Star-Telegram TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2005 50 CENTS

Where The West Begins

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Tech the halls: The season's must-haves for kids



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ALLEGRO MULTIMEDIA

Piano Wizard by Allegro Multimedia

What it does: While the debate continues about whether video games make your kids smarter or turn their brains into vortexes of violence and mush, here's one that develops a talent. The software comes with a color-coded keyboard that shows which note to play and when to play it; easy-peasy, right? To get the tunes rolling, there are games to play that make the learning part fun, and the notes on the screen are shaped like rockets or dinosaurs to keep the youngest musicians interested. As you get better, the levels get more difficult. If you really get ambitious, a MIDI interface lets you download your own songs into the mix where the computer customizes them for easy playing.

What It costs: \$129.99.

Where to get it: www.pianowizard.com.

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