



Safety reminders 9-12 months

- Anchor furniture—baby is pulling up now.
- Keep floor area soft for safe falls.
- Monitor treasure baskets (no tiny objects).
- Secure wall mirrors.
- Water play requires constant supervision.

9-12 months milestones

GROSS MOTOR

- Crawls efficiently; may crawl upstairs
- Pulls to stand using furniture
- Cruises along furniture
- Stands briefly without support
- Takes first independent steps (some babies)
- Climbs over small obstacles

FINE MOTOR

- Uses pincer grasp (thumb + index finger) to pick up small objects
- Transfers objects hand to hand with control
- Points with one finger
- Stacks 2 objects (cups, rings) with help
- Opens and closes containers with emerging coordination
- Picks up and drops objects intentionally

SENSORY

- Explores textures with more intention (smooth vs rough)
- Enjoys light + shadow play
- Improved **visual tracking** and depth awareness
- Sensitive to loud or sudden sounds
- Begins to discriminate between sizes, shapes, and weights

SOCIAL /EMOTIONAL

- Shows **stranger anxiety** and seeks caregiver reassurance
- Prefers familiar people
- Initiates shared attention (points to show something)
- Imitates everyday actions (brushing hair, talking on phone)
- Expresses a wider range of emotions
- Enjoys simple social games (peekaboo, clapping)

LANGUAGE

- Understands simple words ("no," "bye," "ball")
- Responds to their name consistently
- Follows simple gestures ("come here," "give me")
- Babbles with more complex sounds ("mama," "dada," "baba")
- Uses gestures: pointing, waving, reaching
- May use 1-2 meaningful words by 12 months

COGNITIVE

- Understands **cause-and-effect** (push → fall, drop → sound)
- Explores toys with purpose, not just mouthing
- Begins simple problem-solving (how to reach an object)
- Looks for hidden objects (advanced object permanence)
- Experiments with posting, putting in + taking out
- Copies simple actions (clapping, banging, shaking)

ADAPTIVE

- Drinks from an open cup with help
- Attempts self-feeding with fingers
- Helps with dressing by holding out arms/feet
- Tries to brush hair or hold a toothbrush
- Puts objects into containers with accuracy





Object Fit Boxes (Cube, Disc, Sphere Fit Boxes)

Babymatchesthecorrectshapetoitsopening—anearlygeometriskill.
Encourages spatial reasoning.

[Buy similar](#)



Ring Stacker with Sorting Base

Offer one ring at a time. Baby practices placing rings onto the dowel (vertical stacking) or matching rings to recessed circles on the board. Encourages precise hand placement, wrist rotation, and early problem-solving.

[Buy similar](#)



Sorting Tray

Baby experiments with sorting objects by size, shape, or type. Introduces classification skills.

Tray only. Put any 3 toys to sort by color, size, or type.

[Buy similar](#)



Shape Posting Cylinders (3D Shape Matching)

Baby selects the correct geometric 3D form and posts it through the corresponding hole. Pre-math skill.

[Buy similar](#)



Wooden Stacking Rainbow

Offer 2–3 arches at first. Baby explores nesting, stacking, rolling, and balancing pieces. Later, introduce all arches for creative building. Supports spatial reasoning, coordination, and problem-solving.

[Buy similar](#)



Montessori Walking Wagon

Introduce only when baby is cruising confidently. Baby pushes wagon while taking early steps, building balance, strength, and independence.

Add weight to start.
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Crawling Tunnel

Baby crawls through the tunnel, exploring spatial awareness, courage, and motor planning.

[Buy similar](#)



Wooden Egg Shaker

Baby grasps shaker and moves hand to create gentle sound. Encourages intentional movement, rhythm, and auditory awareness.

Make sure size is not a choking hazard.

[Buy similar](#)

SENSORY

FINE MOTOR

COGNITIVE



Wooden Maraca

Baby shakes, bangs softly on floor or palm, explores cause-and-effect.
Supports grasp strength and bilateral coordination.

[Buy similar](#)

SENSORY

FINE MOTOR

GROSS MOTOR



Hand Drum

Baby taps drum with hands, learning rhythm and sound production through touch. Great for cross-midline movement.

[Buy similar](#)



Rainstick (Short Infant-Sized)

Baby tilts or shakes the rainstick to hear cascading sound. Supports coordination, calm sensory input, and wrist rotation.

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SENSORY

FINE MOTOR

GROSS MOTOR



Mini Tambourine (Without Metal Jingles or with 2-4 Only)

Baby shakes or taps tambourine, learning about echo, vibration, and sound variation.

[Buy similar](#)



Pikler Triangle (Beginner Climbing Frame)

Place the Pikler Triangle on a padded or carpeted surface. For younger babies (9–12 months), use it for pulling up, cruising, and exploring the lowest rungs, allow safe supervised climbing up 1–3 rungs. Full climbing and ramp use are introduced after 12 months when balance and motor planning are stronger.

[Buy similar](#)



Silicone Pouring Set (Watering Can + Drain-Hole Cups)

Baby scoops water using the silicone watering can and practices pouring slowly into bowls, onto their hands/legs, or into the drain-hole cups. Baby fills the drain-hole cups and watches water stream out of different hole patterns. Encourages early practical life skills, wrist control, experimentation with water flow, and gentle, purposeful pouring.

[Buy similar](#)



Silicone Ring Tracking Maze (Montessori-Inspired)

Baby uses hands to slide wooden rings along the silicone curves, moving them from one end to another. Encourages intentional grasping, wrist rotation, bilateral coordination, and sustained focus. Can be suctioned to floor, table, or bathtub for stable play.

[Buy similar](#)



First Picture Books with REAL IMAGES

Offer simpleboard books featuring real photographs of everyday objects, animals, foods, and routines. Sit beside baby and name each image slowly ("apple," "dog," "spoon"). Allow baby to point, tap, or turn pages. Supports vocabulary building, object recognition, and early language comprehension.

[Buy similar](#)



Wooden Clutching Mushroom

Baby holds the mushroom top while twisting, spinning, and moving the attached wooden pegs. Encourages grasping, wrist rotation, bilateral coordination, and cause-and-effect exploration. Calm, repetitive motion supports focus and hand strength.

[Buy similar](#)



Nesting Bowls (Wood or Silicone)

Offer 2–3 bowls at first. Baby explores stacking, nesting, filling, and transferring objects between bowls. As skills grow, introduce all bowls to explore size comparison, order, and early spatial reasoning. Encourages two-handed coordination and intentional problem-solving.

[Buy similar](#)



Nature Sensory Basket (Natural Objects: pinecones, smooth stones, large shells, wood slices, seed pods)

Present 3–5 safe, large natural items at a time—each with a distinct texture, weight, and temperature. Baby explores by touching, holding, tapping, and transferring objects in and out of the basket. Introduce vocabulary (“smooth,” “rough,” “heavy,” “shell”). Encourages calm sensory exploration and connection to nature.



Carrot Size Sorting Box (Montessori-Inspired)

Baby picks up a carrot, feels its size, and matches it to the correct hole. Encourages size discrimination, problem-solving, and grasp strength. Baby pulls carrots out using a firm grip, then re-posts them repeatedly. Start with 2-3 carrots at a time.

[Buy similar](#)



Crochet Color Sorting Balls

Offer 2–3 crochet balls in different colors along with matching bowls or cups.

Baby explores grasping, rolling, transferring, and simple color matching. Textured yarn supports sensory exploration and improved grip. Avoid offering too many colors at once to maintain focus.

[Buy similar](#)

SENSORY

ADAPTIVE

GROSS MOTOR



Low Climbing Steps / Foam Climbing Blocks

Place in a safe area for baby to crawl up and down. Supports weight shifting, balance, and beginner climbing in a controlled way.

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Reading Couch (Low Montessori Reading Seat)

Place a low, soft reading couch or floor seat in the reading area with 2–3 real-image books displayed nearby. Baby crawls or walks over, climbs onto the couch independently, and looks at books in a calm, cozy space. Encourages peaceful reading habits, autonomy, and early love for books.

[Buy similar](#)



Wooden Music Box (Mechanical, Wind-Up)

Presenta simple, wooden music box that plays a gentle tune when wound. Adult winds it at first while baby watches the movement and listens. Later, the child attempts to turn the key independently. Encourages calm listening, cause-and-effect understanding, and appreciation of real mechanical motion.

[Buy similar](#)



First Photo Album

Create a small, simple photoalbum featuring real images of family members, pets, and familiar environments. Present it during calm moments and name each person (“Mama,” “Grandpa,” “Auntie”). Baby points, taps, and flips through pages, building recognition, bonding, and early vocabulary.

[Buy similar](#)



Chimes Toy (Metal, Acoustic, Simple Design)

Offer a simple wooden chime toy with metal bars that ring when tapped, shaken, or pulled. Baby explores gentle sound production and learns that their movement creates the chime. Supports auditory discrimination, concentration, and early musical awareness. Avoid electronic or flashing versions.

[Buy similar](#)



Basket of Animals (Realistic, not cartoons)

Offer 3–6 realistic animal figures in a small basket. Adults name each animal and model simple sounds. Baby explores by holding, tapping, and moving them. Later, animals can be matched to real-photo cards. Encourages vocabulary, sound imitation, and early categorization. Avoid cartoon-style animals

[Buy similar](#)



Basket of Transport

Offer 3–6 realistic vehicle models in a small basket. Baby explores each one while the adult names the vehicle and models simple sounds (“vroom,” “beep”). Encourage rolling on the floor and showing how wheels work. Later introduce matching with real transport photo cards. Avoid cartoon-style vehicles.

[Buy similar](#)



Basket of Clothing (Real Baby Clothing Items)

Present 3–5 real clothing items such as a sock, hat, mitten, bib, or soft scarf. Baby explores textures, grasps and pulls fabrics, and watches as you name each item. Supports vocabulary building, sensory exploration, and early dressing awareness. Items can later be matched to photos or paired



Simple Lovey (Natural Fiber Comfort Cloth)

Offer a small, soft lovey made from cotton or muslin during naps, bedtime, or transitions. Baby grasps, cuddles, and self-soothes with the familiar texture. Keep one consistent lovey to support emotional security. Avoid cartoon designs or overstimulation. Helpful during separation anxiety phases.

[Buy similar](#)



Shadow Puppets (Simple Shapes: Animals, Hands, Objects)

Use a flashlight or lamp to cast shadows of simple puppet shapes on the wall. Baby watches how movement changes the shadow while you name each object ("bird," "hand," "tree"). Supports visual tracking, cause-and-effect, and early language. Keep shapes realistic and avoid fantasy themes.

[Buy similar](#)



Elastic Band Removal Activity (Something Wrapped in Elastics)

Wrap 2–3 thick elastic bands around a small wooden box or cup. Baby pulls the bands off one by one, strengthening finger muscles and practicing intentional hand movements. Later, the child can replace the bands independently. Keep colors simple and avoid overstimulation.



Basket of Reflective Objects (Metal & Mirror Items)

Offer 3–5 safe, reflective items such as a metal cup, stainless bowl, spoon, or infant-safe mirror. Baby explores shine, reflections, and sound by tapping, holding, and watching how light changes. Adult names each item to add language. Encourages sensory discovery and concentration.