



4-H School-Age Child Care
University of California Cooperative Extension

PARENT STYLES II

Tips for Busy Parents

CHOOSING TOYS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

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School-age children are exploding with curiosity and excitement. They jump from the dinner table to run out and play. They like physical games, games with rules, arts and crafts projects, collecting, almost anything social and escaping to hidden places so they can be in charge of their own world.

Children's play is very important for their development. *Physical games* help them become more coordinated. *Games with rules* help them develop skills and learn discipline and fair play. *Arts and crafts* encourage their creativity. *Collecting* uses the higher thinking skills involved in sorting and classifying. *Play with their friends* helps them learn to cooperate and their secret places give them the chance to make their own rules and rituals.

Toy Ideas for 6-9 Year Olds

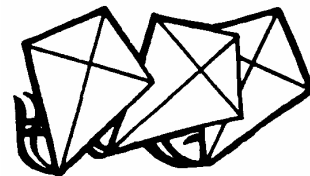
★ *For physical play* - For development of large muscle coordination: game balls, sponge balls, jump rope, large paddle boards and balls. Marbles are good for fine muscle coordination.

★ *For playing by the rules* - Dominoes, checkers and board games.

★ *For arts and crafts activities* - Clay, drawing books, water colors, oil paints, colored markers and weaving, jewelry making or carpentry sets.

★ *For collecting:* Most children already collect something; for example, dolls, action figures or baseball cards. Observe what your child collects and get ideas for a gift by asking what things go together or what is still missing from their collection. Or, encourage a new collection with a starter set of stamps, bugs or butterflies, or choose something for which your child has already shown an interest.

★ *For secret places:* Find a used tent at a garage sale or surplus store, or make a special place or tree house with your child.



CREATE-A-PLANE

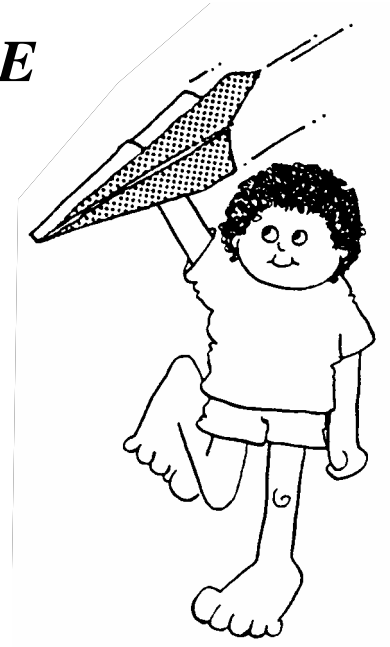
WHAT YOU NEED:

- ☆ Magazines/books with airplane pictures
- ☆ Sheets of paper - 8- 1/2 x 11 "
- ☆ Tape

Optional Items:

Paper clips
Glue
Crayons

Scissors
Marker pens



HOW YOU PLAY:

- ★ Everyone "creates" a paper plane by folding, cutting, tearing, gluing, etc.
- ★ Also decorate with marker pens and crayons.
- ★ Use the magazines and books for ideas.
- ★ "Flight Test" by determining:
 - ☆ *Length* - Launch from one taped line and mark where they land.
 - ☆ *Average distances* - Use the opportunity to reinforce math skills.
 - ☆ *Control* - Launch from one taped line to a small box taped on floor.
- ★ "Re-engineer" by changing planes and flight test.

