



Toy Story

A few of our favorite things to put on your holiday gift-giving list from The Toy Insider's Laurie Schacht.

1/ KiiPix

Retro is cool, and Polaroid-style photos are the “in” teen thing. This affordable instant film printer allows kids to turn smartphone photos into hard-copy keepsakes. \$40
Why we love it: No app or battery required.

2/ Nintendo Labo (Nintendo)

With each Nintendo Labo kit (Variety, Robot and Vehicle, sold separately), kids transform modular sheets of cardboard—specially designed to interact with the Nintendo Switch Console and Joy-Con controllers—into Toy-Con creations. Kids can build a functioning 13-key

piano, motorbike, robot and more, then connect their creation to the console to play. \$70 to \$80

Why we love it: Who knew cardboard would be one of the hottest toys of the year?

3/ Arcade 1Up (Tastemakers)

These classic arcade game cabinets are available in five versions (with three to four games per cabinet): Asteroids, Centipede, Street Fighter II, Rampage and, yes, Galaga! Although at 4 feet they're a bit shorter than the originals, the joysticks, buttons, sounds and high-resolution, full-color displays are just like you remember. \$400

Why we love it: Endless hours of retro gaming are in your future—put this on your own wish list!

4/ Mystery Flying Snitch

The Flying Snitch appears to circle magically and avoid capture, just like in the Harry Potter films. (The secret is the string, which is nearly invisible from a few feet away.) The Snitch also has authentic flapping wings. \$25

Why we love it: Being a wizard has never been easier and is guaranteed to thrill any Potterhead—or even a mere Muggle.

5/ Beard Ball (Buffalo Games)

Hipster alert! Team up to see who can score more points by throwing a Ping-Pong-style ball with strips of Velcro at a sticky beard worn by your fellow

player. Dice and stunt cards determine which beard to sport and the specifics of the throwing challenge. \$20

Why we love it: It may sound silly, but Beard Ball requires skill and dexterity.

6/ The Original Tiny Hands Challenge Game

A hilarious team vs team party game that challenges players to complete seemingly simple tasks—catching a ball, turning over a playing card, serving a drink—with a pair of tiny (or tinier) hands. \$15

Why we love it: This wacky game gives a newfound appreciation for thumbs.

7/ Hot Wheels Augmoto Augmented Reality Racing Track Set (Mattel)

A blending of video game competition and old-school toy track racing. Players compete to complete their laps—the cars are controlled by smartphones—while augmented reality (AR) adds intensity with a loop of fire, hazardous oil spills, fireworks and more.

Why we love it: AR technology makes it feel like real racing.

8/ VEX Balancing Boxing Robots

Once assembled, these self-stabilizing boxing robots are ready to enter the ring. Players control the robots' actions, including uppercuts and jabs, using the VEX Pilot app. \$150
Why we love it: Kids think they're just building toys but they're actually learning about physics, motion and engineering.

9/ Stranger Things Figures

Stranger Things fans can bring the Upside Down to the real world with high-end 7-inch collectible figures, each with a display base. Get favorites like Eleven, Demogorgon, Dustin, Will and Barb. \$20
Why we love it: Attention to detail, from wrinkles in the clothing to dirt on the kids' faces, gives these figures a high-end look at an affordable price.

The TOY INSIDER™

Stressed about last-minute holiday shopping?

We've got you covered! The Toy Insider finds and reviews the best toys year-round, and helps take the guesswork out of choosing just the right toys for the kids in your life. Here are some of our favorites:



Rainbocorns: Rainbocorns hatch from colorful mystery eggs and are made of sparkles and reversible sequins that reveal a surprise when kids swipe.

Each plush has a mane and tail for hair play, a set of horns and butterfly wings, and a Boo-Boocorn collectible baby.

3+, \$24.99 | ZURU, zuru.com

Ryan's World Ryan's

Molecules: Each kit includes thousands of Ryan's Molecules, squishy spheres that stick together and never dry out. Kids can construct their favorite Ryan's World characters from the Ryan ToysReview YouTube channel with this unique compound.



5+, \$14.99 | ORB, orbtoys.com



Grand Department Store Gift Set:

The centerpiece of the Town Series features elegant styling and introduces a new Calico Critter, Stella. The set inspires imaginative play and comes with shops and accessories, a terrace, balconies, custom windows, and more.

6+, \$129.95 | EPOCH EVERLASTING PLAY, calicocritters.com

Nighthawk: Riders will control the Nighthawk's speed, up to 6 mph, with the accelerator and brake pedals. Kids can maneuver around obstacles by leaning left and right. Side handlebars and a flag provide safety while riding.



6+, \$149.99 | ROLLPLAY, rollplay.net

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Peppa Pig's Transforming Campervan:

This campervan opens into a double-decker home with a living room, a lofted bedroom, an outdoor fire pit, a picnic table, and more. The

play set features sounds from the Nick Jr. show and includes multiple accessories that kids can store inside.

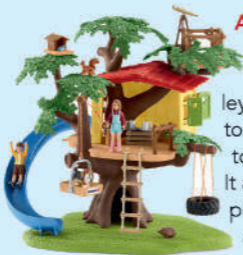
2+, \$49.99 | **JAZWARES**, jazwares.com

Orbeez Wow World Wowzer

Surprise: Add water to this Orbeez-filled globe to reveal which of the 20 collectible Wowzer figures—including rare and super rare—is hidden inside. Twist the top to watch the Wowzer dance.



5+, \$5.99 | **MAYA TOYS**, mayatoys.net



Adventure Tree

House: This play set features a pulley that kids can use to pull the tray up to the tree house. It also has a viewing platform, a slide, a tire swing, and a ladder; and in-

cludes figures with moveable arms and legs.

5+, \$79.99 | **SCHLEICH**, schleich-s.com

K'NEX THRILL RIDES: Bionic Blast Roller Coaster Building Set:

This set has more than 800 pieces, including track to build a working roller coaster. The K'NEX Ride It! app and included VR viewer allow kids to virtually ride their coaster creations.



9+, \$99.99 | **K'NEX, A DIVISION OF BASIC FUN!**, basicfun.com

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