

# TOY ROTATION

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Children can lose interest when they see the same toys day in and day out. Piles of unused toys can be overwhelming or easily ignored. Sometimes, the temptation to buy new toys seems the only way to keep a child's attention.

But, there's a better solution. *Toy rotation* is having just a few (4-5) toys available to children at a given time. After a set amount of time (1-2 weeks), these toys are swapped with others that are stored away. Their old toys feel "new" every time they come back out! Toy rotation increases attention and engagement, reduces clutter, and extends the life of a given toy. And cleanup is easier!

Research has demonstrated that having fewer toys available is beneficial for a child's development. In a 2018 study, when researchers studied groups of children given either 4 or 16 toys with which to play, the children with fewer toys played in more varied ways and for longer periods of time. In other words, fewer toys led to more focus, engagement, and creativity.

Additional suggestions:

- Organize toy sets into containers with lids or zippered bags. This provides increased opportunities for communication such as requesting a certain item or asking for OPEN/HELP.
- Establish clean up routines. This is a great time to work on following directions.



Dauch, C., Imwalle, M., Ocasio, B., and Metz, A. (2018). The influence of the number of toys in the environment on toddlers' play. *Infant Behavior and Development*.