

Trend Task: Toys

Approach: Group

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Investigating and evaluating design

Resources: 5 toys, 4 team badges, 2 pictures, 2 cards, *Working Together* team card (see p50)

Questions / instructions:

Read and explain 'Working Together' card with students.

We are going to look at some toys. Each of you will have a different toy and I will ask you some questions about your toy. Here are the questions I will be asking.

Show and read question card 1, then hand out toys – Goggle Eyes to Student 1, Wendy toy to Student 2, Stethoscope to Student 3 and Robo Insect to Student 4.

[Card 1 same as questions 1-3 below.]



[Student 1] show the others your toy (goggle eyes).

1. Who do you think might like to have this toy?

PROMPT: *Who else?*

Mentions:	Gender –	girls	0 (0)	1 (0)
		boys	11 (19)	5 (14)
		age	31 (21)	73 (70)
		specific relevant interest	40 (39)	57 (54)

2. Why might they like to have it?

3. What has the toy maker done so they might like to have it?

decorative features of toy (including colour)	31 (37)	68 (46)
	80 (73)	84 (80)
functionality		

[Student 2] show the others your toy (Wendy toy).

4. Who do you think might like to have this toy?

PROMPT: *Who else?*

Mentions:	Gender –	girls	7 (11)	6 (8)
		boys	8 (21)	9 (8)
		age	66 (66)	88 (84)
		specific relevant interest	44 (46)	51 (48)

5. Why might they like to have it?

6. What has the toy maker done so they might like to have it?

decorative features of toy (including colour)	36 (43)	68 (71)
	52 (64)	67 (61)
functionality		

[Student 3] show the others your toy (stethoscope).

7. Who do you think might like to have this toy?

PROMPT: *Who else?*

Mentions:	Gender –	girls	2 (9)	0 (4)
		boys	3 (10)	3 (8)
		age	37 (37)	77 (75)
		specific relevant interest	76 (73)	80 (77)

8. Why might they like to have it?

9. What has the toy maker done so they might like to have it?

decorative features of toy (including colour)	25 (42)	49 (28)
	59 (59)	62 (63)
functionality		

[Student 4] show the others your toy (Robo Insect).

10. Who do you think might like to have this toy?

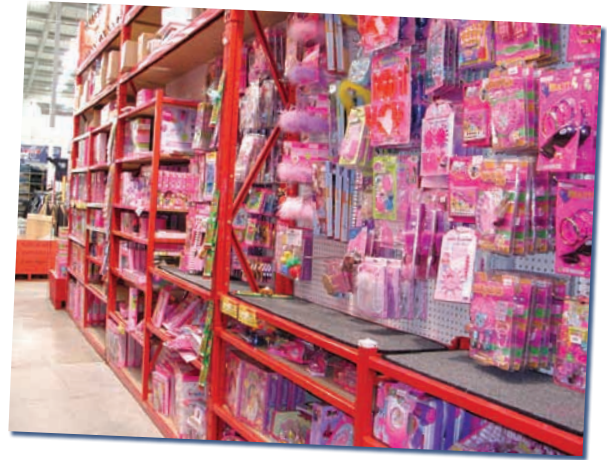
PROMPT: *Who else?*

Mentions:	Gender –	girls	0 (0)	1 (0)
		boys	21 (36)	18 (37)
		age	44 (38)	80 (85)
		specific relevant interest	30 (31)	51 (39)

11. Why might they like to have it?

12. What has the toy maker done so they might like to have it?

decorative features of toy (including colour)	34 (42)	66 (56)
	73 (82)	88 (82)
functionality		



I'm going to give you some pictures of shelves in a toy shop and a teddy bear, then as a group you will talk about the questions on this card.

Read then give students question card 2.
[Card 2 same as questions 1-4 below.]

GROUP DISCUSSION:

Hand out the pictures and the teddy bear.

Talk together for a couple of minutes and try to agree on your answer to each question. After that I'll ask you to tell me your group's answers.

Allow time.

Now tell me your group's answer to each question, starting with question 1.

Students respond.

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
1.	Why has the shop arranged its toys in this way? mentions gender	65 (77)	88 (93)
2.	Do you think it is a good idea to arrange the toys in this way? yes	89 (91)	87 (97)
	no	2 (2)	6 (0)
	no agreement	7 (3)	7 (3)
3.	Why do you think that?		
	How strongly did team argument back team choice?		
	strongly	28 (45)	47 (40)
	moderately	49 (35)	42 (48)
	weakly	23 (21)	11 (12)
4.	Where would you put the teddy bear? Why? pink aisle	35 (46)	47 (52)
	red aisle	2 (2)	3 (2)
	another place	29 (32)	36 (40)
	no clear decision	34 (20)	15 (7)
	mentions gender	38 (58)	71 (64)

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
Total score:	10-11	2 (0)	22 (19)
	9	7 (14)	21 (23)
	8	18 (27)	29 (16)
	7	14 (25)	15 (23)
	0-6	59 (34)	13 (19)

Commentary:

Substantial gains in performance from year 4 to year 8 were seen in this task asking students to discuss design features of a variety of toys. In particular, older students attended to the decorative features of the toys far more than younger students. In contrast, both groups addressed the functionality of the toys. There was a decline in performance for year 4 students, but not for year 8 students.