

The Toys of Summer

As we head into summer, check out our annual round-up of kid-approved toys, featuring activities that encourage kids to unplug and engage in much-needed playtime.



Bluey's Dump Truck

\$24.99; 3+

Target.com

Bluey fans love to help Hard-Hat Bluey and Muddy Bingo load and unload big rocks in the tilting truck bed. Customize the truck with included stickers.



Playmobil Pirate Harbor

\$89.99; 4+

Playmobil.com

Have swashbuckling fun with this pirate ship dock and "underground" prison! Imagination soars with trap doors, a row boat, hanging cage, hammerhead shark, a cannon that shoots glow-in-the-dark skulls and much more.

Thames & Kosmos Metal Detector

\$39.95; 8+

ThamesandKosmos.com

Let summer treasure hunting begin! Kids engage in science and nature exploration while searching for metal objects buried in sand, dirt or grass. Digital display beeps when items are detected (up to 6" below surface).

Two handles of differing lengths.



Gear up for summer game nights!

The Game of LIFE: Hello Kitty and Friends

\$44.99; 8+

TheOP.games



Join Hello Kitty on a fun-filled journey through the colorful world of Sanrio in this charming twist on the classic LIFE board game. Make sweet memories as characters embark on adventures and make decisions. Fun for all ages!



Clue: Peanuts

\$44.99; 8+

TheOP.games

Everyone's favorite mystery game takes on the whimsical world of Charlie Brown and friends! Explore iconic Peanuts locations while unraveling clues and interrogating favorite characters to discover who took Linus' beloved blanket and where they hid it.





Hasbro Skip It
\$19.99; 5+
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Everyone's favorite retro toy with updated features like lights and a digital display that counts up to one million skips! Optional sounds include phrases like, "New record set!" Available in blue or pink; requires three AAA batteries.



Calming Cuddle Bug
\$29.99; 12 mos. - 5 yrs.
[LakeshoreLearning.com](https://www.lakeshorelearning.com)

This adorable little bug is the perfect hug buddy for young children, and provides plush comfort and a gentle calm whenever kids need it. This textured plushie bug is designed to provide children with a "hug" that will help reduce anxiety and soothe their senses.



Disney Junior Minnie Mouse Magnetic Tile Set
\$39.99; 3+
[TytanToys.com](https://www.tytanToys.com)
Spark imagination and encourage STEAM learning with this 42-piece set of colorful magnetic tiles. Includes magnetic Minnie bow, reusable Minnie, Daisy and Figaro stickers, and pattern guide.



Spy Labs: Ultimate Spy Sleuth Master of Disguise
\$34.95; 8+
[ThamesandKosmos.com](https://www.thamesandkosmos.com)

Detectives-in-training love this play set that includes two critical spy gear elements: a voice changer that records your disguised voice for up to 12 seconds; and a wearable, secret voice recorder that allows you to capture important intel at a moment's notice.



Rising Stars My First Free Throw Basketball Set
\$29.99; 3+
[Target.com](https://www.target.com)

This all-in-one set encourages kids to dribble and shoot like a pro! Includes a hoop with adjustable rim height and weighted base, ball rack, three mini basketballs and non-slip play mat for indoor or outdoor use.



National Geographic Light-up Ant Habitat

\$24.99; 6+

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The ultra-stable habitat lights up, allowing for stunning viewing and making this an educational and exciting STEM science kit perfect for children. Includes a tunnel starter tool and additional magnifying glass, as well as nutrient-rich gel for feeding to your ants.



Miko Mini

\$199; 4+

[Miko.ai](https://miko.ai)

Designed as a friendly, interactive robot, Miko Mini supports children's educational growth by using AI-driven capabilities to make learning both fun and effective.



Colourwhirls

\$4.99-\$14.99; 6+

[Crayola.com](https://www.crayola.com)

This innovative toy, similar to a spinning top, takes creativity to a whole new level. With neon colors that pop, it's all about creating unique, spiraling art. Challenge your friends to a colourwhirls battle, where the spinning tops clash in a whirl of color, each spin creating a unique piece of art.

Hape Air Rocket Stacking Tower

\$34.97; 2+

[Walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com)

This innovative toy sparks curiosity about aerodynamics and physics through the playful animals, shapes, and numbers which also improve early counting and fine motor skills. Designed for various ages and heights, this versatile playset allows for stacking and can be enjoyed both sitting or standing.



Bad Rap Javelin

\$30; 10+

[TheBadRap.com](https://www.thebadrap.com)

Designed for ultimate distance, accuracy, and trick shots, this 3-foot air-gliding javelin takes classic throw-and-catch games to the next level. Challenge your friends to a long-distance catch, invent your own version of Ultimate Stick, or test your skills with trick throws.





Animagic Let's Glo Axolotl Glo in the Dark

\$9.99; 4+

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

This adorable aquatic pal features a unique water-activated surprise inside. With soft, stretchy tentacles and an irresistibly squishy tummy, it delivers a delightful sensory experience that's fun to squeeze and stretch. Place your Axolotl in water and watch its heart glow as it floats—just like a real Axolotl.

Clixo Tropical Birds Pack

\$44.99; 6+

[Clixo.com](https://www.clixo.com)

Clixo's flexible, magnetic pieces inspire creative confidence, foster STEAM learning, and let you build endless bird creations—from majestic toucans to elegant hummingbirds.



Cuddle Barn Colt Horse

\$29.99; 18m+

[Cuddle-Barn.com](https://www.cuddle-barn.com)

This cute horse wears a red and blue Sheriff bandana, and has a lasso tied to his saddle. Press his body and he'll trot along and flick his tail to the song "William Tell Overture" (Lone Ranger theme).



Foros

\$39.99; 6+

[DorenToys.com](https://www.doren-toys.com)

Simple Rules. Maximum Fun. Win by placing four of your pieces in a straight row - up, across, or diagonally - in any direction. As the game grows, so do your opportunities to win.

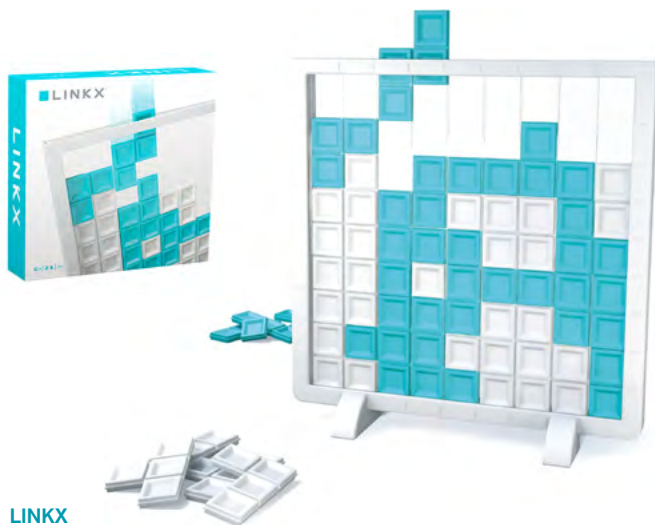


Sand Play Set

\$30; 2+

[PlanToys.com](https://www.plan-toys.com)

Children can create any construction they can imagine and also enjoy playing with water.



LINKX

\$22.99; 6+

BlueOrangeGames.com

Strategically place your tetris-like tiles and be the first to connect two opposite edges of the grid. Will you add a piece to grow your own line or try to block your opponent? Your strategy might change directions during this surprisingly addictive 2-player game.



Popdarts

\$39.99; 5+

Amazon.com

Popdarts is a modern twist on traditional darts, with suction darts that stick to smooth surfaces. Stick the orange target marker on a smooth surface and take turns throwing towards the marker. Earn three points for the Popdart that's closest to the marker, one point for each that sticks and 10 points for landing on the marker.



GUND Disney Oh So Snuggly Simba

\$30; All Ages

www.Amazon.com

Can you feel the love tonight? These soft 12.5" lions from The Lion King can't wait to help baby feel safe & secure. Their under-stuffed, quilted design and film-accurate details make them huggable companions for Disney fans and timeless décor. Choose from Simba & Nala. Machine washable.

Lite-Brite Touch Mini

\$9.99; 6+

Amazon.com

This compact Lite-Brite lets you light up your imagination with just a simple touch-featuring 25 light-up buttons in seven different colors. Play three addicting games, including Lite-Tac-Toe, Lite Remember, and Lite Dot-to-Dot, perfect for sparking creativity or challenging friends.



Metal Force Armor Attack Action Figures

\$17.99; 4+

Amazon.com

Go from stealth mode to combat readiness with innovative 2-in-1 figures that shift from 4" mini heroes to mighty 6" warriors in Metal Force armor. Equipped with built-in blasters & firing projectors, get ready to defend Gotham City or cause chaos. Choose from Batman & The Joker.



Hape Rainbow Rhythm Pixel Piano

\$34.97; 1+
Walmart.com
 Witness the magic unfold as the piano transforms into a pixel screen consisting of animals and vivid colours, sparking curiosity and wonder. Introduces kids to colours, and supports their cognitive development as they identify the various animals.



Love, Stella Peach Doll with Blonde Pigtales
 \$30; 1+

ManhattanToy.com
 The perfect size for holding, hugging, and nurturing role play to foster social and emotional development. The doll body has a weighted bottom and sits unassisted - perfect for playtime.



Playmobil Funstars Racing Sets
 \$22.99; 4+

Amazon.com
 Energetic, pull-back racers ready to zoom into action with quirky characters and thrilling accessories. These exciting sets spark imaginative play and deliver endless storytelling opportunities.



Palette of Personalities Mood, Music, & Color Toy
 \$25; 6 months +
SassyBaby.com

A unique electronic toy with four fun functions. Press any button to hear one of three classic piano songs. Press each button to hear a full piano scale and make your own music. Press each button and listen to the name of each color. Press each face and hear the ways of expressing each emotion.



Disney Junior Super Kitties Purr 'N' Go Playset
 \$39.99; 3+
Walmart.com

This colorful, cat-shaped vehicle is packed with features for endless fun, including free-rolling wheels, an elevator, a slide, a lookout post, and more. When playtime is over, store everything inside the playset and roll to the next adventure.



Sky Rider X-11 Stratosphere Quadcopter Drone with Wi-Fi Camera

\$39.99; 14+

Walmart.com

Dare to fly fast and far while capturing sharp photos and video from the built-in camera. Take flight and see the world around you from a bird's eye view in real time. With a control distance of up to 328 feet, feel free to explore the skies and show your flight control by performing flips and tricks.



Sesame Street Learning Elmo Plush

\$24.99; 18 months +

Amazon.com

With four ways to play, Elmo speaks over 50 phrases that help kids learn. Little ones will love cuddling and moving to the music played by this interactive stuffed animal.



TY Beanie Bouncers

\$12.99; 3+

Shop.TY.com

The new toy is a unique blend of a furry friend and a bouncing ball – it goes 50 feet in the air. Bounce into a world where 12 new friends are ready to play. Kick, throw, spin, snuggle, juggle, dribble, chuck it - the possibilities are endless.

Into the Wild Mini Coloring & Doodle Mat

\$14.99; 3+

HeyDoodle.com

Each mini mat set includes an A4 reusable silicone mat, three non-toxic, erasable markers, and a convenient carry tube. The erasable markers dry quickly and won't smudge, even for left-handed children. Kids can practice writing the alphabet while discovering the names of various animals, from furry friends to feathered companions and slimy creatures.



OOLY x Peanuts, DIY Shrink Art Kit

\$14.95; 6+

OOLY.com

Create 20 colorful Snoopy charms that shrink down to accessory size when baked. Complete with ball chains, colored cords, and mini paint markers, this craft kit is perfect for kids and Snoopy fans alike. Use these charms to personalize your backpack, keychain, or anything else kids love to decorate.





Marvel Super Hero Trainer

\$33.99; 6+

UltraPro.com

Using AI-powered motion detection, this high-energy game recognizes players' movements as they crawl, jump and battle through 30 action-packed training missions. Designed for solo play, Marvel Super Hero Trainer offers an engaging way to encourage active fun while unleashing every child's inner hero.

Mudpuppy Rainforest Friends Color Magic Water-Reveal Kit

\$11.99; 2+

Mudpuppy.com

Watch as adorable jungle creatures and rainforest scenes come to life before your eyes with a splash of water. Each sheet features enchanting artwork of your favorite jungle animals and scenes waiting to be revealed through the magic of water. Simply dip the included brush in water and brush it over the white areas of the sheet to reveal vibrant colors.



Chic Boutique Sunnies

\$9.99; 6+

FaberCastell.com

It's so easy to customize and accessorize your heart and flower shaped sunglasses with letter beads, rhinestones, and charms. This no glue, no mess craft features self-adhesive accessories for simple personalization.

Air-Powered Turbo Racer

\$29.95; 8+

ThamesandKosmos.com

Build a lightning-fast race car powered by nothing but air — no batteries or electric motor required. Use the sleek, integrated pump to compress air into the tank, then put the car on the ground and watch it zoom away.



TMNT Big Mouth Playsets

\$11.99; 4+

Target.com

The Big Mouth Playset transforms from a turtle head into an action-packed urban hideout where the Turtles train, strategize, and battle their foes. Flip open the turtle head to reveal the detailed city scene, then fold it back up when the mission is complete.





The Acorns Project Paint Kit

\$27; 6+

TheAcornsProject.com

Comes with everything you need to paint three wooden acorns. Gift the painted acorn to family, grandparents, parents or friends or keep it. A fun & creative project for families to do together.



Gabby's Dollhouse My Simple Sewing

\$22.99; 4+

Amazon.com

This kit includes everything you need to build beginner sewing skills, with lacing cards, yarn and a plastic needle. Start with the basics, then use pre-punched felt pieces to create fun, cat-tastic projects featuring characters from Gabby's Dollhouse.



Xplora XGO3

\$129.99; 4+

Shop.Myxplora.com

Provides kids with a safe and age-appropriate way to stay connected, offering parents peace of mind without exposing young children to the risks of the internet or social media. Their feature-rich devices allow children to call and chat with pre-approved contacts, track their steps, capture moments with a built-in camera, and use GPS tracking for safety. Parents maintain full control through the Xplora Parent App.



LaBabies

Starting at \$4.99

YooniqueToys.com

Meet the soft, squishy, mischief-makers with big personalities: LaBabies! From feisty to delighted, these anime-inspired critters bring playful chaos and endless cuddles. Collect them all.



National Geographic Mega Space Activity Kit

\$19.99; 8+

Amazon.com

This science experiment and activity kit has over 100 pieces. Kids will use a chemical reaction to launch a foam rocket and then paint an amazing glow-in-the-dark stained-glass solar system. The kit also comes with 76 glow-in-the-dark stars kids can use to create a dazzling night sky scene in their rooms.



LACORSA Grand Prix

\$49; 8+

LacorsaGame.com

LACORSA delivers thrilling strategy and competition through a mix of bluffing, tactical positioning, and strategic planning, all while capturing the true spirit of racing.



Ohuhu Kainani Washable Stamper Kids Markers

\$14.99; 3+

Ohuhu.com

These markers offer a dual-tip design with a fine tip on one side and unique stamp patterns on the other. They are completely washable, so there's no worry during messy play and also come with a stylish cross-body bag for storage, making them a must-have for young artists.

Space Gummy Candy Lab

\$19.95; 6+

ThamesandKosmos.com

Whip up your own delicious space-shaped gummies and make a model of the solar system. As you prepare these yummy treats, you'll investigate the chemistry related to candy making and explore fundamental STEM concepts such as measurements, conversions, temperature reading, phases of matter, the scientific properties of natural polymers, and more.



Hape Grip-n-Stack Silicone & Wood Blocks

\$19.99; 6 months+

Target.com

Delight in witnessing your little one's boundless creativity as they engage with the 10 vibrant blocks included in this set, each boasting soft silicone edges for enhanced safety and durability.



Klutz Face Painting

\$26.99; 6+

Amazon.com

Transform yourself into a character, have fun with your friends, or cheer your favorite team. The kit includes a rainbow of paints, a high-quality brush, and a make-up sponge. Punch-out cards help you set up a face-painting station in a snap, and let kids pick out their favorite designs.





Alexander Girlz Zola

\$57.95; 3+

MadameAlexander.com

These beautiful 14-Inch poseable dolls have rooted hair, fixed eyes, and are dressed in stylish outfits. Alexander Girlz have lots of fun sharing friendship. They spread joy wherever they go, and help kids be kind, dream big, and play imaginatively.



Clawesome! Kraken's Revenge

\$23.99; 6+

LukiLab.com

Inspired by Kraken – the legendary monster of the sea – the goal of this game is to help the Kraken search for shipwrecks on the ocean floor. Fill the tank with water and use the magnetic tentacle to control the Kraken inside the tank and move the shipwrecks onto hidden landings. Kraken's Revenge Includes a tank, six shipwrecks, a magnetic tentacle controller, and instructions.



Blue Marble Tie-Dye Dotz

\$21.66; 5+

Amazon.com

Tie-Dye Dotz simplifies the traditional tie-dye process, allowing you to create vibrant garments and accessories with nearly no mess at all. Instructions are simple and include inspiration for three classic tie-dye patterns. This unique tie-dye method makes it fun and easy to experiment with different designs and is the perfect way to introduce tie-dye to first-time creators.



Hello Kitty and Friends Shashibo Series

\$25.99; 8+

FunInMotionToys.com

These adorable magnetic puzzle cubes are inspired by Hello Kitty's signature style. Build, connect, and explore 70+ mesmerizing shapes. Collect and combine them with other Shashibo cubes for infinite fun.



PoppinColorz Hydra: 2-in-1 Color Bubble & Water Blaster

\$34.99; 6+

SouthBeachBubbles.com

Kids and adults can now blast water and color bubbles simultaneously. With USA-made Color Bubble Solutions in Pink Pizzaz and Blazin' Blue, plus Clear Bubble Solution and a rechargeable lithium battery, the fun never ends. No dipping is required, no spills by younger siblings or neighbors, just magical color bubbles that will vanish.



iLive Bluetooth Smart Jump Rope

\$29.99; 13+

DicksSportingGoods.com

This isn't your old schoolyard jump rope—with this re-imagined take on an old classic, users can reach fitness goals and have fun doing it. Set a timer, keep track of calories burned, and count the total amount of jumps completed. Sync this smart rope to your phone to track all your workouts on the included app—and get a leg up (or two) on your goals.



Mini Golf – Full Set

\$40; 3+

PlanToys.com

Perfect for indoor and outdoor play, this set lets kids design their own course for endless fun. It includes two child-sized wooden putters, two golf balls, three unique obstacles, and a target goal, plus a handy travel bag, making it easy for two players to enjoy the game anywhere, from the playroom to the backyard.



Lunar Loop Tracks

\$29.99; 3+

Walmart.com

Combines space exploration with race track fun. Perfect for sparking imagination and adventure. Features Y-tracks, arc tracks, and bridges for imaginative building. Promotes hands-on skills, creativity, and role-playing, making it an engaging and educational toy.



Giant Shiny Butterfly Dominoes

\$21.99; 3+

eebo.com

A whimsical spin on the classic domino games we all remember. Each sturdy tile features colorful butterflies radiantly accented with shiny holographic foil. Perfect for a quick game at the park or at home for the whole family to enjoy.



Wahu Phlat Ball Classic

\$19.99; 5+

Amazon.com

A unique sports toy that transforms from a flying disc to a fun ball when thrown. Its transformation will add a twist to the classic outdoor game of catch this summer. It also packs flat, so it's easy to slip into a backpack or suitcase on all summertime adventures. Throw a disc... catch a ball!



Creative Sand Play
\$25; 2+
Plantoy.com
Encourage creativity with sturdy, sustainable sand toys made with chemical-free rubberwood. The Sand Play Set (sold separately) includes a bucket and three digging tools, while the Creative Sand Play set (shown here) comes with four unique sand molds.



Dueling Stomp Hoppers
\$29.99; 3+
StompRocket.com

Bounce, balance and play with a friend or sibling with this set of two Stomp Hoppers. Powered by kids, there are no batteries or plugs needed! Each squeaking Hopper features a high-bounce foam base, soft hand grips, and a band that stretches up to 48 inches.



Frogglez Daniel Tiger Swim Goggles
\$23.99; 3-10
FrogglezGoggles.com

Get ready for pool time! These goggles feature a soft, silicone frame, a comfortable split strap that doesn't pull hair or pinch ears, and clear lenses with an anti-fog coating.



Glow Basketball Court Set
with Bonus Hoop Lights
\$39.95; 5+
Mindware.orientaltrading.com

Families love playing nighttime hoops with this glow-in-the-dark basketball and light-up rim! The basket features waterproof LED lights in three colors and seven exciting light modes. Play like a pro with the regulation size 7 ball.



Rising Stars My First Goal 2-in-1 Soccer and Hockey Combo Set
\$29.99; 3+
Target.com

Little ones build coordination, skills and confidence with this versatile set that includes kid-sized equipment and non-slip playmats for safe indoor or outdoor play.



Slackers Hop Ball Race Set

\$34.99; 5+

BolderPlay.com

Challenge friends to a nostalgic backyard hop ball race for ultimate summer fun! Includes two hop balls, ball pump, starting and finish lines, and a stopwatch. Weight limit: 200 lbs.



Elseware Unplug Sample Kit

\$23.99; Various ages

ElsewareUnplug.com

Not familiar with the earth-friendly, nontoxic, sustainable products of Elseware Unplug? This sample set includes miniature versions of their most popular items: finger paints, eco-dough, milk paint, therapy dough, colored pencils and more.

Inflatable Swimming Pool with Seats

\$99.99; All ages

Sloosh.com

Turn your backyard into a summer oasis with this "party pool" that measures 120" x 101" and comfortably fits a whole family! Features 0.4 mm thick material with double-reinforced durability, two inflatable seats with backrests and four cup holders. Compatible with standard air pumps for easy setup.



Day at the Beach Kit

\$19.99; 5+

ElsewareUnplug.com

Commemorate summer beach days with this sand-casting kit that includes step-by-step instructions and necessary supplies. Just add water and bake. Decorate with included shells or use your own. ❖



Change Up Kids

\$68; 2-10

ChangeUpKids.com

Check out this awesome, portable changing space that provides kids privacy during outfit changes at the beach, park or pool. Featuring high-quality, sustainable and water-resistant fabric, a double-sided zipper, and convenient carrying case with strap. The top is open so parents can help little ones, if needed.