



## **10 online toy stores for children with special needs**

If your child has special needs it may not be so simple to purchase an appropriate toy. You generally can't walk into a Wal-Mart and pick out the item your child wants or needs. Thankfully we live in 2011 and we can hop online and start browsing the web for appropriate toys.

### **1. Ability Station** <http://abilitystation.com>

Ability station provides special toys for many different special needs and skill sets. All toys are therapist approved for a child's growth, development and fun.

### **2. Amazon** <http://amazon.com>

Amazon sells anything and everything you could possibly think of. Tucked away in a corner of Amazon is a link for 464 special needs multi sensory toys.

### **3. Different Roads to Learning** <http://difflearn.com>

Founded in 1995 by the mother of a child diagnosed with Autism, Different Roads to Learning carries over 500 products carefully selected to support the Autism Community.

### **4. eSpecial Needs** <http://especialneeds.com>

From oversized building blocks and bungee jumpers to snapwall playsets and sand and water activity tables, eSpecial Needs offers a variety of appealing active play toys for children with special needs.

### **5. Fun and Function** <http://funandfunction.com>

Fun and Function designs sensory toys and therapy equipment for individuals with special needs to help children learn adaptive responses for what they may lack or crave.

### **6. Gummy Lump** <http://gummylump.com>

Gummy Lump offers toys that make sweet memories; play food, wooden toys, pretend play & educational toys for toddlers & preschoolers!

### **7. Lakeshore Learning** <http://lakeshorelearning.com>

Lakeshore is dedicated to creating innovative educational materials that spark young imaginations, instill a sense of wonder and foster a lifelong love of learning. Although not specifically targeted towards children with special needs, a number of their products can be very useful for children with special needs.

**8. Playability Toys** <http://www.playabilitytoys.com>

PlayAbility Toys designs and develops toys for children with special needs. Toys are geared towards children with a variety of impairments.

**9. Special Needs Toys** <http://specialneedstoys.com>

Special Needs Toys offers a wide range of special needs toys, from mobile Multi-Sensory, to Swings, Trampolines and other Sensory Integration kits, Switches, rewards and small Sensory toys.

**10. Toys 'R' Us** <http://toysrus.com>

Toys 'R' Us has a complete "Differently-Abled" Kids section. Categories include Auditory, Creativity, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language, Self-Esteem, Social Skills, Tactile, Thinking and Visual

For more information about gifts and toys for children with special needs, visit the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)\* webpage at <http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/ACS/EFMP.htm> or contact the EFMP Manager, Marci Keck, at 973-724-2145 or [marci.keck@us.army.mil](mailto:marci.keck@us.army.mil).

*\*The Department of Defense EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, and educational, medical, and personnel services to Families with special/exceptional needs.*