

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:

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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.