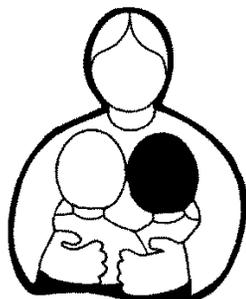


**Time to Celebrate Love.
Time to Celebrate Peace.**



*If we are ever to have real peace in this world,
we shall have to begin with the children.*

Mahatma Gandhi

This year if one word were to describe our country, it is “divided.” We hear it everywhere, but let it not define us. We know deep in our hearts that we are a diverse people, but we needn’t be a divided people. And this holiday season, when people of all different faiths and backgrounds gather to celebrate with food and music, love and laughter, let’s keep our little ones foremost in our hearts and minds. Let’s be sure to gift them with what will nurture a better world, a world of peace for them and generations to come. How can we do this? It needn’t be hard.

In this season of joy and good will, as some celebrate Love born in a manger on Christmas day and others celebrate the Love of God providing for an oppressed people at Chanukkah, while still others celebrate the Love of family, community, and culture acclaimed during Kwanzaa, let Love inspire us to give gifts that promote all the best that we have to offer, especially to the children in our lives.

Consider toys that:

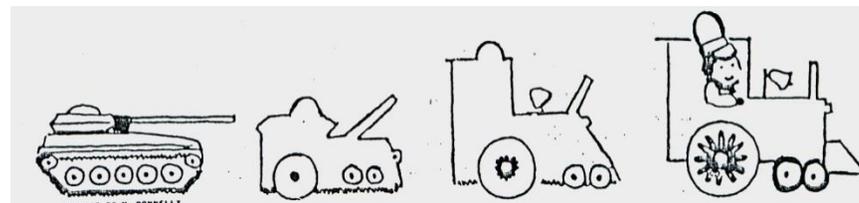
- ❖ Can be used in many ways
- ❖ Allow children to be in charge of the play
- ❖ Appeal to children at more than one age or level of development
- ❖ Are not linked to video games, computers, TV, or movies,
- ❖ Can be used with other toys for new and more complex play
- ❖ Will stand the test of time as children develop new interests and skills
- ❖ Promote respectful, non-stereotyped, nonviolent interactions among children

- ❖ Help children develop skills important for further learning and a sense of mastery
- ❖ Can be used alone or with others
- ❖ Can be enjoyed by boys and girls

Choose:

- ❖ Toys for constructing, like building blocks and molding clay
- ❖ Toys that inspire creative arts, like craft supplies and musical instruments
- ❖ Toys that promote movement, like bikes, wagons, and sports equipment
- ❖ Toys that promote dramatic play, like costumes and props, puppets and magic sets
- ❖ Toys that foster cooperation and teamwork, like dolls and puzzles and some board games
- ❖ Toys that enhance the imagination, new ideas, and problem solving, like science and nature kits
- ❖ Toys that respect the environment, that can be reused and recycled

And don’t forget books, magazine subscriptions, tickets to a show or movie, Teddy Bears, and you. There’s nothing better than YOUR time!



Thanks to www.truceteachers.org for the information presented in this flier. Visit their website, as well as www.responsibleshopper.org, and www.greenamerica.org for more ideas about gifts that promote the positive values we want for our children and have the extra benefit of being sweatshop-free and non-toxic.

This leaflet is produced by Pax Christi Metro New York, a region of the international Catholic peace movement.

For more information, contact 212-420-0250, info@nypaxchristi.org, or visit www.nypaxchristi.org.

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