

Holiday Gift Guide for Kids

By Jennifer Lacey

With so many choices available, holiday toy shopping can easily become an overwhelming (and expensive) task. Finding the right age-appropriate toy for your sugarplums not only creates a holiday hero (yes, you!), but it can also further enhance your child's learning and development without your little one even realizing it. Here are some selections that are active, educational, creative, and above all, fun!

Newborn to 6 months



Under the Nile Endangered Species Collection

This plush toy is made from 100% organic Egyptian cotton (no pesticides or chemicals have been used through the entire production process). Perfect for cuddling and makes a great teether. The Endangered Species collection includes humpback whales, sea turtles, polar bears and more. Retailers between \$16.00 and \$22.00. The Endangered Species collection can be purchased online on various websites, including: www.naturalbabyhome.com.

Musical Benji Bunny (HABA)

This sweet plush bunny is created from high-quality organic cotton. It contains a waterproof music box that plays soothing melodies to calm your little one to sleep. Retailers for: \$29.00. The Musical Benji Bunny can be purchased online at: www.haba.de.



6-12 months

CrocoBloco Activity Toy (Discovery/K's Kids)

CrocoBloco's center consists of four detachable blocks that are adorned with numerous activities. Detach the head and tail pieces to make this colorful crocodile the perfect size for your baby to cuddle with. Let baby pull on the flower and watch his tail wag. Babies and parents will delight with all the stimulating sensory activity. Retailers for \$59.95 at: www.fatbraintoy.com.



Tap & Roll Musical (Infantino)

Made to encourage crawling, this motion activated drum can be tapped anywhere to hear a single note, or if baby rolls it along the floor, multiple notes will ring out. Retailers for: \$12.88 online at: www.walmart.com.

Drum

12-24 months



Catch-Me-Kitty (VTech)

This electronic learning toy from VTech invites your little one to a game of chase through sounds and movement. Catch-Me-Kitty moves and scoots across the floor, encouraging your baby to chase it. As your little guy approaches the kitten, a sensor knows exactly when they are near and the cat reacts with sounds and motions. Retailers for: \$15.99 at: www.vtechkids.com.



Soft Kitty Plushie

This cute and cuddly toy is the perfect size for a child to snuggle with. If you give its paw a squeeze, it will sing song lyrics to relax your child, especially when they feel a bit sick or sad. Retailers for \$29.99 online at: www.StylinOnline.com/softkitty.



Count 'n Crunch Cookie Monster (Playskool)

Count 'n Crunch Cookie Monster is a great way to encourage early counting skills and number awareness. Watch your little girl count away with Cookie Monster as she feeds him his favorite food-cookies. Cookie Monster responds by counting and giggling. Retailers for \$24.88 at: www.walmart.com.

2-4 years

Ambre 14" Miss Corolle Doll (Corolle)

Festively attired for the holidays in a bright red coat with a raspberry pink striped scarf, furry hat and boots to complete her ensemble, Ambre is soft and very huggable. With bright blue eyes that open and close, Ambre is destined to become your little girl's favorite doll friend. Retailers at \$74.95 at specialty shops nationwide. Please visit their website at us.corolle.com/products/ambre.



Build and Store Block Activity Table (Step2)

This multi-purpose table provides an ideal play space for building, drawing or any creative adventure. Four cups and two removable trays assist in organizing small piece sets, such as Lego's™. Retailers for: \$79.99 at www.toysrus.com.

