



**QUESTION:** What size t-ball bat or brand do you recommend?

**ANSWER:**

Great question! Frankly, at this stage you have some flexibility, we are most concerned for the littles to have tons of fun! That's the priority.

As far as key requirements, look for one marked "USA Baseball". This starts you with a bat that's properly calibrated. Little League mandates this one. And it must have a Bat Performance Factor of 1.20 (it will be printed on the barrel, BPF 1.20). Also, in your case, I did cross check my Little League Rule Book, for T-Ball, look for wording "ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TBALLS" and then you're completely set - you will know that the bat you're holding is a Little League Certified bat.

Length is important. Most t-batters are in the 24-25-26" range (always subject to the size of the child of course, but max 26", again according to Little League Rule Book). An easy "rule of thumb" test for length is to stand the bat next to your youngster, and if he or she can reach it such that the knob is middle of hand, good. Ought to be around his or her hip, but not as high as the waist.

Weight will be a fall out of length, just be sure he/she can swing it comfortably, easier to help develop good mechanics if not too heavy at this stage.

Here's a word you'll want to know: drop. Drop is just length minus weight. So, a 26" bat that is Drop 10 weighs 16 ozs. A t-ball bat ought to be at least drop 10, or more than that if too heavy for your youngster. I remember years ago my boy played with Drop 11s, Drop 12s, Drop 13s. You'll just have to let them try it.

Brands - wow, well, there are plenty to choose from. My son Elijah has always been an Easton man, but lately has been drooling over a new Demarini he's seen at various bullpens and camps. I grew up swinging Louisville Sluggers and Adirondacks (Adirondack is Rawlings, also the maker of my preferred gloves as a kid), but that was also when everything was wood too! We'd break them and then tape, glue, and nail them back together, haha! Different times, now they all swing aluminum or composites.

Anyway, Louisville Slugger and Rawlings are still classic, rock solid baseball brands. So honestly, it just comes down to preference or recommendations from others you trust, from my POV, any of these would be fantastic. You can also certainly go less expensive at this point, off-brand, they're not going to use this bat for many years. As long as you meet the performance requirements and he/she can swing it normally, you're set to go. It's really up to you. If you want my recommendation, I'd lean toward one of the bat brands above.

Hopefully this will help you. Locally, Dicks Sporting Goods, Dunhams, or Play It Again Sports have plenty to choose from.

Best to you and yours,

GO PCLL!

Jeff Holt,  
President, PCLL