

YMCA Holiday Toy Wishlist Guide

At the YMCA we use a play-based learning approach called **YMCA Playing to Learn™**, which means the toys are much more than just fun, they are tools that support creativity, exploration and healthy development.

This guide is designed to help our generous donors and supporters choose toys that will be most appreciated by the children and families we serve. By selecting items that align with our programs, your donation becomes even more meaningful, bringing joy and supporting growth in ways that last far beyond the holidays.

What Makes a Great Toy?

Look for toys that are:

- Open-ended: Can be used in many ways.
- Safe and durable: Non-toxic, washable, and built to last.
- Inclusive: Reflects diverse cultures, abilities, and families.
- Real-world inspired: Encourages role play and everyday scenarios.
- Multi-sensory: Engages touch, sight, sound, and movement.

Please avoid battery-operated toys, including those with flashing lights or loud sounds. These often limit creativity and encourage passive play.

Toy Ideas:

Animal figurines	Cooperative board games
Sorting games (blocks, shapes & sizes etc.)	Pretend toys or playsets (doctor kits, tool sets, tea party sets, kitchen, groceries, cooking, etc.)
Building sets (Lego, Magna Tiles)	Tunnels, climbing structures, wipeable foam play mats/floor coverings.
Cause and effect toys (pop up, button pressing, magnet, marble tower etc.)	Musical instruments.
Dolls, puppets.	Ride-on toys (balance bikes, scooters, tricycles)
Dress-up clothes (doctor, firefighter, scientist, superheroes etc.)	Storybooks, storytelling props.
Play-Doh, stamps.	Collage art materials, crafts.
Sports equipment, balls of various sizes	Puzzles, wooden chunky puzzles.

Cash Donations

Cash donations are also gratefully accepted www.ymcasibc.ca/Donate

About YMCA Playing to Learn™

YMCA Playing to Learn™ is a nationally recognized, research-informed curriculum developed by YMCA Canada to support early childhood development from birth to age six. It's based on the belief that play is the most effective way young children learn.

The YMCA community programs that would benefit are as follows:

- CCRR Toy Lending Library: 0-8 years old
- Family Play Time: 0-6 years old
- Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program
- Young Parent Program: 0-6 years old
- Beyond the Bell: 5-9 years old

Thank you for including the Y in the 10th Annual Cars & Toys event at August Luxury Motorcars. We're truly grateful for your support and excited to see how your contributions will help hope shine even brighter this holiday season.

In gratitude,

YMCA Philanthropy Team.