

Toys to keep your active youngsters occupied and happy this holiday

BY PATTI MARTIN • STAFF WRITER • NOVEMBER 28, 2008

So many toys, so little time.

With the holiday season in full swing, the pressure is on to find just the right toy for every child on your shopping list.

But where to start?

We suggest right here . . . where we're sharing some of our favorite picks for the 6-and-older crowd. Some are updated classics, while others will have you running for a dictionary (or a child) for the correct pronunciation — can you say Bakugan?

— **BAKUGAN BATTLE BRAWLERS** from Spin Master. Magnetic marbles burst open to reveal Bakugan warrior action figures when they roll onto the metal Gate Cards. They can battle on the floor, in arenas — just about anywhere. Ages 6+. \$2.99 (for a pack) to \$29.99 (for the arena).

— **GIRL GOURMET CUPCAKE FACTORY** from Jakks Pacific. Cupcake making, baking and tasting has never been more fun — especially with the gluten-free mixes. Ages 8+. \$29.99.

— **SPA FACTORY AROMATHERAPY FOUNTAIN** from Jakks Pacific. For stylish girls, this makes perfect "scents." By adding scents to the real fountain, they can create spa treatments for lips, face and bath. Ages 8+. \$29.99.

— **DIDJ CUSTOM GAMING SYSTEM** from LeapFrog. Kids can create personal avatars and game backgrounds, while parents can upload schoolwork. It's a win-win situation. Ages 6 to 10. \$89.99 for the system, \$29.99 for software.

— **KARITO KIDS** from Kids Give. Each of the World Collection of International Dolls are styled with chic and age-appropriate fashions of her native country. Each doll also comes with a hard-bound fictional book chronicling her adventures, with a portion of the proceeds donated to charity. Ages 7+. \$99.99.

— **UNO FLASH** from Mattel. The electronic version of the classic game will keep players on their toes with random turn-taking, flashing lights and a whole lot of unpredictability. 7+. \$30.

— **U-DANCE** from Hasbro. The dance revolution is going to a whole new level with this system, which turns kids' bodies into the controller. Using wireless motion tags on their legs, dancers follow on-screen commands which track every step. Ages 8+. \$74.99.



CRAYOLA GLOW STATION from Crayola. By moving a light wand over a glowing canvas, youngsters can "paint" glow-in-the-dark art. Ages 7+. \$29.99.



MAGNEXT BUILDING SYSTEMS from Mega Brands. The sky's the limit for what builders can create with this innovative building system. It includes magnetic and plastic pieces and makes building a snap. Ages 7+. Sets range from \$19.99 to \$79.99.



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- TINI PUPPINIS from SpinMaster. What is the perfect accessory for a fashionable girl? A fashionable pet, of course. The pups are furry, fun and definitely fashionable with their shoes, brushes, clothing and jewels. Ages 7+. \$29.99.
- SPY VIDEO ATV-360 from Wild Planet. The remote-control video transmits real-time video and audio to a private headset. Surveillance has never been more fun. Ages 9+. \$99.
- STRUXX ROBOTRIX from Mega Brands. Builders can create out-of-this-world creatures with this building set, which includes special effects such as motion detection, light-up eyes, sounds and automatic movements. Ages 8+. \$59.99.
- MAGNEXT BUILDING SYSTEMS from Mega Brands. The sky's the limit for what builders can create with this innovative building system. It includes magnetic and plastic pieces and makes building a snap. Ages 7+. Sets range from \$19.99 to \$79.99.
- HYPER JUMP from Wild Planet. Players jump on colored and numbered pods in response to commands. It can be played alone or with a group of friends. Ages 6+. \$24.99.
- CRAYOLA GLOW STATION from Crayola. By moving a light wand over a glowing canvas, youngsters can "paint" glow-in-the-dark art. Ages 7+. \$29.99.
- SNAP! CLIP DIGITAL CAMERA from Digital Blue. This pocket-size camera holds up to 50 pictures and clips on easily to belts, bags and jackets. Ages 10+. \$19.99.