Cool Toys of SUMMER

This season’s kid-tested, parent-approved toys entertain kids during summer break, and make great gifts, too.

Yoga Dice
$11.99; 6+
ThinkFun.com
This fun, simple game helps children learn 36 yoga poses while increasing flexibility and focus.

Camp American Girl Hangout
$185; 8+
AmericanGirl.com
American Girl dolls want to go to summer camp, too! This adorable cabin includes accessories that keep “campers” engaged and happy. “It’s great for siblings to share,” says Autumn. “My girls love the lamp (which lights up) and miniature dominoes.” Dolls sold separately.

Are You Dumber Than a Box of Rocks?
$15.99; 12+
Walmart.com
This easy trivia game asks the obnoxious question: Are you dumber than a box of rocks? “Super fun, quick game,” says Linda. “My family is totally into it, but you’ll be surprised how often the rocks win!”

No-Fail Spiral Art Designer
$19.99; 3+
LakeshoreLearning.com
Make loops, swirls and spirals to create endless designs. “I’m going to make one for every member of the house — even Eil!” (their dog) says 5-year-old Kai. Pens/pencils not included.

Techno Kids Stack & Spin Gears Super Set
$23.99; 2+
TheLearningJourney.com
Stack and sort gears in any configuration for open-ended exploration of simple mechanics. “A great engineering toy that promotes STEM learning,” says Kim. “My 3-year-old plays with it independently for hours!”

Paw Patrol Aluminum Folding Scooter
$39.99; 5-8 yr
Playwheels.com
A great scooter for beginners! Features smooth-riding 100 mm polyurethane wheels, reinforced aluminum frame, soft foam grips and a folding mechanism for easy transport.

Captain Marvel Movie Photon Power FX Glove
$15.99; 5+
Shop.Hasbro.com
Blast into action with the electronic light-up Photon Power FX Glove, inspired by Captain Marvel. Press the star button to activate effects and prepare to rule the universe.

Plan a family game night! Find more new games at www.sandiegofamily.com/kid-tested-toy-review/fun-family-board-games.

“Gear up” for more STEM activities! Find products at www.sandiegofamily.com/kid-tested-toy-review/stem-toys-and-games.
Hasbro Hungry Hippos Push Riding Toy from Kid Trax
$39.99; 1+
Target.com
This ride-on car brings to life the fun game, Hungry Hungry Hippos! Kids can ride on the seat or push. When in motion, the hippo “eats up” colorful balls (included). 44-lb. weight limit.


GeoSafari Jr. Ladybug Garden
$21.99; 3+
EducationallInsights.com
Introduce life science to kids as they raise and study ladybugs in a bug-safe garden habitat. Includes mail-in certificate for ladybug larvae.

Magic Bean Garden
$14.99; 5+
Creativityforkids.com
Magic beans sprout within a week to reveal messages on the pods! “My daughter loved painting the pot first,” says Kirsten. “She was excited to check on the beans every day.”

B. Toys Hungry Toss Frog Dart Board
$14.95; 3+
Amazon.com
A cute, colorful fabric board that promotes hand/eye coordination with a bit of physical activity as kids try to hit the bullseye with soft darts.

Glove-A-Bubbles
$1.99; 3+
Walmart.com
Bring the neighborhood kids together to chase bubbles! Put on a glove, dip it in the solution, and wave your hand to create tons of bubbles. Eight themed gloves available; sold individually.

Baby Alive Shimmer N’ Splash Mermaid Doll
$19.99; 3+
Shop.Hasbro.com
Make a splash in and out of the water! Baby Alive comes with removable, shimmery mermaid swimsuit. “The accessories are fun to play with,” says Frances. “My daughter plays with the doll daily.”

Wicked Big Sports Shuffle Toss
$79.99; 14+
WickedBigSports.com
Slide beanbag “pucks” as close to the edge of the board as possible for maximum points. “A great outdoor game for all ages,” says Emily. “Little kids are often as good as the older ones.”
Glittos
$36.99 adoption fee; 3+
DistrollerUSA.com
Meet the Glittos. Recognized for their delightful glittery skin, Starleetta, Sparklitto and Glisttina love anything and everything that makes them shine. But most of all, they love you.

Mad Moves
$19.99; 8+
PlayMonster.com
Dance like you’ve never danced before! Roll the die to see HOW you’ll be dancing (like a certain person, animal or action) and spin the spinner to see WHAT you’ll be dancing (ballet, limbo, tap, twist or dance battle). Combine the two and get groovin’, while everyone else tries to guess what you’re imitating.

Disney Junior Vampirina Batty Beach Cruiser
$24.99; 3+
JustPlayProducts.com
Features bat-tastic designs and accents and comes with an exclusive Vampirina figure. Press the start button on the cruiser’s hood to watch the headlights light up. Includes a surfboard, a swim tube, and a beach umbrella with play sand castle.

Calico Critters Village Pizzeria
$39.95; 3+
CalicoCritters.com
The all-in-one pizzeria is the perfect place for kids to take their critters for a flavorful bite of pizza. It is furnished with a brick oven where a variety of pizzas are made.

Giganotosaurus
$24.99; 3+
Schleich-s.com
One of the largest terrestrial carnivores of the dinosaur period, this ferocious-looking creature stands on two back legs in a menacing stance with his two upper limbs ready for action. The fearsome figure features a moveable jaw that opens to reveal his teeth.

My First Farm
$59.99; 18m+
Brio.us
This play set gives small children hours of fun and helps teach them about farmyard animals. The five wooden animals fit into the animal wagon ready to be transported by train to the farm. Each animal comes with three distinct sounds, which are activated when placed in the farm meadow.
Fubbles Sky High Bubble Machine
$7.99; 3+
LittleKidsInc.com
This motorized bubble machine blows bubbles up, not out.

My Fairy Garden Tree Hollow
$16.99; 4+
PlayMonster.com
Children plant the quick-germinating seeds, and care for their garden, all while setting up and playing with adorable fairies, woodland friends and accessories.

Uncle Milton Butterfly Farm Live Habitat
$19.99; 6+
BasicFun.com
Kids can watch the amazing transformation that turns caterpillars into real butterflies. The kit includes everything needed to create a beautiful butterfly habitat, plus a magnifying lens for observation, and a STEM learning poster that teaches about the four stages of metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

PAW Patrol Chase Learning Watch
$14.99; 3+
VTechkids.com
This interactive watch includes four games to recognize patterns, identify animal tracks and pick the right tool for the job with the PAW Patrol. Hear Ryder call the pups into action, cool sound effects and popular phrases from the show.

Q.D. Foodie Set
$49.99; 3+
QDFoodie.com
With vibrant colors, sensory friendly, easy to grip handles and braille included on the measuring pieces, Q.D. Foodie appeals to a wide range of kids, allowing them to work together, become more adventurous with food, gain cooking and social skills and develop more independence.

Super Cool Glow Putty 3-Pack
$19.95; 5+
Amazon.com
Turn down the lights and wait for it ... putty that glows! Choose from three designs: Mystery, Shooting Star, and Area 51.

Heads Talk Tails Walk
$14.99; 3+
ThinkFun.com
Can you hop like a frog while clucking like a chicken? Players try to match hidden head tiles to the correct body tiles. If the head and body don’t match, the real fun begins.
Big Money
$19.99; 8+
Walmart.com
You have three rolls of the dice to rake in the dough. Then buy amazing investments for your empire. Do you want a candy factory or a pro soccer team, a robotics lab or a movie studio? You decide what risks to take as you collect companies and become a Zillionaire.

SmartGames Sleeping Beauty
$29.99; 3+
SmartGamesUSA.com
Can you help the prince reach Sleeping Beauty’s castle? Or maybe you’d prefer to help Sleeping Beauty escape on her own? Try to find the path from the entrance of the maze to the castle...without getting lost.

Toy Story 4 Pillow Pets
$26.99; 0+
Pillowpets.com
Classic characters Slinky Dog and Alien, as well as new favorites the plucky carnival duo Ducky and Bunny, bring these nostalgic and iconic characters to a new generation as Pillow Pets.

Moosh-Moosh Plush
$5.99-$16.99; All ages
Moosh-Moosh.com
Stack ‘em or squish ‘em, they are oh-so-cute. Blossom the Caticorn, Lucy the Llamacorn and Brewser the Doberman are just three of the dozen cuddly characters that are oh-so-cute.

Fire Station
$39.95; 6+
CortexToys.com
Turns any doorway into a fully immersive fort, available in princess castle and fire station themes. The Door Fort’s Fire Station allows children to develop their imagination and facilitate hours upon hours of meaningful play.

Scout’s Learning Lights Remote Deluxe
$14.99; 6 months+
LeapFrog.com
Explore all 17 buttons on the learning remote to hear more than 100 phrases, sounds and music while building fine motor skills. Switch to the Spanish channel to hear common Spanish phrases, listen and dance to three different music styles on the music channel and hear rain, snow and wind sound effects on the weather channel.
Nintendo Mario Kart Mushroom
$29.99; 3+
Tomy.com
Get a BOOST with this plush from Club Mocchi- Mocchi-. Cuddle up with this iconic character from the timeless Nintendo game.

NERF Super Soaker Barracuda
$14.99; 6+
Shop.Hasbro.com
Swamp the competition with dual drenching that features two vertically stacked barrels. The blue and white double-barrel blaster holds up to 35 fluid ounces.

Lamaze Grab & Hide Ball
$24.99; 6 months+
Amazon.com
Each section of the colorful ball features a fun sound or texture to explore. Play hide and seek with two Lamaze friends. Multiple colors, textures and sounds all in a soft ball shape.

Orangutwang
$22.99; 4+
PlayMonster.com
Roll the dice to find out which play piece you get to hang on the orangutan (banana, pineapple, gecko, fruit bat or coconut). Be careful how you hang it…at some point it will be too much for the orangutan and he’ll leap and swing and go twaaanng.

Kid O Origami Color-Changing Boats
$13.99; 1+
PlayMonster.com
In warm water, the hulls unexpectedly transform into bright new hues. The colorful fleet is both a surprising science experiment and a vibrant visual cue to water temperature.

First Play Safari Musical Instruments
$24.99; 1+
MelissaAndDoug.com
Rattle and tap the lion tambourine, rub the giraffe scraper with the bird rasp, shake the crocodile maracas, click the elephant clacker, and clack the hippo castanets. Feature bright colors, bold patterns, and whimsical designs.
HEXBUG AquaBot Jellyfish
$12.99; 3+
Hexbug.com
Loaded with smart fish technology, this Jellyfish will amp up the action of your robotic aquarium with its vibrant inner glow and 15 pre-programmed swimming routines. The Jellyfish uses its 18 tentacles and powerful engine to spin and swim gracefully.

Lights & Stripes Zebra
$14.99; 0+
VTechKids.com
Features bold black and white stripes, colorful patterned fabric and a variety of textures to enhance tactile awareness. The tummy plays endearing phrases and introduces colors through catchy songs while glowing in five different colors.

PAW Patrol 6-Volt Marshall Firetruck
$149; 3-5 years
Walmart.com
Little heroes can roll to the rescue just like Marshall with realistic flashing lights and horn and siren sounds. Forward and reverse driving options and real foot pedal acceleration creates a real driving experience. Hat, shovel and fire extinguisher included.

Free Wheelin' Rider Sport Convertible Balance Bike
$49.99; 1+
PlayMonster.com
Features a durable body, sturdy wheels with quiet and gripping tires, and comfortable and easy-to-turn handlebars. Young children can have fun pushing themselves along, and older children can practice their balance and speed.

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Harry Potter Labyrinth
$34.99; 8+
Ravensburger.us
Harry, Ron and Hermione, Professor Dumbledore, Hagrid and Harry's owl Hedwig are all waiting for you to find them. If you move the labyrinth around cleverly, you'll surely discover new paths that were once dead-ends. Keep making new paths to find the characters you need to collect.

BOOM GOES THE DYNAMITE
$14.99; 8+
Ok2Win.com
While racing against the timer, try to make traditional or ignited matches using some easy mental math. At the same time, try to remember where the cards are in the matchbox.
**PLAYMOBIL Ice Cream Shop Sand Bucket**
$19.99; 2+
Playmobil.us
Serve out cold tasty treats thanks to the included ice cream scoop and various molds, perfect for building mouthwatering ice cream cones. Set includes two figures, bucket, sieve, ice cream spoon, two ice cream cones, two ice cream scoops, and one waffle mold.

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**Lexicon-Go!**
$19.99; 6+
BarnesandNoble.com
Race against other players to get rid of all your playing card tiles, swapping letters and even adding your tiles onto other players’ words. In this special Harry Potter Edition of Lex-GO!, there are four spell tiles to increase your chances of winning, and the magical SNITCH can win you the round.

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**Capture The Flag Redux**
$59.90; 8+
StarLuxGames.com
With 12 different game modes, to allow anywhere from 4 to 20 players in on the glow-action, the game comes with 25 reusable glow game pieces, including light up bracelets, jail markers and two glowing orbs, which act as the flags.

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**Scout - Kid’s Bike Helmet**
$40; child
LemHelmets.com
The Lil Champ toddler’s bike helmet wins at keeping the early stages of biking fun and engaging, while assuring parents that their child is protected by an ultra-safe bike helmet. On dirt or pavement, the Lil Champ keeps going. This helmet lets kids be kids, with cool designs and a rear LED light for added safety.

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**Primo 3-Wheel**
$49.99-$69.99; 3+
Amazon.com
The perfect scooter that'll grow with your child. With a modifiable design, low deck for stability, and adjustable handlebars, your little one will be scooting along in no time.
Gold Glitter Beach Ball
$19.99; 5+
PoolCandy.net
Shine bright and sparkle with this fabulous glitter-filled beach ball, perfect for your next pool party, beach day or trip to the park.

Water Tank Truck
$29.99; 2+
Playmobil.us
This heavy-duty tank trunk doubles as a watering can. Just remove the tank from truck and fill with up to four cups of water. Includes two removable ramps, spout and construction worker. “My son likes this toy so much that he took it to “share day” at school,” says Jen.

Pink Unicorn Pool Float
$29.95; 8+
CoconutFloat.com
Make a splash at the next pool party with this adorable jumbo unicorn pool float! Also available in a giant adult size.

E-Punk Micro Bike
$159.99; 8+
Razor.com
Zoom into summer with Razor’s electric-powered micro bike. The compact design makes it convenient to transport. Good for up to 40 minutes of continuous use. Runs up to 9 mph. Eric says, “Fun toy, I wish they had this when I was a kid!”

KidKraft
Greenville Garden Station
$149.99; 3+
Target.com
Kids love exploring the world of gardening with their own garden station and tools. Includes spade, mini rake and shovel, storage and planters.
Gazillion Bubble Rush  
$19.99; 3+  
Funrise.com  
This high-powered bubble machine has a no-spill design with removable top and solution recycling tray. Creates hours of fun for kids and is easy to clean. Kirsten says, “This is a great way to keep the kids playing outside — it brought out all the neighborhood kids!”

X-Shot Fast-Fill Water Blaster  
$19.99; 5+  
Zuru.com  
Up your pool game with the ultra fast-filling water blaster. Just dunk, fill and close with rapid sealing technology. Shoots up to 30 ft.

Paint Marker  
$4.99 each; 3+  
Crayola.com  
Get messy and create bold designs on any outdoor surface with washable paint markers — great for artists big and small. “My son wanted to play outside more so he could color the sidewalk,” says Stephanie.

Aqua Diver  
$14.99; 5+  
PlayMonster.com  
Race against the clock or challenge friends with this squid-shaped diving timer. Toss in the pool to activate the clock and when the squid is retrieved, press the button to see your time.

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