



**Royal Society for Blind Children**

## **Gift ideas for children with a vision impairment**

Choosing a gift for a child with a vision impairment doesn't have to be difficult. They might already have a long list of gift ideas themselves! But if you are still searching for that perfect present, we have pulled together our own list of gift ideas for primary aged children with a vision impairment we think they might love.

### Building toys

Building toys make a great gift for any child but when shopping it's good to choose bricks that stick together well and are easy to build with:

- Magnetic cogs – these stick on the fridge (or other magnetic surfaces) and connect together, moving around.
- Stacking cups or plastic stacking rings
- Peg boards (or other toys they can push things into)
- Wikki Stix are pipe-cleaner type building toys made from wax and knitting yarn. They can be bent and shaped into almost anything your child can imagine!
- Duplo bricks are ideal as they stick together well.
- If your child is a bit older then Lego, or even braille Lego.
- Magnetic blocks and cogs

### Tactile toys and puzzles

Tactile toys can provide hours of fun and the options of how to play with them are endless:

- Wooden puzzles with defined edges and tactile or noisy shapes that give sensory feedback to help your child know when they are completed.
- Play-Doh, with rolling pins and other tools.
- Slime or other types of putty, slime, or dough.
- Poppits
- Posting toys can provide hours of fun – look for ones that provide some auditory feedback when an item is posted.
- Multi-sensory balls are fun. Look for ones made with different materials and textures or ones which make a noise.
- Bean bags are easy to catch and throw if your child is still learning.
- Activity boards and busy boards can be great fun. Try to choose one that isn't too crowded with activities and uses bright colours. Or make your own with some wood and a few different locks and chains.
- Braille and tactile games and dice to play games

## Books

Books make the ideal Christmas present or stocking filler for of all ages. Here's what to look for when choosing a book:

- Touch and feel books with moving elements, pop-up parts, tabs or shiny parts will engage children.
- Books with contrasting colours e.g., black and yellow or black and white
- Simple designs and pictures that are not too complex.
- Books for young children usually have large bold words – look for ones written in a simple, clear type.
- Specialist books such as large print books or Braille
- Musical books such as the Vtech Rhyme and Discover books will read children nursery rhymes aloud.

## Musical and light up toys

Musical toys are always popular. You can consider instruments or electronic toys that light up or make a noise in response to an action. The options here are endless:

- Musical instruments are always popular. You can get ones made of natural materials – anything from a shaker to a ukulele – which can be more motivating for vision impaired children to explore.
- Musical toys in general are great fun!
- Music players, a Tonie Toniebox or a microphone
- Musical Shape Sorter
- If your child is motivated by light then any sensory toy that lights up could be enjoyed, this could be a light wand, or a light up ball.

## Creative toys

Creative toys give children the opportunity to express themselves. Ideas include:

- Lacing beads for making necklaces or pop apart beads
- Chalkboards or magnetic boards
- Pens – choose the brightest, thickest felt pens you can find as these show up best
- Scented marker pens which engage their sense of smell
- Packs of brightly coloured or neon paper
- Play kitchens which can help children with vision impairment to roleplay what their parents do in the kitchen.
- Velcro fruit and vegetables (that come in two parts) which can be 'cut' with a plastic knife help fire their imagination.
- Baking kits that allow children to make muffins or biscuits.
- Scented or tactile stickers

## Gift experiences and tokens

If you're still unsure what to give them for Christmas, a token makes a great gift.

- If they have access to an iPad or tablet, consider an iTunes gift card so they (or their parents) can buy music, apps, and stories.
- You could give the gift of an experience such as a voucher for the pantomime or a soft play area day out.

## Where to shop

Most of these toys can be found in high street toy shops, or in Argos or on Amazon.

For more specialist toys and books:

- The [RNIB Online Shop](#) is a great place to shop for toys for children with vision impairment.
- For Braille and large print books, [Clearvision Project](#) is a postal lending library of children's books

