

Music Enjoyment Can Begin Early With New Toys

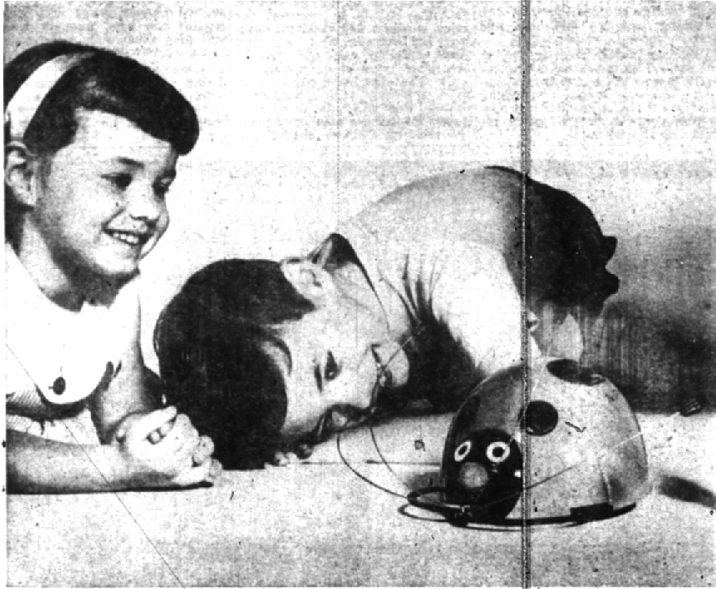
Rassinet-time is not too early to think about your cherub's musical education, says Emma Dickson Sheehy, professor of education at Teachers' College, Columbia University.

The best possible way to prepare your youngster for a lifetime of satisfying music appreciation is to identify music with play from his earliest days right through kindergarten and the primary grades, continues Professor Sheehy.

This is also the best way to awaken and stimulate baby's own creative talents.

A variety of true-tone music-making toys have been developed—from rattles to rhythm sticks to golden banjos and deluxe piano accordions. With these, at very low cost, parents can give their children an opportunity to demonstrate not only latent musical talents, but special aptitudes for particular types of instruments. Thus, they can be assured before buying expensive musical equipment, of the benefits their children will derive from them.

Educators find that all children profit from play with these toys, even though their tone sense might be below average. Such children acquire an appreciation of rhythm which is of lasting value to them. New devices such as color keys and music charts take the drudgery out of note reading.



Lightning Brainsy Bug, newest recruit to toyland's roster of super-talented performers, doggedly works itself around obstacles in its path and automatically changes direction when its antennae make contact with any object. This unique, brilliantly colored plastic bug is powered by two self-contained electric batteries and electric motor. A nose light flashes provocatively as the educated bug operates. Retail price about \$5.00.

How to Pick The 'Right' Toy For Given Child

In determining whether a specific toy is the "right" toy for a given child, keep the following classifications in mind:

For the infant: unbreakable rattles, floating bath toys, soft rubber squeeze toys, roly-polys, washable dolls and animals, sound-making push toys.

For 1-2 years: simple educational wood toys, nesting blocks, push and pull action toys, soft dolls and animals, rockers, records, picture books, sand boxes.

For 2-4 years: kindergarten blocks, simple puzzles, crayon sets, cowboy hoister sets, simple house-keeping toys, tricycles.

For 4-6 years: group games, paint sets, roller skates, kitchen equipment, doll houses and furniture, scooters, chalk boards, first activity books.

For 6-8 years: electric trains, sewing kits, model building sets, sports equipment, communication toys, school supplements, marionettes, mechanical action toys.

For 8-10 years: advanced craft sets, magic outfits, bicycles, musical instruments, chemistry sets, microscope kits, games of skill.

These standards are applied each year to the 104 education-approved Prestige toys which are selected by panels of prominent toy experts and educators as "outstanding examples of American toy production" for the year.

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The flash of spray from a fleeing destroyer, the chatter of wing guns from a whistling jet—the romance and adventure of years past has been captured in the realistic models you'll find in Higgins and Frank's new Jr. Shop. They're educational as well as entertaining, developing patience and manual dexterity. You'll find all sorts of models here, boats, guns, planes and model cars, both new and old. The older model enthusiasts will get a kick out of these models too. Remember Higgins and Frank's Jr. Department for models that are different.

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Toys Still Feature Traditional Play

Traditional play equipment, designed to provide extra play value, is also quite evident. Blocks and blackboards, guns and Western sets, cash registers and printing sets are packed with play appeal. Zestful quiz fun and pleasurable family games are prominent among the playthings with a "modern" purpose.

Worthy of special note is the gaited wonder horse family—stallion, mare, and pony. Other impressive items are a sleek thunderbird car and a snappy-looking jet ace convertible. New idea in bike glamour is a streamlined velocipede, modeled after the rocket mistresses of the skies. A junior roadmaster sidewalk bike converts to either a boy's or girl's model with the flick of a finger.



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