

Playtime

Summer is made for fun and games—including some splashing around, squishing slime and, perhaps, soaring in the sky. Toy expert Laurie Schacht shares a few of her favorites.



H2OGO! Slime & Splash Water Slide (Bestway), \$25

Outdoor water action and oozy slime play well together. This water slide has sprinklers and an extra-large drench pool for splashy landings. Includes four bags of slime-making powder.



Kanoodle Head to Head (Educational Insights), \$22

In the new version of the popular puzzle, kids vie to be first to fit their pieces on the board. Then the ultimate checkmate: launching their opponent's pieces into the air. Features 80 challenges.



Morf Board Scoot & Skate Combo (Jakks Pacific), \$99

This twofer is an easy rider. Thanks to twist-and-lock Xtensions, it transforms from skateboard to scooter. Give it more mileage with additional Xtensions that turn it into a balance board or bouncer.



Wicked Big Sports Pong (Little Kids), \$60

The college party game gets a family-friendly makeover. Split everyone into teams, and the first to get the ball into the 2-foot-tall cups wins. Folds up to tote from backyard to beach.



Wubble Fulla Slime (NSI International), \$8 to \$15

Slime is having another moment, but this one gets cleanliness points for self-contained mess. Each soft plastic slime-filled ball can be squished, squeezed and tossed with no splatter.



Sky Viper Streaming Video Drone V2450HD (Skyrocket Toys), \$89

Get a bird's-eye view through photos and videos with this lightweight drone. The three flight modes let kids (and parents!) develop their skills gradually. Videos can be streamed online.



Clue Suspect Card Game (Winning Moves Games), \$11

Ditch the board—still solve the crime. The classic whodunit game is now fully playable with just a deck of cards, making it a better travel companion.



Watermelon Smash (Yulu), \$20

A little water roulette, anyone? Players fill the watermelon with water and take turns spinning to determine their fate. When it cracks open over a player's head, they're out—and drenched!



Sling Stix (Yulu), \$15

Take it outside with a unique game of catch. Players grab Sling Stix, each with suction at the end. Then they toss and release the ball with a pull of the trigger and a swing of the arm.

Laurie Schacht, a mom of three, is the president and chief toy officer of Adventure Publishing Group and founder of The Toy Book and thetoyinsider.com.