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Here's Some Toy Buying Hints

Take children, add equal parts of Christmas toys . . . and you have fun!

Shopping for the right playthings to light up youngsters' faces on Christmas morning will be a little easier for "adults in wonderland" with these hints from the 51-year-old A. C. Gilbert Co.:

★ Buy for stages, not for ages, taking your cue from the child's interests.

Infants like dangling toys or chewy ones; young children go for those they can push, pull and handle. When youngsters reach reading age, board games and

science sets are more in demand.

★ If possible, choose a basic toy — one that can be used in several different ways. Erector sets, for example, allow a child to build many kinds of toys. The toy also fits a variety of skill levels.

★ Expect a fair return for your dollar. Consider how long the toy is likely to last and hold the child's interest, and it should be fairly sturdy for its purpose. Try to recall what you know about the manufacturer's reputation.

Give some thought to what

the toy can do to improve a youngster's skills. Play, after all, is a child's life, and toys are his teachers.