

MOM'S JOY ROOM

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

2964 Fairmont Road • Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 • (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & APPRAISAL

Toddler Thumbelina

Ideal Toy Corporation, © 1968 • Original Display Box & Walker • Working Pull-String Action

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$100 – \$200

Reflects the original 1968 display box and the walker accessory, the two things collectors most want with this doll.



In her original 1968 Ideal display box — "I turn and toddle in my little walker"

History & Background

The Thumbelina doll was one of the Ideal Toy Corporation's most inventive baby dolls of the 1960s.

She was designed to move: a pull string at her back made her wiggle and squirm in a lifelike way, so that a child could hold a doll that seemed almost alive. Ideal sold her by the million and built a whole family around the idea — newborn, toddler, and sister versions, each with her own wardrobe of costumes and play accessories, and each promising a small miracle of motion inside a soft cloth body.

The Toddler Thumbelina of 1968 was the version made to stand and toddle, and this example carries everything she came with. She wears her pink bonnet with white trim, her pink dress with puff sleeves, and her white bib with its little red star, and she has blonde hair and her sweet painted face beneath. Beside her stands her original white plastic walker with its pink-and-white wheels — the accessory the box promises in its own words: "I turn and toddle in my little walker." The pull string at her back works as it should, so she still wriggles today exactly as she did for a child in 1968.

What lifts this doll above most of her sisters is the box. The bright orange 1968 Ideal display box, printed with its flowers and its "Pull My String" arrows, is the piece most often lost to time — children played, and boxes went to the attic or the trash. A doll who still lives in her original box, with her walker beside her, tells the whole story of Christmas 1968 at a glance. She joined the Mom's Joy Room collection in October 2026.

Notable Information

- ◆ Maker: Ideal Toy Corporation; Toddler Thumbelina, © 1968 (per box marking)
- ◆ Action: working pull-string mechanism in the cloth body — "Pull My String"
- ◆ Accessories: original white plastic walker with pink-and-white wheels, included with the doll
- ◆ Costume: pink bonnet with white trim, pink puff-sleeve dress, white bib with red star, white undergarments
- ◆ Features: blonde hair, painted face, soft cloth body with vinyl head and limbs
- ◆ Packaging: original orange Ideal display box with cutout window, flower graphics, and "I turn and toddle in my little walker" text
- ◆ Condition: doll clean and complete; box intact and displayable with honest age-appropriate wear
- ◆ Joined the collection: October 2026

Collector's Notes

A loose working Toddler Thumbelina is a modest doll; the same doll with her original box and walker is the complete 1968 playset, and that is what collectors pay for. The walker and the box each carry a share of the value, so both should be displayed together and stored out of sunlight. The pull string should be drawn gently and never yanked. Comparable boxed Thumbelinas with their walkers retail around \$95 and up, with especially crisp examples bringing more.

*"Pull my string, and fifty-eight years fall away — she still toddles like it's
Christmas morning, 1968."*

Mom's Joy Room
2964 Fairmont Road
Morgantown, WV 26501

Sandy Wade
PROPRIETOR
October 17, 2026