

Parent Insider: 2015 Gift Guide

Written by Amanda Rumore

Thursday, 10 December 2015 14:58 - Last Updated Thursday, 10 December 2015 15:27

The countdown is on, we have checked our list twice and we know what gifts are worthy of making Santa's list this year.

Our toy insiders have relayed that the 2015 gift list is all about quality and educating as well as fun. Toys are serving a purpose this year, as well as creating hours of great memories for the children in your life. The holiday season is often a time to splurge, so we're helping to make sure the gifts you're giving are worthy.

Lucky for modern-day consumers like you, online shopping offers solutions to price comparing, holiday promotions as well as various shipping options, so you still have time to shop and have the perfect presents delivered.

Dynacraft - For over 30 years Dynacraft has been recognized as the leader in the wheeled goods category. They partner with iconic brands and household names to create design forward bicycles and battery operated vehicles including cars, scooters and dirt bikes. They push the envelope, manufacture wowing products and connect with children and families.

This year our favorite is the Tonka 12V Ride On Mighty Dump Truck. With a two passenger seat, ability to go 5 MPH and real Tonka sounds, this truck is a tot's dream. Retail at approximately \$350. To learn more, visit <http://www.dynacraftbike.com/TONKA-12V-DUMP-TRUCK>.



Kurio – Technology for kids, Kurio offers some of the safest tablets on the market. Kurio is The Ultimate Android Tablet for Families, with the Kurio App Store, the first digital store targeted to children, preloaded with content for kids and parents, best-sellers games, educational content, e-books, best-in-class parental controls, set up unique profiles, full content control with app management, safe web filtering, set time limits by profile. Kurio is also affordable and durable, making it the number one choice for families.

The Kurio Smart, the First 2 in 1 laptop and tablet for kids, is the topping the holiday wish list this year. Powered by Windows 8.1, the Kurio Smart is preloaded with content including some of the most famous Apps; choose from motion controlled learning games; to motion controlled sports games! Play alone or with a friend with motion controlled games like rafting, mountain biking, gliding and para-gliding, and dance. Retail at approximately \$200. To learn more, visit <http://www.kurioworld.com/>.



School Zone - School Zone designs software for pre-K tots. For ages 3-7, School Zone offers audio instructions, easy-to-find "start" and "help" buttons, and child-friendly navigation. School Zone specifically programs its software with "sticky mouse" action, an alternative to "drag and drop," so the mouse isn't the challenge — the focus is on educational development.

Little Scholars, the pre-k tablet, is preloaded with 200+ educational apps, ready to play with or without Wi-Fi and offers a reporting app for parents. A free bumper is included for the tablet in pink or blue. Retail at approximately \$130. To learn more, visit <https://www.schoolzone.com/little-scholar>.



GuideCraft - Founded in 1966 in a woodshop in New York State, Guidecraft was built upon the foundation of smart, beautifully crafted wooden toys for children. In the 1980's the company was expanded to encompass consumer toys and furniture, along with an ever-growing portfolio of toys and furniture for the education market. In the mid 2000's the company was further enhanced with the mission of providing exclusive toys and furniture to the domestic and international markets, as well as providing private-label supply chain, compliance, and distribution services to a growing roster of international brands in both the consumer and institutional markets.

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The Vanity's by Guidecraft are topping girls list's around the nation – sure to bring endless fun for years to come. The Classic Espresso Collection features a combination of design, function and elegance, styled to coordinate with a variety of room decor. The gently scalloped silhouettes are a timeless look for key storage, seating and dress-up items. Set includes vanity and stool, three-sided acrylic mylar mirror, storage drawer and curved legs on vanity. Seat top folds up for additional storage. Retail at approximately \$179. To learn more, visit <http://www.guidecraft.com/products/classic-espresso-vanity-and-stool/>.



Glide Bikes - Started over eight years ago with one goal in mind: to help people learn how to ride bikes. Glide bikes are the perfect tools to help kids build their confidence by learning how to balance without the use of training wheels. Most of us have learned how to ride a bicycle by using training wheels; however, training wheels leave out one very important element when it comes to mastering the skills of bike riding, balance! It is the inability to balance while riding a bike that makes it so challenging to transition from training wheels to a traditional two wheel bike.

By being built low to the ground, designed with low speed geometry, and the omission of chains, pedals and gears, Glide Bikes are able to set up anyone with the best possible scenario for learning balance, allowing them to be more confident and achieve more in less time. Glide Bikes come in four phases, starting out for tots as young as 18 months old and for kids well past ten years of age. Glide Bikes range from \$70 - \$300. To learn more, visit <http://www.glidebikes.com>.



American Girl – Much more than just a trend, American Girl's girl empowerment messages intertwined with historical stories have made this brand ever-lasting. In fact, more than 151 million American Girl books have been sold since 1986 and over 27 million American Girl dolls have been sold through the company's catalogue, retail stores, and website since 1986.

American Girl offers dolls and their clothing as well as books, furniture and accessories – the options are limitless. If you're looking to splurge on your little girl, we suggest going with the beautifully crafted furniture. Pieces retailing between \$50 and approximately \$300, you're sure to find the perfect addition for your little lady. We are loving the Julie's bed and bedding for \$125. To learn more, visit <http://www.americangirl.com/shop/furniture-accessories/julies-bed-bedding-ckb87>.



LEGO – Founded in 1932 and based on the iconic LEGO® brick, LEGO is one of the world's leading manufacturers of play materials. Guided by the company spirit: "Only the best is good enough", the company is committed to the development of children and aims to inspire and develop the builders of tomorrow through creative play and learning.

Due to the launch of the new Star Wars movie, Star Wars is on nearly every American kids list this year. Luckily LEGO is making it easy. We are opting for LEGO Star Wars Imperial Shuttle Tydirium.

What's Included:

- 937 LEGO pieces

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- Han Solo mini figure
- Princess Leia mini figure
- Chewbacca mini figure
- Two Endor Rebel Trooper mini figures
- Imperial Shuttle Tydirium: Folding wings, retractable landing gear, opening cockpit, opening access hatch, opening center section
- Two spring-loaded shooters
- Two pistol blasters
- Crossbow

Retails at approximately \$100. To learn more, visit <http://www.lego.com>.



Hot Wheels – Hot Wheels is a brand of die-cast toy cars introduced by American toy maker Mattel in 1968. Many automobile manufacturers have licensed Hot Wheels to make scale models of their cars, allowing the use of original design blueprints and detailing. Although Hot Wheels were originally intended for children and young adults, they have become popular with adult collectors, for whom limited edition models are now made available.

This year the new Hot Wheels Ultimate Garage is making our list. Kids will be entertained with 36 spots to park. Once you've loaded your vehicles, take them on a variety of wild adventures. From air to land to sea, this set covers it all! Keep the action rolling on land with two elevators, two ramps and a classic city scene. Includes five Hot Wheels® vehicles plus a helicopter to get the action started right away. Retails for approximately \$120. To learn more, visit <http://www.hotwheels.com>.



iHome - iHome, a division of SDI Technologies, was launched in 2005 to market iPod Electronics. In just its first year, iHome became the #1 brand in the iPod speaker market and it continues to be the # 1 brand in Digital Player Speakers. iHome now offers full lines of alarm clocks, clock radios, portable speakers, home audio systems, headphones, and a licensed line of smartphone, tablet, and computer accessories.

This year, the iHome Starwars Bluetooth Speakers are all the rage. We are coveting the iHome Star Wars Millennium Falcon Bluetooth Speaker, for use with all Bluetooth tablets and smartphones . Your child can rule the galaxy with this incredible Bluetooth speaker and wirelessly stream music from any audio device for a sound that's out of this world. Retails for approximately \$50. To learn more, visit



<http://www.ihomeaudio.com>.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Oven lets you create and bake your own Pizza, just like your favorite Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles! The TMNT Pizza Oven is one of the best kid's ovens in the marketplace! You can actually SEE the baking with a real window, control the pizza in and out of the heating element with a kid-controllable slide station and cook pizza in approximately 15 minutes. TMNT Pizza Oven comes with a mix to create awesome cheese pizza, a spatula, baking pan, and a measuring tool. Retails for approximately \$50. To learn more, visit <http://www.toysrus.com/buy/vehicles-play-sets/teenage-mutant-ninja-turtles-pizza-oven-11231-cbef011-002000-82802076>.

V Tech Kids - VTech, the creator of the Electronic Learning Products (ELP) category and the award-winning InnoTab, MobiGo, and V.Reader handheld toys, is a world leader of age-appropriate learning products. Since 1980, VTech has been developing high-quality, innovative educational products that enrich children's development through fun and smart play.

V Tech has numerous options for every stage of learning but this year we especially adore the the Sit-to-Stand Ultimate Alphabet Train! This train is designed to grow with your child and can be used for floor play or as a ride on that also transforms into a walker. When your little conductor gets older, the caboose converts into a wagon they can fill with toys and pull along to develop gross motor skills. Play ten activities while learning letters, numbers, colors and more. Retails for approximately \$50. To learn more, visit <http://www.vtechkids.com>.

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The Irish Fairy Door Company - Specially selected by the Fairy Council to provide handcrafted fairy doors for all locations – be it your home, your garden, the office, or school! Actually made by a carpenter in the workshop of a 200 year old cottage in the heart of Ireland, each fairy door is given a portion of magic so that your new fairy can come and go between our world and Fairyland.

1. Choose your Fairy Door and register your fairy
2. Pick a special place for your Fairy Door
3. Leave the stepping stones and magic key next to it

Retails for approximately \$20. To learn more, visit <http://theirishfairydoorcompany.com>.

