

Toddlers

FROM PAGE 1

She added their hand-painted farm lacing beads with easy-to-hold, chunky wooden beads are useful, too, for fine motor development.

A wooden abacus or alphabet blocks are classic possibilities Tummelson mentioned that make traditional toddler gifts. She said, "Everyone remembers playing with these toys when we were kids."

For more, call Creative Classrooms is 947-0414.

With two Traverse City locations, on Front and Union streets, Pegggers is a family-owned boutique with merchandise not only for expectant mothers, but also for babies and toddlers.

Rebecca Zipser Hoffman, buyer for the store, said the Airflow, Inc. pedal series is a favorite selection this year and the toys can be special ordered in time for Christmas.

"They are metal tricycles, airplanes, fire trucks and cars that any child would love to cruise around in," Zipser Hoffman said. "The classic red tricycle would be perfect for every generation of children or grandchildren, while the pink



Record-Eagle/Greg Undeen

Sandy Barker, owner of The Princess & the Pea in Elk Rapids, says that she expects Uglydolls (above) to be popular as a current toy choice. For the nostalgic gift buyer, Barker recommends the Peter Rabbit stuffed animals and the classic accompanying books.

plane would make any little girl beam."

Dolce rocking toys, including snails, whales, boats, ducks and the classic rocking horse, are a gift Zipser Hoffman said kids can cherish for many years. Several of the rockers have the added feature of being musical.

A favorite toddler plush toy at Pegggers now is the Cloud b Twilight Turtle, according to Zipser Hoffman, saying "His shell displays the constellations on the ceiling in several colors."

Customers who come to the store can expect to find

brightly colored toys, in general, that tend to have interactive qualities such as music, mirrors or sounds.

The telephone number for Pegggers on Front Street is 947-0499 and 933-MAMA (6262) for the Union Street location.

The ultimate test of the perfect toddler toy is, of course, the toddler ready for play.

Jodi Braund, of Traverse City, said she and her husband, Eric, do not really have to do much Christmas shopping for their 3-year-old daughter, Audrey:

"Between the grandparents and her cousins, she gets



plenty of gifts."

However, Braund said when she needs toy ideas, she talks to friends and family with children about the same age as Audrey to see what they have for their children. She also looks through catalogues and browses online.

The Web Site, www.forsmallhands.com, is one that Braund was introduced to when Audrey attended Montessori school. She explained it is a great

resource for discovery/learning toys.

At holiday time, the Braunds always try to buy Audrey a new game.

"We don't have Candy Land yet, and I have heard from other moms that it is great for kids her age," Braund said. "I also plan on making her some little bean bags. I had some when I was a kid and my brothers and I would make up so many fun games with them."

When Audrey plays,

according to her mom, she likes the basics. She has hours of fun putting on dress-up clothes every day and she is also fond of painting or coloring pictures.

"We have progressed from scribbles to a few letters and shapes," Braund described. "She (Audrey) very proudly displays them throughout the house."

Bethany Broadwell is a local freelance writer.

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Grand Traverse Pavilions holiday needs list

The gift of time is the most important gift anyone can give to the senior community of Grand Traverse Pavilions. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering, may call 932-3027 to sign up for weekly activities or personal one-on-one visits.

This past year, Grand Traverse Pavilions together with the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation provided more than \$2.5 million in benevolent care to our community. Charitable financial contributions may be made payable to the Grand Traverse Pavilions

Foundation and sent to 1000 Pavilions Circle, Traverse City, MI 49684.

In addition, here are several ideas to make the holidays extra special for the Grand Traverse Pavilions senior community. The gift tag should indicate male or female and may be wrapped and placed under the tree in The Pavilions' main lobby. Please note the contributor name(s) and address.

- Books on tape
- Bird-friendly treats
- Large-print books
- Classic VHS tapes

- Classic DVDs
- Full-Size candy bars
- Bread machines
- Classic CDs
- Large beads for crafts
- Yarn for crafts
- Ceramic crafts
- Winter gloves
- Men's After Shave
- Men's cologne
- Bird-friendly toys
- Karaoke CDs
- Hand lotions
- Bird seed
- Nail polish
- Crock pots
- Bread machines
- Winter scarves
- Department store gift cards
- Gift certificates
- Winter hats or caps
- Card games
- Board games

Visiting the elderly

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The Illinois Council on Long Term Care, a state nursing home association, offers its "Top Ten List" on how to make visits with seniors during the holidays more rewarding:

1. Listen, listen, listen. Probably the most important piece of advice is to truly listen to the words an elderly person has to say.
2. Read aloud from newspaper, magazines or church bulletins.
3. Do some holiday shopping from catalogs, if an elderly person is unable to go out shopping.
4. Listen to favorite music tapes or old-time radio shows.

5. Bring in a recipe book and plan several menus. Many seniors have a long history of holiday entertaining and would enjoy dispensing advice on what to prepare for holiday menus.
6. Organize a visit from clergy.
7. Assist with writing holiday cards or letters.
8. Bring in photo albums or other memorabilia that will elicit positive memories.
9. Consider tape-recording stories by seniors for future generations to enjoy.
10. Visitors to nursing homes can help elderly put up a Christmas tree, place decorations on walls or hang lights.



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