



## TOYS

Since the beginning of recorded time, children have played with toys. Dolls, marbles and hoop-and-stick games have been a part of every civilization ever known. Children and toys share a special relationship.

Toys help children grow. Playing with toys builds coordination and agility. Toys help children learn to solve problems. Sharing toys with others helps children become nicer to their friends and their family members. Playing with toys helps children become better people.

Toys help us to understand our world. When we play games, we learn how to win and lose. We tell our parents and our brothers and sisters stories about our toys and our games. Some toys, like piggy banks, teach us that it is important to save our money. Toy cars and trucks help us learn about traveling. Toy police cars and fire trucks help us learn about serving our communities. The toys we play with reflect the world we live in.

Think about the toys you have now and the world you live in. How do these toys tell us about you and your world? When you look at a toy from the past, think about the child who played with it. What did that child's world look like?