

Gift ideas for kids — from the experts

As the holidays quickly approach, parents and grandparents are narrowing their list of gift-giving ideas to include this year's 'must-have' toys.

While “cute,” “cuddly” and “entertaining” sound like the attributes any toy should have, “educational” toys, games and books are gifts that “keep on giving.”

The experts at Creative Kidstuff and Oppenheimer Toy Portfolio offer the following suggestions. These toys and books offer stimulating learning experiences — and the kids will find them fun.

100 Hoops

\$29.99

Age 3 and up

Besides being the recipient of the Oppenheimer Toy Portfolio Platinum Award, 100 Hoops is the newest addition to LeapFrog's line of educational toys. This electronic, counting basketball hoop can be hung on a drawer, chair or doorknob. As kids shoot baskets, the game counts to 100 by ones, twos, fives, 10s or backwards; in either English or Spanish.



“How Nearly Everything Was Invented”

\$19.99

Age 7 and up

This humorously illustrated book takes a wonderful, light-hearted look at 300 of the world's most important inventions. Meet the people who created these life-changing inventions; learn how the inventions work and the impact they have had on society.



Blokus

\$30

Age 5 and up

This mind-bending strategic family board game has won numerous awards for its challenging structure. Blokus offers ample opportunity for children (and adults) to learn and exercise strategic and spatial thinking skills.

DK Publishing's Learn Your Times Tables Kit

\$15.99

Age 5 to 8

An innovative way to learn arithmetic, this kit will help kids improve their multiplication skills and develop a better understanding of math concepts.

The kit is packed with a variety of fun tools, including a workbook, wall chart, stickers, CD, a game and magnets.



No Stress Chess

\$16

Age 7 and up

A perfect gift for children eager to learn this classic game. This version features illustrated action cards that clearly identify each player's next move and the chess piece involved in that move. The two-sided game board offers both a “teaching” side and a traditional chess board for kids who have mastered the basics of the game.

The Odyssey III Interactive Talking Globe

\$149.95

Age 8 and up

Learning geography has never been so much fun. This award-winning globe is an atlas and computer combined, with which kids can play games, learn thousands of facts, hear world music and test their knowledge with a variety of quizzes.



Head Full of Numbers

\$14.95

Age 7 and up

Looking to add a little excitement to your child's math learning? This fast-paced game features numbered dice, a timer and a tray — all of which are used to make as many correct equations as possible in the time allowed. It's perfect for kids learning addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Piano Wizard

\$199

Age 3 and up

Now anyone can learn to play the piano. This simple computer video game is an award-winning music learning system that helps players learn the basics of piano. Eventually, the player learns the intricacies of music notation and acquires the ability to read music. The program features software, an electronic piano keyboard and a patented color-learning system.