

Samantha's Swing and Toy Ideas

By Mary Jane Utzat

Here are some ideas for parents of SMA type I children that worked for our daughter Samantha. I do send toy packages to FSMA as often as I can, if you would like one sent to you please contact infopack@fsma.org.

Fisher Price Infant to Toddler Swing: This swing has a high back, and reclines. We happened to recline it a bit more when needed by adjusting the rope with zipties. We used an infant head rest to stabilize her head. We did not have a swing frame, so we just bought an adult swing from Lowes, and replaced it with Sam's swing.



Windchimes: very easy for her to move them and make music. Obviously be careful as kids like to put things in their mouths. Use Links to link them low enough to reach. Would also let her hold a small balloon on a stick, and she would make the windchimes move and play music with that as well.

Links: great to link things low enough to tug on. Also used to put them in her mouth as teethingers, as regular teethingers were too heavy.

Balloons: Very light and easy for our kids. We would let Sam "Bonk" our heads with the balloons and make a big deal. Big butterfly helium balloons, and other characters were fun for her. We would also lie her on the changing table part of her pack and play, and hang things down from the mobile of the pack and play. She would then hit the windchimes and pull toys hanging down somewhat next to her on the pack and play with her balloon on a stick.

Mirrors: Kids love mirrors. In her crib, we had a crib mirror with light things she could pull. On her changing table there was a mirror with an animal that would run around it with music. In her Radioflyer Red Wagon, which we dressed up for her to lie in and be pulled around, there was a mirror that played music everytime it went over a bump. Also clipped a beach umbrella to this so the sun was not in her eyes, pillows and blankets underneath for comfort. Of course windchimes hanging down. And light toys in her hands. Always occupied. FSMA will send a wagon out to a family if requested.

Playmat: this was used daily. I just replaced some of the hanging toys that came with the store playmat with our own toys (plastic slinky, pull toys, windchimes, rows of links). Small mirror on top of playmat. playmat placed along side television, so she could watch cartoons as well. This helped me empty the dishwasher or fold laundry while she entertained herself for a few minutes. If her arms were elevated on rolled up receiving blankets, and her head elevated slightly, she could reach things better.

Cat toys: small light balls with slits in them, and a rattle ball inside were light enough for her to play with. Again becareful, choking hazard. NO CATNIP!!

Feathers: We would let her tickle our faces and make a big deal.

Spoons: Baby plastic spoons were light enough for her to bring to her mouth.

Binkies: The ones with the wide rims were easier for her to hold and manipulate. Binkie holders/clips very important.

Flags: The little miniature flags were light enough for her to swing around. Caution - may poke something.

Symphony in Motion Mobile: This mobile swooped down. I would elevate her head a bit on a blanket, and elevate her arms on rolled up receiving blankets, and she would be able to grab the animals as they swooped by her. This can be found online with Toys R Us. Sometimes would need help grabbing the animals.

Empty Lotion Bottles: I would place her empty lotion bottles next to her on the changing table. When I turned around, she would push them off. I would then turn back around and pretend to be angry. She would smile, and sometimes giggle, and get a kick out of this. Also, always loved the stinky feet game.

Sing Along Sesame Video/Dancing: This video was sent to me from a package also sent through FSMA. Sam loved this, and we watched it every day. I would pick her up, of course supporting head and body, and sing and dance around the room. Sometimes, she would hold her big butterfly balloon, and watch it bounce around as we danced.

Big fluffy King Pillow: As she got bigger, and floppier, it became more difficult to hold her and support her properly. We would then place her on her pillows, and use that to carry her, or rock her on my lap, and so forth.

Rainforest Bouncy Seat: This was the only bouncy I found sensitive enough for Sam to manipulate. When she pulled the animals that hung down, the bouncy would make music and the animals would move around. I did have to add links in order for her to reach the animals to pull. I would bring this in to the bathroom every morning during my showers, and I could then hear her playing music on her bouncy. You could probably find at thi item at Toys R Us online or Target online