The LEGO Group
A short presentation
Based on the iconic LEGO® brick, the LEGO Group is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of play materials with headquarters in Billund, Denmark, and main offices in Enfield (USA), London (UK), Shanghai (China), and Singapore.

This booklet provides highlights on how we set out to achieve our mission to inspire and develop the builders of tomorrow through creative play and learning.

"We feel a huge sense of responsibility to make a difference for children by providing quality products and experiences that stimulate fun and learning."

— Thomas Kirk Kristiansen, fourth generation representative of the LEGO Group owner family.
Children are our role models

We think of children as our role models, and we believe they deserve only the best. Ever since the LEGO Group was founded in 1932, our focus has always been on providing fun and engaging play materials of the highest quality and safety for children.

Through LEGO® play experiences, we want to create opportunities for children to reach their potential. All LEGO play experiences are based on the underlying philosophy of learning and development through play, and the LEGO System in Play enables us to constantly innovate to provide children with play experiences that encourage them to problem-solve, discover, and be creative.

Our core values – Imagination, Creativity, Fun, Learning, Caring, and Quality – are important to us not only because they define who we are as a company and what we stand for but also because they guide us in our work towards our ambition of enabling future generations to build a better world.

“ Our mission at the LEGO Group is to inspire and develop the builders of tomorrow.”
Play is associated with a range of benefits, not only for the child but for the parent, and the family unit as a whole.

- **Child benefits**: Play helps their child to learn how to socialise with others (93%)
- **Parent benefits**: Play builds stronger family bonds (95%)
- **Family benefits**: Play facilitates better family communication (95%)
- **Benefits for me**: Play allows them to relax and switch off after school (87%)
- **Other benefits**: They learn better when it feels like play (83%)
- **Play helps them get to know their child better (94%)
- **Play is essential for their child’s wellbeing (95%)
- **Play is essential for their development (95%)
- **Children say**: They feel happy when they play with their parents (93%)
- **Parents say**: Play is good for their own wellbeing (91%)
- **Benefits for me**: Play allows them to relax and switch off after school (87%)

*LEGO Play Well Report, 2018
Ownership structure

The LEGO Group is 75 percent owned by the third and fourth generations of the Kirk Kristiansen founding family, Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen and his three children, through their holding and investment company KIRKBI A/S. The remaining 25 percent is owned by the LEGO Foundation.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/Aboutus

The LEGO Foundation

From South Africa to Ukraine, the LEGO Foundation aims to make children’s lives better – and communities stronger – by building a future where learning through play empowers children to become creative, engaged, lifelong learners.

There is an increased global attention on the need for children to develop stronger life skills, including critical thinking, creativity, and social skills, but there is only limited understanding of the power of play and of how to make play an integrated part of learning. The power of play is therefore not exploited to its full potential.

The LEGO Foundation has established three focus areas: Early Childhood, Education, and Communities in South Africa, Mexico and Denmark. The LEGO Foundation’s objective is to ensure that the fundamental value of play is clearly understood, and that play-based learning becomes a reality for children all over the world.

The Foundation partners with e.g. organisations, academic institutions, school systems and governments who already work within the field of play and quality early childhood education to achieve strong, sustained impact.

The LEGO Foundation activities are funded through its 25% ownership of the LEGO Group.

Learn more: www.LEGOFoundation.com

LEGÖ® Education

LEGÖ® Education offers playful learning experiences and teaching solutions based on the LEGÖ brick, curriculum-relevant material, and physical and digital resources for preschool, elementary, and middle school.

For more than 35 years, LEGÖ Education has partnered with educators to support teaching in an inspiring, engaging, and effective way. LEGÖ Education’s educational solutions range from the humanities to science, and enable every student to succeed by encouraging them to become active, collaborative learners, build skills for future challenges, and establish a positive mind-set toward learning.

Learn more: www.LEGOEducation.com

LEGÖ Education takes the pursuit of hands-on learning very seriously. It does this in conjunction with educators who play a critical role encouraging students’ budding interest during the span of their academic careers in school and in after-school programmes, such as FIRST® LEGÖ® League and World Robotics Olympiad.
Play experiences for every child

Being committed to bringing high-quality LEGO® play experiences to millions of children around the world, we are focused on providing a product range that reflects the individual needs and interests of every child.
LEGO® products are challenge-graduated to reflect the fact that children grow older and develop. Most of our products include building instructions to provide inspiration and ensure that children experience different building techniques and challenges suitable for their age and skills.

Theme-based LEGO products provide storytelling settings that children can immerse themselves into and further shape their own stories around – be it LEGO owned themes or themes based on licensed products.

Digital platforms open up a world of possibilities for seamlessly merging physical and digital play. LEGO experiences such as online gaming, videogames, console games, Apps, TV series, and movies are all great means to do this.

From curious small hands to exciting role-play and advanced building challenges over to engaging digital and educational exploration, we seek to provide a product assortment broad enough to appeal to every child.

**LEGO® play experiences enable learning through play by encouraging children to reason systematically and think creatively. They offer endless hours of engagement, as all LEGO bricks are based on the LEGO System in Play, which allows children to build anything they can imagine – over and over again.**

**Only the imagination sets the limit to what you can build.**
Highlight of LEGO® products

**LEGO® Themes**
- LEGO® DUPLO® (1½-5)
- LEGO® Classic (4-99+)
- LEGO® Creator 3in1 (6+)
- LEGO® City (5+)
- LEGO® NINJAGO® (5+)
- LEGO® Friends (5-12+)

**LEGO® Advanced**
- LEGO® Technic (7+)
- LEGO® Architecture (12+)
- LEGO® Creator Expert (16+)
- LEGO® BOOST (7+)
- LEGO® MINDSTORMS® (10+)

**LEGO® Education**
- LEGO® Education STEAM Park (3+)
- LEGO® Education Early Simple Machines (5+)
- LEGO® Education Simple Machines (7+)
- LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0 (7+)
- LEGO® Education Simple & Powered Machines (8+)
- LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 (10+)

For a full overview of LEGO® products, please visit: [www.LEGO.com/Products](http://www.LEGO.com/Products)
Innovation and production

We want to continue creating new opportunities for children to reach their potential by learning through play. We constantly innovate to provide children with high-quality and safe products that encourage them to problem-solve, collaborate, discover, and imagine.

Did you know that there are 915,103,765 ways to combine six 2x4 LEGO® bricks of the same colour?
Quality and safety above all else

It is essential that children can enjoy safe and high-quality LEGO® play experiences. Therefore, we invest in quality and safety by working closely with designers to ensure new elements and products are tested thoroughly in anticipation of how a child may play with our products. Each LEGO element and all LEGO products adhere to the strictest global safety and quality standards, and our meticulous approach to product quality and safety has ensured us zero product recalls since 2009.

Our world-class accomplishments in making safe products enable us to play a central role in major associations promoting and regulating toy safety in the world, including the European (CEN) and International (ISO) Toy Safety Standardisation Committees. We also contribute to the work of the ASTM International Toy Safety Committee, which shapes standards in the USA, and the Chinese National Technical Committee for Standardisation for Toys.

All our production facilities adhere to the same strict safety and quality regulations, and the methods used to produce LEGO® elements are standardised across our factories. This ensures consistent high quality across all LEGO elements regardless of which of the five LEGO factories they are manufactured at.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/Responsibility
The moulds used to produce LEGO® elements are accurate to within five microns (= 0.005 mm) – less than the width of a single hair. This accuracy ensures what we refer to as clutch power.

Approximate no. of LEGO® elements sold per year:

70 billion
– in more than 130 countries

Product recalls since 2009:

0

During the moulding process, the plastic is heated to 230-310°C before injected into the moulds with a pressure of up to 29,000 psi. In comparison, a car’s tyre pressure is 29 to 43 psi. On average, it takes

Key figures & production fun facts

No. of different colours used in production: 60+

No. of different types of LEGO® shapes: 3,400+

Employees: 17,000+

More than 130 LEGO® Brand Retail Stores worldwide

Company timeline

Through almost a century, the LEGO Group has grown from being a small local company into being one of the world’s leading suppliers of creative play and learning materials. Here is a timeline summing up a family belief in an idea, the meaning and substance of the LEGO® name and brand, and our most iconic historical events.
Master carpenter and joiner, Ole Kirk Kristiansen, starts making wooden toys. As a skilled carpenter, he pursues high quality and craftsmanship in everything he does.

1946 Ole Kirk Kristiansen orders his first plastic injection moulding machine from Great Britain.

1949 Ole Kirk Kristiansen sees potential in plastic bricks and tries to convince his sons: “Have you no faith? Can’t you see if we do this right, we can sell these bricks all over the world?”

1949 The forerunner of the LEGO® bricks we know today, is launched under the name “Automatic Binding Bricks”.

1953 Automatic Binding Bricks change name to LEGO® Muntzen (LEGO Bricks). The name “LEGO” is now moulded on every brick.

1955 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen launches the LEGO® System in Play as a structured system of products – the more bricks you have, the more you can build. “Our idea has been to create a toy that prepares the child for life – appealing to its imagination and developing the creative urge and joy of creation that are the driving forces in every human being.”

1930s

1932 Master carpenter and joiner, Ole Kirk Kristiansen, starts making wooden toys. As a skilled carpenter, he pursues high quality and craftsmanship in everything he does.

1934 Combining the two Danish words “Leg Godt,” meaning “Play Well,” Ole Kirk Kristiansen names his company LEGO® – unaware that this word in Latin means “I put together.” As an alternative, he considered LEGIO (= legions) but opted finally for the name that embodies good quality play and commitment towards children’s development through play.

1934 Combining the two Danish words “Leg Godt,” meaning “Play Well,” Ole Kirk Kristiansen names his company LEGO® – unaware that this word in Latin means “I put together.” As an alternative, he considered LEGIO (= legions) but opted finally for the name that embodies good quality play and commitment towards children’s development through play.

1937 Ole Kirk Kristiansen’s son, Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, begins designing wooden toys at the age of 17.

1934 Combining the two Danish words “Leg Godt,” meaning “Play Well,” Ole Kirk Kristiansen names his company LEGO® – unaware that this word in Latin means “I put together.” As an alternative, he considered LEGIO (= legions) but opted finally for the name that embodies good quality play and commitment towards children’s development through play.

1934 Combining the two Danish words “Leg Godt,” meaning “Play Well,” Ole Kirk Kristiansen names his company LEGO® – unaware that this word in Latin means “I put together.” As an alternative, he considered LEGIO (= legions) but opted finally for the name that embodies good quality play and commitment towards children’s development through play.

1937 Ole Kirk Kristiansen’s son, Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, begins designing wooden toys at the age of 17.

LEGOLegion

1955 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen launches the LEGO® System in Play as a structured system of products – the more bricks you have, the more you can build. “Our idea has been to create a toy that prepares the child for life – appealing to its imagination and developing the creative urges and joy of creation that are the driving forces in every human being.”

1949 Ole Kirk Kristiansen sees potential in plastic bricks and tries to convince his sons: “Have you no faith? Can’t you see if we do this right, we can sell these bricks all over the world?”

1949 The forerunner of the LEGO® bricks we know today, is launched under the name “Automatic Binding Bricks”.

1953 Automatic Binding Bricks change name to LEGO® Muntzen (LEGO Bricks). The name “LEGO” is now moulded on every brick.

1955 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen launches the LEGO® System in Play as a structured system of products – the more bricks you have, the more you can build. “Our idea has been to create a toy that prepares the child for life – appealing to its imagination and developing the creative urges and joy of creation that are the driving forces in every human being.”
1957 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen takes over the day to day management from his father. He sees himself as a manufacturer: “We want only the best ... we must make better bricks from even better material on even better machinery. We must get the best people for our company.”

1958 The LEGO® brick is patented with a new coupling principle, the one we know today, opening up to endless building possibilities

1959 LEGO® DUPLO® bricks – twice the size of a LEGO brick on all dimensions, is launched globally for the youngest children

1960 A fire destroys the company’s wooden toy warehouse and the production of wooden toys is discontinued

1962 The LEGO® wheel is launched, introducing movement to the LEGO System in Play

1963 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen announces the 10 LEGO® characteristics:
1. Unlimited play possibilities
2. For girls, for boys
3. Enthusiasm at all ages
4. Play all year round
5. Stimulating and harmonious play
6. Endless hours of play
7. Imagination, creativity, development
8. More LEGO, greater play value
9. Always topical
10. Safety and quality

1963 The first LEGO® building instruction is introduced

1969 The LEGO® DUPLO® bricks are launched, bringing role-play to LEGO play

1970s

1972 LEGO® Technic is launched – challenging older children to build like in real life

1973 Godtfred Kirk Christiansen becomes CEO of the LEGO Group. Being the first within the owner family to hold a formal business degree, he brings new ideas and renewed energy into the company and has one primary focus: children and their development. “Our products must exist on children’s own terms. To put it simply: what the future LEGO products do in the heads of tomorrow’s children is important.”

1978 The LEGO® minifigure is launched, bringing role-play to LEGO play

1979 Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen becomes CEO of the LEGO Group. Being the first within the owner family to hold a formal business degree, he brings new ideas and renewed energy into the company and has one primary focus: children and their development.

1980 The LEGO Group establishes a department to develop educational material based on the belief that LEGO® products are more than a toy. Today LEGO® Education works with educational systems throughout the world

1984 The LEGO Group initiates a visionary partnership with MIT Media Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) USA – the goal being to add intelligence and behaviour to LEGO® play

1986 www.LEGO.com goes live on March 22nd

1989 The LEGO® Pirates theme is launched. The pirate minifigures are the first to have multiple facial expressions

1996 The LEGO Group and MIT Media Lab launch LEGO® MINDSTORMS®: an intelligent LEGO brick integrating robot technology and the LEGO building system

1998 The LEGO Group and MIT Media Lab launch LEGO® MINDSTORMS®: an intelligent LEGO brick integrating robot technology and the LEGO building system

1999 The LEGO® brick is elected “Toy of the Century”
Did you know that LEGO® bricks produced since 1958 are fully compatible with LEGO bricks produced today?

Building a better tomorrow

As a family-owned company with a long-term mission, the LEGO Group is uniquely placed to deliver a positive impact on children, society and the planet.
Our mission is to ‘inspire and develop the builders of tomorrow’. It is this focus on future generations that drives our responsibility efforts.

For children, it means creating new opportunities to reach their potential by learning through play. Our physical products adhere to the strictest global safety and quality standards, and our digital experiences support safe and playful learning. Through our products and the joint activities of the LEGO Group, the LEGO Foundation and LEGO® Education, we support the development of children all over the world. Together with global strategic partners, we work to ensure our activities are respectful of children and to encourage and inspire other businesses to respect children's rights.

We work in a sustainable manner to ensure we reduce our impact on the planet through improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, and our goal of balancing 100% of our energy consumption with production of renewable energy by 2020 and beyond. We will also continue to invest in research to meet our ambitious goal of using only sustainable materials in our core products and packaging by 2030.

We support society and the communities where we are present. This is reflected in our work with our partners to engage children in activities through our Local Community Engagement programme for the benefit of children and their families. The culture of the LEGO Group is defined by caring for employees, and safety is a key priority which we will never compromise. We strive to operate ethically and transparently, and to uphold human rights.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/Responsibility
Did you know that the LEGO Group signed the United Nations Global Compact in 2003 as the first company in the toy industry? We are committed to embrace, support and enact United Nations’ directions within the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

It is important to the LEGO Group to have close contact with our fans and consumers throughout the world and to this end, we engage in many initiatives to strengthen ties between LEGO® enthusiasts and us.
LEGO.com

LEGO.com is the official website of the LEGO Group for LEGO® fans of all ages to play and learn about our values, products and experiences.

Ultimately, the site aims to connect consumers with the LEGO brick and bring them closer to our brand, empowering creative play through online storytelling and LEGO play experiences. It encourages children to share their own creations through activities that celebrate their imagination and the endless possibilities of the LEGO System in Play.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com

LEGO® Life

LEGO® Life is a social platform targeted towards children under the age of 13. Launched by the LEGO Group in January 2017, LEGO Life is a social, personal, and creative experience that extends play through an evolving community of inspiration while adhering to the highest standards for child safety online. LEGO Life is available as a digital App for both mobile and tablet, and it provides children with a platform where they can express their creativity, share their LEGO creations, interact with LEGO characters, and inspire one another.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/Life
LEGO® adult fan communities

LEGO® User Groups (LUGs) act as forums where adult LEGO enthusiasts can share their hobby amongst each other. The groups have their own websites, blogs and discussion forums, and many meet face-to-face on a regular basis. There are over 340 recognised LUGs worldwide with more than 500,000 registered members; these fans are referred to as AFOLs (Adult Fans of LEGO).

Through the LEGO Ambassador Network (LAN), the LEGO Group and AFOLs build mutually beneficial relations around activities such as events, public exhibitions and review of new LEGO products. AFOLs are also invited to take active part in product suggestion and selection on the LEGO Ideas crowdsourcing platform.

Learn more: https://LAN.LEGO.com

LEGO® Social Media

Through close dialogue and engagement on social media, we strive to create value for consumers. Listening to our consumers is a key contributor to our success, and social platforms allow us to connect meaningfully with our many fans across borders.

Connect with us on: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, Weibo, LEGO Life and via the LEGO® TV App.
Did you know that your brain is making use of the most critical skills for learning when playing with LEGO® bricks? Even when you build and rebuild with just a few bricks you stimulate more than 20 skills, supporting competences such as problem solving, creativity, empathy, communication and collaboration.

Explore LEGO® play

It is essential for us to provide a broad variety of fun and engaging LEGO® play experiences, for children and adults to interact with and explore, and to celebrate and discuss with our fans the many great moments LEGO play offers.
Parents say construction toys such as LEGO® bricks...

Parents quotes

"Children have to, in the first place, have confidence in themselves to be able to communicate with others, and to achieve success in life. Because with confidence comes communication, interaction with others, sharing, and making decisions."

Parent, United Kingdom

"Creativity will help in every single life situation, making children more adaptable to life’s challenges."

Parent, United Kingdom

"Playtime is a moment of sharing laughter, pleasure and exchanges."

Parent, France

"Quality play means the play that helps my child’s mental and psychological growth, encourages self-esteem and builds confidence."

Parent, Saudi Arabia

"Curiosity and creativity are important for children to learn new knowledge. This is very important as it is the motivation to explore new knowledge."

Parent, China

"Children inherently have the urge to curiously question and explore things. If you promote play, they will later find it easier to acquire or develop such life skills."

Parent, Germany

"We are still not good enough at accommodating or acknowledging the child that thinks creatively. But, we are super good at rewarding the academically strong child."

Parent, Denmark
LEGO® Build the Change

LEGO® Build the Change is a global non-profit event-based concept operated by the LEGO Group. Build the Change has existed since 2007 and falls under the LEGO Group's Local Community Engagement programme. It is a hands-on minds-on concept under constant development, accommodating children's interests and engagement, and it seeks to inspire children to express their vision and dreams of a better tomorrow using LEGO bricks.

The events are always topic specific with outset in surroundings children can relate to — be it their school, city or local community. The concept is equally relevant for LEGO Group activities and activities by external partners who seek to give children a voice and involve them in their thoughts and plans about the future.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/BuildtheChange

LEGO® Inside Tour

Each year LEGO® enthusiasts have the opportunity to join the exclusive LEGO Inside Tour. During the tour, fans learn about the company history, culture and values; go on a factory tour; meet LEGO employees from different business areas; and enjoy building competitions with LEGO designers.

At the end of the tour, participants receive a unique gift produced in close cooperation with LEGO Group owner Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen.

Learn more: www.LEGO.com/Aboutus
**FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST® LEGO® League Jr.**

**FIRST® LEGO® League** is an annual team-based programme introducing children aged 9 to 16 to the fun and excitement of STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The programme was established in 1998 as a collaboration between LEGO Education and the American non-profit organisation FIRST®.

Each year, an annual challenge is announced to engage teams in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design using LEGO MINDSTORMS®. In **FIRST® LEGO® League**, there is also a strong emphasis on a set of fundamental core values – emphasising the importance of friendly competition and mutual gain – as well as developing 21st century skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking.

In 2004, **FIRST® LEGO® League Jr.** was established to capture the curiosity of younger children aged 6 to 10 to engage them in the wonders of science and technology. Children design, build, programme, test, and present LEGO models based on real-world challenges, and incorporate movement into their creations by using LEGO Education WeDo 2.0. **FIRST® LEGO® League Jr.** engages more than 68,000 children in over 30 countries.

Learn more: [www.FIRSTLEGOleague.org](http://www.FIRSTLEGOleague.org) and [www.FIRSTLEGOleaguejr.org](http://www.FIRSTLEGOleaguejr.org)

---

**LEGÖ® Brand Retail Stores**

Through our more than 130 LEGO® Brand Retail Stores in 10 countries, we bring LEGO play to life through an interactive and vibrant shopping experience designed just for children.

Upon entering a LEGO Brand Retail Store, visitors are invited to interact with LEGO play experiences: from building personalised LEGO Minifigures to selecting specific bricks in the Pick & Build wall over to watching a LEGO product come to life through the LEGO Digital Box. Other than offering the biggest assortment of LEGO products in one place, play areas to unlock one’s creativity, and expert building tips from store associates, LEGO Brand Retail Stores also run monthly in-store activities.

Learn more: [www.LEGO.com/Stores](http://www.LEGO.com/Stores)
LEGO® House

In September 2017, a new experience house, LEGO® House – Home of the Brick, opened in Billund, Denmark. It allows fans of all ages to discover the LEGO Group’s history and values and be inspired by the LEGO brick’s endless play and learning possibilities. Six different experience zones, three restaurants, and a state of the art LEGO Brand Retail Store invite guests to interact, build and play in a breathtaking setting.

Learn more: www.LEGOHouse.com

Using the LEGO® brand

- ALWAYS write the LEGO brand name in capital letters.
- ALWAYS use a descriptive noun after the LEGO brand name, it must never appear on its own.
  - E.g. wrong use: I play with LEGO.
  - E.g. correct use: I play with LEGO bricks.
- ALWAYS accompany the LEGO brand name by the Registered symbol ® in headlines and the first time it appears in copy text.
  - E.g. wrong use: LEGO’s, LEGOs, LEGO-bricks.
  - E.g. correct use: the LEGO brand’s, LEGO bricks.
- NEVER use the Registered symbol ® in connection with a company name.
  - E.g. wrong use: LEGO® System A/S.
  - E.g. correct use: LEGO System A/S.
- NEVER change or adjust the graphical design of the LEGO logo.

Thank you for helping us protect the LEGO® brand!

Produced for the LEGO Group by Corporate Brand Communications. © 2018 The LEGO Group.

LEGO, the LEGO logo, the Minifigure, DUPLO, the FRIENDS logo, the MINIFIGURES logo, MINDSTORMS, NINJAGO and LEGOLAND are trademarks of the LEGO Group. © 2018 the LEGO Group. All rights reserved.

THE LEGO MOVIE™ & © The LEGO Group & Warner Bros Entertainment Inc.

LEGOLAND® Parks

LEGOLAND® Parks are family parks presenting exciting worlds of adventures inspired by the creativity and endless opportunities of the LEGO® brick and fun LEGO play themes. The LEGO Group sold its four LEGOLAND Parks in 2005 to Merlin Entertainments Group*, which has continued to invest in these and new parks around the world.

Merlin Entertainments Group has also developed a second LEGO based attraction – LEGOLAND Discovery Centres: small indoor versions of the LEGOLAND Parks featuring models and activities around the LEGO play experience.

*KIRKBI A/S (owning 75% of the LEGO Group) owns 29.7% of Merlin Entertainments Group.

Learn more: www.LEGOLAND.com and www.LEGOLANDdiscoverycenter.com

The LEGO House represents 21 LEGO bricks built on top of one another. At the very top, the Masterpiece Gallery is situated, shaped to resemble and be a tribute to the classic 2x4 LEGO brick.
Learn more about the LEGO Group and LEGO Group activities at www.LEGO.com/Aboutus