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Eco-educational toys that don't suck

By Jessica Harlan

Those mega-sets of Legos will outlive us all in the landfills, and the insipid voice of that talking Elmo doll is enough to drive the most even-keeled parent nuts. Luckily, there are some toys on the market that are made with sustainable materials, and will help nurture kids' creativity while encouraging them to make the world a better place. What's more, they're actually fun. What a concept! Here are some of our favorites.



Infants will go goo-goo ga-ga over this **Under the Nile Fruit Tote**. These banana, pear, watermelon and grape dolls are made of super soft 100 percent organic Egyptian cotton, tucked in an adorable striped tote basket. \$26. underthenile.com

Stimulate your **toddler's** walking skills, hand-eye coordination, color identification and stacking prowess with **Earthentree Toys' Pull-Along Train Stacker**. This vividly colored choo-choo is made from fast-growing wood and colored with natural dyes like turmeric and indigo. \$24. earthentree.com



Younger kids can build the most imaginative towers and buildings with this set of **Tree Blocks**, which includes disks, bridges and cylinders, many of which are forked or still have their bark as a reminder of the tree from which they came. Finished with flax oil, these blocks are made from managed forests and other sustainable sources. \$27.95 to \$49.95. treeblocks.com

Stockmar Modeling Beeswax will coax out the inner sculptor in **older kids**. The brilliant colors of this sweet smelling, nontoxic modeling beeswax won't bleed or smudge — just warm the pieces in your hand for a few minutes to make them pliable. \$14.99 to \$24.99. ecoartworks.com

