

Batteries Not Included

Why ditching the batteries is beneficial to language development

There is that good old phrase ..." Less is more". This holds particularly true when choosing the right toys to build your child's verbal and non-verbal communication skills. As much as technology has become the norm these days, going back to basics can be very beneficial in many ways. Here is a list of a few toys that don't require batteries, just a little imagination and a whole lot of communication!

- **Farm Set** - Farm sets are great for getting early developing CV/VC word shapes through animal sounds (i.e. moo, baa, neigh, oink, etc.) Farm sets also help child rerecognize and name animals that belong to a farm.
- **Train set** - Wooden Train sets (no batteries required) are great for getting your child to request track pieces when putting together the train track. Once the track is built, you can use this opportunity to have your child request for the train to "stop" and "go". For the older child, you can use your imagination to think of the many places that train will travel!
- **Wooden blocks** - Blocks are great not only for fine motor skills when stacking, but to learn and understand the words: "more", "on", "off", "my turn" and "your turn". Blocks with letter, numbers, and pictures are great for early labeling and recognition.
- **Mr. Potato Head** - Potato Head sets are great for encouraging the understanding and labeling of simple body parts. Once they are put together, you can use the potato head to encourage conversational skills.
- **Tea Party Set** - Tea sets are good for building imagination and strengthening the back and forth impromptu conversation skills needed for everyday communication. They are also great for turn taking and requesting items amongst attendees!
- **Play kitchen set and food** - Kitchen sets are a great way to introduce food vocabulary and items seen around the kitchen, which helps strengthen categories. During play, you strengthen a child's imagination and conversational skills.

