knob might make a toy pop up, make sound or lights.

PUZZLES AND GAMES – Puzzles and games allow children to master skills such as matching, decoding, sorting, turn-taking, persistence, cooperation and fine motor skills. A game or puzzle might also expand a child’s knowledge of a specific topic.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL – Social competence allows children to be cooperative, express their feelings and empathize with others. These toys are designed to support children who may have difficulty in this area. Sometimes, representative play through book-making, a game, pretend play or puppets can help them better understand social situations or feelings that are hard for them.

TOY LOAN POLICY

Families can check out two toys at a time. All toys can be borrowed for two weeks and renewed once for an additional two weeks if necessary. The standard library fee of $1 per day applies to late items. If toys are returned with missing parts, $1 for each part that is missing will be charged. Toys must be returned in good condition. Additional charges will be applied to toys that are returned damaged. The standard library replacement policy applies to toys. For toys that are lost, payment for the replacement of the toy plus a $10 processing fee per lost toy will be charged. Library privileges will be suspended until payment is made.

Children receive a prize when they return 10 toys promptly and in good condition. For your convenience, toys may be dropped off or picked up at the same community locations as other KYRC library items. A list of community drop-off/pick-up locations is available in the Koch Young Resource Center.

RECOMMEND A TOY FOR THE COLLECTION

If you would like to recommend a toy to be considered for possible addition to the toy collection, contact the Koch Young Resource Center at 213.252.5600 or kyrc@lanterman.org.