

Gifts to make children think

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If you have gotten mail recently you will notice that the catalogs are telling us: "CHRISTMAS IS COMING".

Just last week I was talking to a short man with a beard that works for an S. Claus at the North Pole. Here are some of the ideas he shared.

The best kinds of toys are **SIMPLE, DURABLE** and allow and encourage the child to use his or her imagination. Toys that have only one way to be used will soon be boring and the box it came in will be played with far more.

"JOHNSON & JOHNSON" has put out a series of toys that give an infant lots to stretch his or her mind with, (even adults will spend time being fascinated with what they can do).

Two examples: **'BALLS IN A BOWL,'** three clear plastic balls that have shiny spinners inside fit into a bigger bowl.

"VISUAL DISPLAY," Two plastic reversible panels that can join together to make triangles or a square. The pictures are colorful, simple and there is even a mirror.

Wooden blocks, bristle blocks and wooden beads are

great for the toddlers and will continue to be enjoyed by the child as he gets older. These kinds of toys are only limited by the child's imagination.

Great records and tapes for young children are now being produced. Two of the best names to look for are:

**ELLA JENKINS and
HAP PALMER**

Infants are not too young to be introduced to books. Cloth books are a good way to begin; they won't tear and are bright and simple, with no words. Taking a few minutes every day to "read" pictures in a book will foster the love for books that will encourage the youngster to read on his/her own later. There are a number of storybooks without words now being published. Two names you can count on are: **MAYER and ALEXANDER.**

Large paper, crayons, paints, play dough and paste are also important to provide the young child. The elf continued but this is all the space I have. If you'd like to see some of these products please come by the P.I.P. office at GREIST. Or, if you're in a village give a call and I'll bring them out to you to look over when I visit your village.