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## 15 toys and products to inspire gifted children

From the moment you took her home from the hospital, you thought your daughter was extra special, perhaps even brilliant and talented. But is she "gifted?"

To be considered "gifted," a child must show "the potential to perform at high levels of accomplishment when compared to same-age peers," said Jane Clarenbach, director of public education at the National Association for Gifted Children.

That means she reaches milestones ahead of her peers, has an extensive vocabulary, has an excellent memory, is relentlessly curious and doesn't stop asking questions, among other traits. She may also develop a particular passion or talent, said Paula Motte, senior editor at BabyCenter.com, the go-to global resource for moms.

Some talents are easy to detect. Others are more hidden. For example, a passion for sorting could mean she is a visual-spatial learner who may have a future in science, architecture, engineering or mechanics, explains Motte. (For more information, go to Babycenter.com's section on giftedness.)

Whether your child is gifted with obvious or hidden talents, here are 15 products and toys that will challenge and inspire kids from ages 3 to 8.

### **Discovering science**

Although all teachers can't be Ms. Frizzle and take their students on a magical journey, your young scientist can still learn from her, thanks to these Magic School Bus kits (\$19.95) based on the bestselling books and TV series. Your child can run experiments and get immersed in topics including rainbows, germs, flight and how to be green. "It makes science exciting," says ebeanstalk's Keri Dempsey.