

Congratulations on taking the first step in introducing your product to the children with disabilities market. The following product evaluation was conducted by Lekotek Certified professionals who have degrees and experience in special education, child life, therapeutic recreation, or other therapy disciplines. The product seal represents the quantifiable rating by disability category.

The AblePlay Rating is designed to give parents and professionals a snapshot of a toy or play products appropriateness for children with special needs.

What the Stars Mean

- * * * * * The product is **exceptional** for children in that disability category
- * * * * The product is **very good** for children in that disability category
- * * * The product is **good** for children in that disability category
- * * The product is **adequate** for children in that disability category
- * The product is **not suitable** for children in that disability category

Disability Category Explanation

Physical

This product is (exceptional, very good, etc.) for children with Physical Disabilities

This relates to children with disabilities affecting the motor systems. These can include skeletal, muscle and joint abnormalities which in turn limit a child's ability to move, stand, sit, play or reach.

Some of the major physical disabilities are:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Spina Bifida
- Paraplegia
- Quadriplegia
- Development Delays

Sensory

This product is (exceptional, very good, etc.) for children with Sensory Disabilities

This relates to a child's ability to gather and understand information from the environment through any of the five senses.

Some of the major sensory disabilities are:

- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Blind or Visual Impairment
- Sensory Processing Disorder

Communicative

This product is (exceptional, very good, etc.) for children with Communicative Disabilities

This relates to a child's ability to communicate verbally due to limited or altered comprehension and use of language.

Some of the major communicative disabilities are:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Speech and Language Delays
- Stuttering

Cognitive

This product is (exceptional, very good, etc.) for children with Cognitive Disabilities

This relates to a child's ability to process information, reason, remember and express emotions.

Some of the major cognitive disabilities are:

- Down syndrome
- Intellectual Delays
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Hydrocephalus
- Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Learning Disabilities

Comprehensive Product Report

Product reports contain comprehensive information of your toy or play product as it relates to each specific disability category (listed above). The report includes the following categories:

Description

This section highlights specific *characteristics of your product that have direct benefit* for children who have special needs within each of the disability categories.

Skills

This section details the skills a child can acquire from playing with your product in order to emphasize the *therapeutic and developmental value* your product offers.

Play Ideas

This section details the *recreational aspects* of your play products that often go beyond the obvious uses and open up the *creative and challenging components* your products offer.

Adaptation Ideas

This section *maximizes accessibility to your product* by exploring new and innovative ways for a child to relate to and engage in play experience with your product.

Inclusion in AblePlay Website & Social Media Sites

Once a comprehensive product report as been conducted and a final report has been written, your product is automatically included in the AblePlay website.

All reports on the AblePlay website have a “Purchase Site” link to connect viewers to your retail site which offers all the information, descriptions and purchasing options they seek.

Your product will also be included on AblePlay social media pages and can be highlighted in publications the National Lekotek Center/AblePlay contributes to if applicable.

AblePlay is an online resource at www.ableplay.org that provides comprehensive research, ratings, and reviews on toys and products that are a good fit for children of all abilities. AblePlay is a division of the National Lekotek Center, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing children who have disabilities access to the benefits of play experiences. Lekotek believes that toys and play can help children with special needs learn, develop and thrive in a world that presents them with many unique and complex challenges.