



Creating Possibilities
in East London

ELBA Toy Appeal 2021 – Guidelines and ideas

If you're purchasing a toy from a local retailer or coming to drop a toy off at our grotto, you can use the guidelines and ideas below to help you purchase a toy.

Guidelines:

- We ask for **new toys** between the **value of £10 and £15**.
- **Please ensure the presents are unwrapped.** This is so community organisations can choose which children the gifts are most suited to.
- Toys should have **the Lion Mark CE** to show they are child friendly and safe for use.
- **No toys that require batteries.** It's ok if the toy comes with batteries included.
- **No war toys or toys that portray fighting such as tanks, soldiers and guns.** Some children may be asylum seekers fleeing war. Star Wars and superheroes are fine.
- **No iTunes/Google Play vouchers.** Most children that benefit from the Toy Appeal won't have access to an account. Cinema vouchers are more appropriate.
- **No second hand donations.** Many of our community partners cannot accept second hand toys due to health and safety reasons. Also, the quality often varies greatly. For many children, this will be the only toy they receive so we would like it to be a new toy.

Gift Ideas:

- **0-12 months:** rattles, teething rings, comforters, colourful/tactile things for little fingers
- **1-3 years:** wooden and soft toys, books, Duplo, shape sorters, push/pull toys, play pretend
- **3-5 years:** Playmobil, blocks, colouring books, jigsaws, play dough, farm animals
- **5-8 years:** cars, footballs, Lego sets, arts and craft sets, Pokemon cards, dolls
- **8-11 years:** craft kits, magic sets, stationary sets, K'nex, science kits
- **11-13 years:** Bags, footballs, skateboards, gift sets, board games, Lego Technic, £10 cinema vouchers, sports equipment, water bottles
- **13 - 16 years:** Toiletries, make up bags, fashion accessories and bags, gift sets, water bottles, board games, sports equipment
- Please bear in mind that some children have special needs. Sensory toys are always very popular for example colourful toys for those with hearing problems and noisy ones for those with visual impairments are encouraged.



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Toy Appeal Q&A

Q1: Can I donate second hand toys?

A1: No second hand donations. Many of our community partners cannot accept second hand toys due to health and safety reasons. Also, the quality often varies greatly. For many children, this will be the only toy they receive so we would like it to be a new toy.

Q2: Can I track how many toys have been donated from a specific company?

A2: Yes, you can use a company specific Amazon wish list and by clearly stating your company name when donating from a local retailer We can also track the value of toys donated if you set up a company specific JustGiving Page. Unfortunately, we are not able to track toys bought from the John Lewis Wishlist. Please note that we are only able to share the number of donated toys in January 2022.

Q3: I am a community organisation who would like to receive toy donations, how do I sign up?

A3: Please contact amadiora.emechete@elba-1.org.uk for more information on how to receive toy donations

Q4: Can I volunteer in the Toy Appeal grotto?

A4: We organise volunteering opportunities for work teams. This would involve sorting the toys into different age categories, and preparing toy parcels for our community partners. If you are interested to learn more, please contact smera.nadeem@elba-1.org.uk

Q5: What type of community organisations do the toys go to?

A5: We work with a wide variation of different community organisations, a few examples are women's refuges, Adventure Playgrounds, children's hospitals, schools, community centres and food banks. We always aim to reach those children who would not receive a toy during the festive season otherwise.