

Top 10 Building Toys

Over the many years of running our **ImagArena workshops** in schools, libraries, and homes across New England, we've learned a thing or two about what makes a building toy great. So we thought it would be helpful to put together a list of the **Top 10** building toys we think every collection should have. These toys emphasize open ended imaginative play, allowing the builder to explore endless possibilities while providing hours and hours of fun.

How to use this guide >>

When looking to add toys to your collection, we recommended purchasing toys at the beginning of the list before purchasing toys at the end of the list. We've designed the list to feature the **essentials first** and to get the more exploratory offerings towards the end, keeping in mind how the toys complement each other as your collection grows. Included with each toy recommendation is a **search term** for finding the product at your favorite online retailer.

1 Lego Ages 4+




No surprises here. Lego continues to be the gold standard of open ended building materials. In the unlikely event you don't already own some, we recommended skipping the themed sets and looking into their more open ended offerings.

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2 Plus-Plus Ages 5+




We're always surprised how few people have heard of Plus-Plus given how amazing it is! In our experience it is the only toy that even comes close to Lego in terms of possibilities, allowing for amazing 2D and 3D creations. There is a massive product range to choose from as well, so we can't recommend this one enough!

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3 Keva Planks Ages 5+



Another classic building toy, the simplicity of the wooden building plank has truly stood the test of time. You'd be surprised what can be created from such a simple material, and these planks also work amazingly well when combined with other toys on this list.

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4

Magna-Tiles Ages 3+



The wonder of magnetism makes for an incredible building experience. These tiles allow for creations that defy gravity, and the satisfaction of 'clicking' each one together towards a final idea is a wonderful experience that is unique amongst all the other toys on this list.


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Squigz Ages 3+



Who would have thought suction cups make for a great building material? Squigz offer a truly unique experience, allowing the builder to break free from the rigid angular thinking of other building toys in favor of a much more flexible approach.


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Zoob Ages 6+

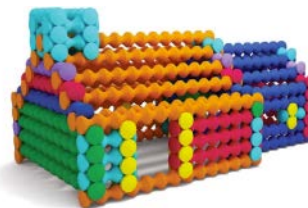


The theory behind Zoob was to create a toy that allowed for the realistic movement of joints and pivots. So once the creation is built, you can play with it like an action figure. It's an innovative concept and one that encourages imaginative play even after the building is complete.


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Playstix Ages 4+



Playstix are essentially Lincoln Logs 2.0. These stackable toys might appear confusing at first, but once you're familiar with how to stack them you'll be amazed at the creations that will emerge.

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8 Joinks Ages 3+



Joinks utilize a hub-and-spoke model that allows for the creation of amazing structures and volumes. Featuring stretchy materials as the connectors, this is another toy that allows the builder to break free from angular thinking and create forms that feel almost organic.

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9 Brainflakes Ages 5+



A deceptively simple toy, but as you connect more and more together the beauty of Brainflakes starts to emerge. Great for making 2D mosaics as well as 3D structures, building with this toy almost feels like solving a puzzle.

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10 EMIDO Building Bars Ages 5+



The final toy on our list is also another deceptively simple one. You wouldn't think that a bunch of connecting plastic bars could yield any sort of creations, but if you put your mind to it these are capable of bringing a wide variety of ideas to life.

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What's next >>

If you're looking for activity ideas that feature these building toys in action, head over to our website (www.imagarena.com) where you can sign up for our **monthly newsletter**. Each newsletter features a host of activities and tips for getting the most out of the building toys you already own, as well as even more recommendations for supplementing your current collection.

* Recommended ages are either the manufacturer's recommended age, or an increase of the manufacturer's recommended age based off of our experiences using the toys in our workshops.