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Ditching the Screens: Educational Gift Ideas

Children are always interested in all kinds of things. However, it can be hard to get them to focus on toys that are educational if it isn't presented on a screen. If you are looking for educational, screen-free presents for the little ones in your life, [IDEAS](#) invites you to check out the list below.

Reading and Writing

There are great toys that make learning to read and write fun – all without any screens. For instance, the LeapStart system helps [engage young learners](#) in reading and counting through a perfect blend of hands-on experience and technology. The system offers real books with hundreds of activities, appropriate for children from preschool to new readers. You can also opt for a [subscription service](#) like KidArtLit. This service makes sure your kids always have interesting books on hand. The subscription box also includes an art project that reinforces the messages in the book. This monthly subscription is perfect for kids aged three to eight.

STEM

If you have a budding scientist on your hands, consider gifting one of the following toys. Each is sure to inspire a continued love of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The Discovery Microscope is perfect for children who are always investigating the wonders of the world, big and small. This microscope comes with [three rotating lenses](#) and a maximum magnification level of 900x. It includes prepared slides in addition to blank ones, as well as instructions for experiments.

If your child is more interested in hands-on play and exploration, Magna-Tiles might be a great fit. These [magnetic building tiles](#) come in a variety of colors and sizes, and the website has great resources on how to use the tiles to maximize their educational value. This includes a better understanding of shapes, colors, pattern recognition, symmetry, design, architecture, and magnetic principles — all while improving fine motor skills.

Finally, if you want to give the gift that will keep on giving, consider a subscription to a monthly Tinker Crate subscription box. The crate, perfect for ages 9 and over, will include an [innovative STEM project](#), step-by-step instructions, and additional experiments and activities. There are also crates for younger scientists, including the Kiwi Crate and the Panda Crate.

Outside

Spending time outside is crucial for healthy development. With so many children spending more time indoors, why not consider outdoor options? [Scavenger hunt kits](#) and walkie talkies make for a fun and entertaining way to be active outside. Bug collecting kits can inspire a love of entomology and eliminate any apprehension about insects.

For a great close-to-home experience, you can always turn your backyard into the ultimate playground. Whether you DIY or purchase a playset, carving out an area in your backyard will offer hours and hours of outdoor playtime. Just keep safety top of mind here if you don't have a fenced yard. Alternatively, you can spring for a new fence to ensure your kids are always safe when enjoying their playtime. Get a few estimates from local [fence contractors](#), but be sure to look up companies that are reputable as well as bonded and insured. Sites like Angi make it easy to track down contractors, and some even post discount information here.

Music

Music is a great educational option. It is often so fun and engaging that children don't even realize they are learning. Make some noise with one of the following ideas.

Let your child enjoy music early with a keyboard for young children. With this, they can start learning the basics of music. The keyboard has [32 mini keys](#), which are perfect for kids. It comes with a hundred built-in sounds and fifty drum rhythms. The keyboard also allows you to access online lessons to play the piano perfectly.

Your child can also participate in music classes for children. Consider a session with Music Together, which offers classes in more than [3,000 communities worldwide](#). Their program offers music and movement classes for children. As their name suggests, you learn music together with your children. You both get to learn music, have a shared experience, and have some quality time.

Practical Skills

You can teach your children about the practical skills that are applied in your home. Useful life skills such as gardening, cooking, sewing, woodwork, and car care. You can talk about these things with them, show them some websites, or just demonstrate and invite them to join in.

While showing them these skills, you can explain why doing something is important, and you can also tell them what knowing these skills may possibly lead to, dreams included. Pulling weeds may lead to landscaping, boiling an egg to owning a restaurant, sewing a hole in a shirt to fashion design, hammering a nail to making houses, and cleaning the car to racing cars.

No matter what educational present you choose, it is sure to bring a smile to your child's face. It may even end up inspiring their future.