Reading and Use of English • Part 2

For questions **9–16**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (**0**). Write your answers in capital letters.

Example: | 0 | O | F |

More than just a toy

Most parents nowadays understand the importance (**0**) .....*OF*..... giving their children toys that not only entertain but also educate. It seems that playing for playing's sake is no longer enough in the race to provide their child (**9**) ..... everything.

As we all know, children develop differently. For instance, (**10**) ..... learn to walk before their first birthday, whereas others are still crawling at eighteen months. However, they all (**11**) ..... one thing in common: curiosity. It's this thirst for knowledge which makes educational toys so valuable. As long as a toy is chosen wisely according to the child's age and ability, the child will be able to learn from playing with (**12**) ..... .

Educational toys are effective because they help to create an environment where children enjoy themselves while learning at the (**13**) ..... time. 'Children can also improve their physical skills (**14**) ..... as balancing or kicking a ball, their language skills when they interact with other children and even their mental skills as they learn not only colours and numbers, but how (**15**) ..... solve puzzles and improve their concentration. Of course (**16**) ..... main benefit of educational toys is that, because the children are having fun, they don't even realise they are learning.