Vehicles

Wooden train track sets are a classic that can be added to over time. Grandparents and friends can purchase pieces to build up your set and this will help eliminate getting gifts you'd rather not receive. I'll be honest- metals cars and lead content concern me. I've found wooden alternatives and more and more companies are starting to come out with these. Wooden toy parking garages are also great if your little one has a love for things with wheels like mine. You can find an assortment of wheeled toys at Abby Sprouts too.

Art Supplies

I love the idea of creating an art box that contains crayons, paper, scissors, glue and the other usual suspects. You can frame your children's artwork or make it into wrapping paper. It's always fun to see what kids will do and how big of mess they can create and in the end their wide eyed enjoyment and focused efforts are priceless.

People

Wooden dolls and dollhouses have been an heirloom toy for generations with good reason. Children, boys and girls, alike love playing pretend and creating stories with wandering plots. Soft bodied dolls are also a favourite. You can give your children some old cloth diapers and receiving blankets to take care of their little one.

Dress up

Save some of your old Halloween costumes, dig out the purses in the back of the closets and dad's ties too, and maybe a mirror. You can buy gorgeous silk dress up clothes including capes and crowns. Try to stay away from synthetics that are cheap construction as these will not last and just contribute to our land fill. Instead focus on quality pieces that can be passed from child to child.

Bath Toys

This is another area where PVC, BPA, Phthalates and lead like to hide in our children's toys. Rubber Duckie needs to go. Instead, check out Sprig Toys Scuba Search, Dolphin Explorer Boat and Heli-Scoopter all BPA and Paint free. Green Toys has a tug boat coming out too! A wooden made in Canada paddle boat is also available at Abby Sprouts.

Wooden Puzzles

Educational puzzles with the alphabet and numbers, farm animals, musicals instruments and other themes are a classic toy in my books too.

Interlocking Building Blocks

[illegible] packaging