

## unscientific &amp; unofficial



## GUIDE

That's right, parents, our annual Toy Guide is back once again to guide you through holiday gift confusion. On each page, you'll find the top picks from our staff and our excellent toy testers. We reviewed a variety of toys this year, and the favorites are separated into four categories—Baby, Toddler, Youth and Teens and Tweens.

So, if you're looking for the best child-tested, child-approved toys for the upcoming holiday season, look no further—the **Toy Guide** is here!



# BABY

2011 Cover Kid,  
Lasynn K.



## 1 Elefun

A brightly colored elephant that launches balls from its trunk will surely please your excitable baby. Drop the balls into Elefun's ears and wait for the fun. You can listen to the energetic tunes as your child plays with their new friend.



## 2 Sesame Street Figures

Your child's favorite Sesame Street characters make great gifts. They are perfect for toting around as they are just the right size to fit in your little one's hand. Comes in six colorful characters including Cookie Monster and Zoey.



## 3 Kitty Crayons

These non-toxic crayons are made with only natural ingredients. They are bulky and round, making them easy for a little one to hold and get acquainted with her creative side. The fun shape and bright colors will definitely prompt some early masterpieces.



## 4 Lazoo Stuffed Figures

Lazoo offers a cast of characters, including a ballerina, giraffe, zebra, lion and monkey. All characters are featured in their colorful and whimsical books. Prompt your child's imagination early with their fun plush figures.



## 5 Stacker

This set of eight stackable nesting pieces will make playtime fun. They are durable, eco-friendly and safe—just in case a piece ends up in your baby's mouth. Developmentally appropriate and colorful, this gift will help with her hand-eye coordination.



## 6 BuckleyPanda

This soft panda is great for cuddling and when you shake it—it makes a pleasant jingle sound. As your baby develops, he can match the brightly colored ribbons and practice his fine motor skills with the five buckles. BuckleyBoo developmental toys are co-created by a child psychologist.



## 7 Blooming Blooms

This cutesy toy is a rattle that entertains your baby. On one side, your baby can see herself in the mirror and the other side is a smiling flower friend. This is a gift for those who are at least six months old.



## 8 Organic Stuffed Lion

Made out of all natural, organic cotton, this plush lion is cuddly enough to become your child's favorite comfort toy and tough enough for playing peek-a-boo. Its soft feel and organic materials won't harm a baby's delicate skin.



## 9 Twist Teether

This twisty little teether is safe for babies. It's made out of soothing colors and soft enough for those baby gums. Colorful tabs decorate the twisting figure so it makes a great toy as well. A great dual-purpose baby accessory for any new mom.



## 10 Block Set

These easy-to-grasp blocks are for ages six months and older. They are eco-friendly and safe for your baby. 18 stackable blocks come in a pack along with some half, double, triangle blocks and even some bridges. Blocks are easy to clean and store.



## 11 WhirlyGig

This clutching toy is complete with all of the primary colors for young ones to learn. It jingles and of course, whirls. Each colorful circle spins to delight your little one. He will surely love this little interactive gizmo.



## 12 Zoobies

Pandas, monkeys and hippos—oh my! Soft and cozy, these products are pillows, blankets and pals. The blanket can be stowed inside and the pet can be unfolded and used as a pillow.



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## 1 Superfly Cape

Every child can feel like a hero in these make-your own superhero capes. Choose from a variety of emblems, colors and sizes with enough choices to be a different hero every day of the week. Available at [www.powercap.es.com](http://www.powercap.es.com).

## 2 Putumayo Coloring and Sticker Books

Introduce your children to various countries with this fun, new series from Putumayo. The coloring books feature the countries of Africa, Europe and Latin America and include 20 oversized pages showing animals, instruments and cultures.

## 3 Silly Zoo Design N Doodle

Whether your child enjoys cars, animals, an incredible eye for fashion or even SpongeBob SquarePants they will enjoy these portable creation sets. Each set offers dry-erase and magnetic options to practice writing, draw or color magnets.

## 4 My Little Pony Pinkie Pie Racecar

Pinkie Pie is at the wheel and ready for a fun-filled cruise. This stylish violet coupe features an easy-to-use two button remote that puts girls in control of the adventure. The car drives forward and skins around while playing familiar tunes.

## 5 Berenstain Bears Game

As players move their bears or draw a card, Mama, Papa, Brother and Sister bear come to life. Each card tells players of a nice behavior or one that will lead to trouble. Great way to teach manners and have fun at the same time.

## 6 Playtime Puppy book

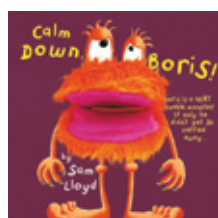
This book follows the adventure of a puppy trying to learn how to be a grown up dog. Includes a soft puppet attached to the book.



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2011 Cover Kid, Carson W.



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## 7 Bubber Bucker

Bubber makes it seem like you are actually sculpting a cloud. The substance is lightweight and pleasant-to-touch, allowing children to mold just about anything. Carve it and see the clean sharp lines and amazing imprints. Boost your child's creativity and dig in to 5 ounces of Bubber.

## 8 CAT Machines

Get ready for hours of fun with these play-time machine. Just push down the top of the cab and the Bump & Go truck takes off. Grab your young builder a Cat Dump Truck, Bulldozer or a Wheel Loader. The Cat Shape Sorter dump truck and cement mixer are also great for your little one's sorting skills.

## 9 Sorting Pie

This fruity pie can help teach early numbers skills and attributes, including colors and fruit shapes and can reinforce fine motor skills. Each "pie" comes with various fruits, durable plastic pie, removable divider, sorting cards, jumbo tweezers and Activity Guide.

## 10 Calm Down Boris book

Boris is such a lovable monster—but he gets so carried away. Children will laugh their way through this interactive new series by award-winning creator Sam Lloyd, as they read through the pages and act out Boris's actions with the hand puppet. In the end, can Boris save the day?

## 11 Play Doh Twirl 'n Top Pizza Shop

Cook up some fun with this pizza parlor. Create the perfect pizza crust in the brick oven and crank out realistic looking grated cheese and add your favorite toppings. You can use the handy tools to cut and serve your dish to your friends. Non-editable of course!

## 12 Pretend & Play Ice Cream Shop

This classic toy set, for ages, three and up, lets children use their imaginations to serve up treats in a pretend ice cream parlor. It includes plastic ice cream scoops and cones, an apron, a squirting syrup bottle and more.





## 1 Kre-O Transformers

Build your favorite TRANSFORMERS hero, Bumblebee, in vehicle or robot mode with this two-in-one set. Set includes three Kreon figures: BUMBLEBEE, RED ALERT and Driver. There are other figures available for hours of creative fun.

## 2 Science on a Fossil Dig

A fun fossil dig set that opens youngsters' eyes to the fascinating world of paleontology. Children scrape and dig for real fossils with tools similar to those used by paleontologists. The kit includes a magnifying glass and fact cards.

## 3 Connect 4 Launchers

The classic game of four-in-a-row takes on a fast-flying pace with this new game. Players of two or more will engage in a head-to-head race as they aim, launch and connect their way to victory. You have added excitement with options of three different ways to play.

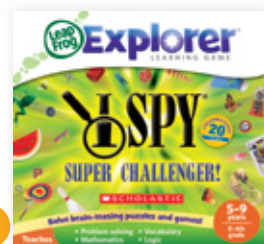


## 4 Brainstring

The goal of this version is the same as the previous brainstring puzzles—untangle the knot so the strings are not touching. The unique challenge is to untangle the knot by rotating the entire ball vertically and horizontally. Makes a perfect stocking stuffer for the child who welcomes a challenge.

## 5 I Spy Super Challenger

This game, for the Leap Frog Explorer handheld, incorporates logic, language and math in riddles and arcade-style games. The game is based off of the original I Spy round and includes more 200 different rounds of puzzles.



## 6 CAT iron diesel train

Every child needs a train set and this one is small in scale and great for an already overloaded toy box. It is motorized and has over seven feet of track. One train car carries two removable Cat machines and it also has a pivoting crane car with a removable shipping container.



201 Cover Kid, Tyler W.



## 8 Road Rippers Lightning Rods

Light up the road with your very own Chevy Camaro, Dodge Viper or Ford Mustang. This car is fast and furious, lights up and makes plenty of exciting sounds for the racing enthusiast. This holiday season, be the one to please by buying your child his first distinctive race car.



## 9 Scrabble Alphabet Soup Game

If you want some silly, frenzied, word building fun, check out this quirky game. It's a fun word building game for young readers where they scoop out letters from a soup bowl and race to be the first player to spell a word. But you have to watch out for the fly or your letters go back to the bowl.



## 10 Voice Rockz Mic

Much more than a microphone, this mic transforms performances, propelling any show from the living room to the stage. The interactive microphone magically changes a child's voice as they perform with just a tap of the included accessories.



## 11 Fruitominos

Try out dominoes with a colorful twist. It's fresh and fruity as you connect the fruit instead of the dots. This recreation of the classic dominoes is perfectly suited for the creative spirit of your child but great for any age. The portable box comes with 28 dominoes.



## 12 Hearts for Hearts Girls

These dolls are more than beautiful, they were created to raise social consciousness among girls, and raise money for charity. The collection includes six dolls; each dressed in authentic clothing reflective of her culture and comes with a book telling her story. Available exclusively at Target and Toys R Us stores.

# TEENS & TWEENS



## 1 Air Picks

Everyone would enjoy having the skills necessary to rock out on stage like famous lead guitarists and rock stars. With Air Picks, children of all ages can perform some serious licks and impress the crowds. Air Picks will make you feel like you are on stage and can jam with the best of them.



## 2 Cranium Brain Breaks Game

Only have a minute? That's all you need to play this game. It's a collection of 200 different games that can each be played in 60 seconds. The classic categories of Creative Cat, Word Worm, Star Performer and Data Head can be found in this compact case of games, ensuring there is something for everyone.



## 3 Gotcha/Truth Be Told Games

These great party games are laugh-out-loud funny. Gotcha has rule cards and you have to try not to break the ever-changing rules of the game. The more rules you have the funnier it gets. With Truth Be Told, the host and the pretend hosts try not to be figured out in their bluffing.



## 4 Incredible Cars

This gift includes all the pieces you need within the pages of a single book to build five model cars. Read all about the history of the cars while you're constructing. Build models of a Benz Motorwagen, Model T Ford, Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, a Formula One car and a Lamborghini Murcielago Roadster.



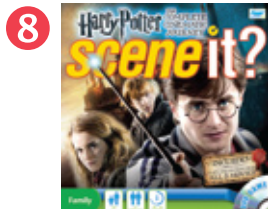
## 5 Head Shotz Wrecker Bot

Children can control these high-speed warriors with a remote, allowing them to perform spins, stunts and more. Head Shotz transform by opening and closing to reveal the unique character within. They can be customized with battle arms and targets.



## 6 Rock Board Scooter

This scooter is unlike any other scooter on two wheels. Not only can you shred the pavement in "Rockboarding" mode, but with a few steps, the scooter can transform into a low-profile kick scooter machine.



## 8 Harry Potter Scene It Game

What teen or tween doesn't love Harry Potter? Relive the magic from all eight films in one game. Before you can say "Expecto Patronum," your whole family will be entertained. The game is complete with clips, trivia questions and on-screen puzzles. Get your tween's cauldrons bubbling with this cool find.



## 10 Nerf Nitron Blaster

The Nitron blaster's cutting-edge acceleration trigger propels a full auto-storm of discs toward targets at extreme range for all-out fun. Its electronic scope features pulsing targeting lights to help center your aim. Comes with a magazine clip that holds 20 discs so no opponent is safe.



## 9 Heelys

These trendy shoes are distinguished from other shoes with just a single wheel. They have a variety of options where every fashion statement can be fulfilled. Their new wheeled footwear is lighter and faster than ever so why settle for ordinary shoes?



## 11 Simon Flash Game

The ultimate game of Simon is now updated with technology, giving the 80s hit game a new spin. With four memory-busting games, it's made up of four tiles that players shuffle and swap at Simon's command. This game is compact and perfect for travel.



## 7 Monopoly Electronic Banking

All it takes is the swipe of a debit card to start building your Monopoly empire. Collect rent, buy properties and negotiate your way to real estate mogul status, all while avoiding jail time. This game has a sleek electronic banking unit and is sure to be a Family Game Night hit.

2011 Cover Kid, Andrese J.



## 12 Silverlit 3D Twister

This remote controlled toy car features nonstop two-sided driving, meaning that when the car flips, it doesn't stop going. It also features real-time crash feedback where the remote shakes when the car hits an obstacle. This fast little car is perfect for tricks, stunts and jumps.