

# The Trouble with Tech: How Electronic Toys Impact Language Learning Opportunities for Young Children

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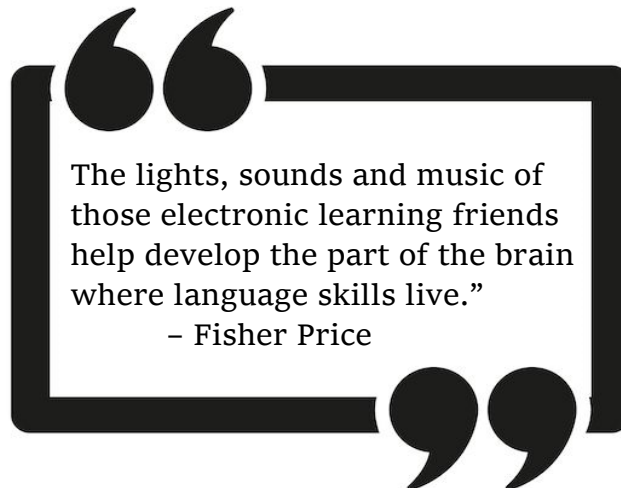


## Abstract

Over the past two decades, electronic toys—toys that talk, sing, play music, and/or have flashing lights—have become increasingly prevalent compared to traditional, non-technologically advanced toys. Though electronic toys are often marketed as offering educational benefits, there is growing evidence that electronic toys may compromise the quality of play interactions. In this presentation, we will discuss what is known about the effects of toy type (electronic versus traditional) on communication. In addition to synthesizing the existing research literature, we will present findings from our research specific to young children with autism. The session will include interactive discussions on how to apply this information to your treatment planning. Audience members will receive a parent-friendly handout that outlines key recommendations for fostering high-quality play interactions.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Describe how electronic versus traditional toys affect language learning opportunities for young children.
2. Formulate at least 2 concrete clinical implications about how to effectively incorporate toys into play-based language intervention.



**Describe your reaction to this statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Audience Questions:**

How do you incorporate toys into your clinical practice with young children?

What are your favorite toys to use, and why?

What are your least favorite toys to use, and why?

**Learning Outcome #1**

One way that electronic toys can affect language learning opportunities is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Outcome #2**

One clinical implication about how to effectively incorporate toys into play-based language intervention is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Online Resources**

**Zero to Three: Tips for Choosing Toys for Toddlers**

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1076-tips-for-choosing-toys-for-toddlers>

**ASHA's Identify the Signs Campaign: Be Tech Wise with Toddler!**

English

<https://identifythesigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Be-Tech-Wise-With-Toddler.pdf>

Spanish

<https://identifythesigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Be-Tech-Wise-With-Toddler-Spanish.pdf>