



# ideasforthoughtfulparents.com

## holiday gift ideas: give and get survey results

\* indicates multiple mentions

### Books for youngest children

#### Board Books

10 minutes until bedtime  
Bear on a Bike \*  
Bear Snores On \*  
Big Red Barn  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear  
Clap your Hands  
Cleo and Caspar  
Dig, Dig, Digging \* – good rhythm  
Goodnight Gorilla \*  
I Know a Rhino  
I Love Trucks  
If I Built a Car  
Jamerry  
Little Gorilla  
Tumble Bumble

*Anything by Sandra Boynton, Byron Barton*

#### Board/Picture Books

Old Bear (Jane Hissey)  
Olivia  
On the Day you were Born  
Snowmen at Night  
The Mitten – a great Russian tale  
The Napping House Hug  
Where is Green Sheep

*Anything illustrated by Jan Brett*

*Anything by Lois Ehlert*

#### Picture Books

Bats at the Beach  
Chicken Bedtime is Really Early  
Chickens aren't the only Ones  
Farfallina and Marcell – beautiful story  
Frog Belly and Rat Bone  
Going on a Bear hunt  
Good Night Good Knight  
Hogwash  
I Spy, Can You Find  
Is Your Mama a Llama – good rhythm  
Miss Rumphius – beautiful story

Monkey Business (J. Otto Siebold & Vivian Walsh) –  
hip, wonderful illustrations

Owen and Mzee  
What do People do all Day  
The Apple Doll  
The Bravest Knight  
The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza  
The Magic Hat  
The Summer My Father Turned 10 – touching story  
The Tomten and the Fox  
Velma Gratch  
Violet the pilot  
Voyage to the Bunny Planet  
Wild About Books  
Winnie The Pooh  
Zen Shorts \*  
Zin Zin the Violin

*Anything by Richard Scarry, Steve Jenkins*

#### Series

Knuffle Bunny series \*  
Maisey's Seasons  
Mr. Lunch  
Raggedy Anne's Story Book Collection  
Toot and Puddle

*Anything by Rosemary Wells*

*Anything by David Shannon*

### Books for slightly older kids (4-6)

Babe  
Grimms Fairy Tales  
Moonshot (about Apollo 11)  
Mouse and The Motorcycle  
Mr. Poppers Penguins  
The Secret Garden  
The Tales of Tiptoes Lightly  
Water Horse

#### Series

Arthur  
Clifford  
Morris the moose



Fancy Nancy  
Henry and Mudge  
Bink and Gollie  
Mr. Putter and Tabby

### Books for older kids 7+

Anna Hibiscus 7+  
Danny Champion of the World 7+  
The Secret Garden 7+  
Charlotte's Web \* 8+  
My Side of the Mountain\* 8+  
Pippi long stocking 8+  
Rascal 8+  
Stuart Little 8+  
Tales of Unfortunate Events 8+ (great love of language!  
Some dark themes, but very funny.)  
The Invention of Hugo Cabret \* 8+  
Trumpet of the Swan \* 8+  
Wonder 8+  
Wonderstruck 8+  
Amelia Lost 9+ (about Amelia Earhart)  
Heart of a Samurai 9+ (history, amazing true story)  
Holes 9+  
Island of the Blue Dolphins 9+  
Phantom Tollbooth \* 9+  
Secret of Platform 13 9+  
When You Reach Me 9+  
A Wrinkle in Time 10+  
Leviathan 10+ (great for warfare-loving science minds)

### Series

Babymouse 7+  
Beast Quest 7+  
Boxcar children 7+  
Encyclopedia Brown 7+  
Geronimo Stilton \* 7+  
My Father's Dragon \* 7+  
TOPPS Baseball Card Books 7+  
Toys Go Out 7+  
39 Clues 8+  
American Girl 8+  
Great Brain 8+  
Little House on the Prairie\* 8+  
Chronicles of Prydain 8+  
Magic Treehouse \* 8+  
The Great Brain Series 8+  
City of Ember 9+  
Harry Potter 9+  
Regarding the... 9+

The Moomintroll 9+  
Swallows and Amazons 8+ (old, British, adventure)  
Thoroughbred 9+

### Audio Books

Usborne Audio Books  
Geromino Stilton Audio Books  
Harry Potter series  
Storynory audio series  
Tales of Unfortunate Events series - Tim Curry!  
Fantastic for a long car ride.

### Toys that have gotten the most play

Aquadoodle  
Art supplies \*  
Baby Dolls  
Barbies \*  
Baseball glove  
Batman stuff  
Bop It  
Bristle Bocks  
Doctor Kit  
Doll house  
Dress up \* (misc items like chef's hat, sequin tops,  
high heel shoes - thrift shop items)  
Estes rockets ([www.estesrockets.com](http://www.estesrockets.com))  
Fabric / silks  
Hotwheels cars  
Imaginext  
Legos \* brickmaster kids (multiple options)  
Magnetiles \* - "is such a winner"  
Matching Games  
Marble Runs  
NOK hockey  
Plan Toys (Train Tracks, Vehicles, Garage)  
Plasma Car  
Play Dough  
Playmobile \*  
Pretend food  
Rainy Day Kids Indoor Trapeeze Bar  
Razor Scooter  
Sidewalk chalk - "even better with 3D glasses"  
Snap Circuits \*  
Thomas Train Set  
Wooden blocks \*  
Wooden doll stroller  
Woodkins



## DVDs for Kids to watch alone or with other kids

American Legends  
 Aristocrats  
 Babies – the documentary  
 Barney  
 Brady Bunch Series  
 Chicken run  
 Cloudy with a Chance of meatballs  
 Dan Zanes anything  
 Despicable Me  
 Dick van dyke  
 Disney princess movies - any of them  
 Dora  
 Disney's Robin Hood  
 Elf  
 Hair Spray  
 Harry Potter  
 Hayao Miyazaki's movies (My Neighbor Totoro, Kiki's  
 Delivery Service, Ponyo, The Secret world of  
 Arriety)  
 Hero  
 How to Train your Dragon  
 I Love Lucy  
 Imax National Geographic  
 The Incredibles \*  
 Journey to Atlantis  
 Madagascar series \*  
 Mary Poppins  
 Mr. Poppers Penguins  
 My Fair Lady  
 My Neighbor Totoro \*  
 National Treasure  
 Old Bear (series / fr author Jane Hissey - Very sweet,  
 old, slow paced, clever. Great for youngest viewers.)  
 Old Muppet Shows  
 Old Pink Panther cartoons  
 Old TV shows  
 Ramona and Beezus \*  
 Schoolhouse Rock  
 Sky Kids  
 Sound of Music  
 Tangled  
 Tom and Jerry \*  
 Toy Story  
 Up \*  
 Wall-E

## DVDs to watch as a Family

A Conversation with Koko  
 Beatles Movies (Hard Days night, Help, Yellow  
 Submarine)  
 Becoming Elmo  
 Bend it like Beckham \* (Girl power, sports, some  
 romance)  
 Building Big – a series by David Macaulay  
 Cars  
 Charlie brown  
 Despicable Me  
 Disney documentaries (some parts tough for  
 sensitive kids)  
 Duma \*  
 DVD earth and oceans  
 Fairy Tale: A true Christmas story  
 Harry Potter (1st 3 - get progressively darker)  
 Home Alone  
 Hugo  
 Ice Age  
 Imax  
 Kiki's Kitten  
 Madagascar  
 Mary Poppins \*  
 Meet Dave  
 My Fair Lady  
 Original Heidi  
 Original Moby Dick  
 Original Swiss Family Robinson  
 Planet Earth  
 RV  
 Schoolhouse Rock  
 Secretariat – amazing and inspiring true story  
 Sound of Music \*  
 Star Wars \* - one person noted “only the 1st 3”  
 The Blind Side  
 The Incredibles  
 The Miracle  
 The Muppet Movie  
 The Rookie  
 We Bought A Zoo  
 Whale Rider- great girl-power

*Cool related idea: put old movies onto DVD and they watch  
 home movies of their babyhood*



## Games (Kid to Kid Play)

Animal Bingo  
Any card game  
Apples to Apples  
Bananagrams  
Battleship  
Beyblades  
Bingo  
Blink  
Blokus  
Building tents  
Candyland \*  
Chess  
Chocolate Fix (great game to play alone, rec age 1-4th grade)  
Chutes and Ladders \*  
Connect 4 – an oldie but goodie  
Creationary  
Dancing around to music  
Dogopoly – monopoly for the dog lover  
Double Shutter by Blue Orange  
Draw Something (app)  
Dressing up and coming up with skits  
Forbidden Island  
Go Fish  
Gobbler  
Hide and Seek \*  
Hi Ho Cherry O  
Jumping rope  
Kanoodle  
LEGO  
Life  
Mancala \*  
Masterpiece  
Memory card games by eeboo  
Monopoly \*  
Old Maid  
Penguins on Ice (alone)  
Playmobil  
Pretty, pretty princess  
Qbits  
Quiddler  
Qwirkle  
Rat a Tat Cat \*  
Risk  
River, Rails and Roads (5+)  
Road Block (super fun for kids 7+)  
Rukus  
Rummikub

Rush hour  
Set \*  
Slamwich  
Sleeping Queens \*  
Sorry \*  
Spies/spying  
Spot it \*  
Squiggle Alphabet  
Stratego  
Trouble \*  
Uno  
Yahtzee \*  
Zingo \*

## Games (Family Play)

20 questions  
Apples to Apples \*  
Apples to Apples Jr.  
Backgammon  
Bananagrams \*  
Baseball Guys  
Battleship  
Blokus \*  
Boggle \*  
Card games \*  
Celebrity  
Charades \*  
Chess \*  
Chutes and Ladders  
Clue\*  
Color Stix  
Cranium Cadoo  
Creationary (Lego)  
Cubes  
Farkel \*  
Forbidden Island \*  
Giant Spoons  
Hallubaloo  
Jenga  
Life  
Mancala \*  
MasterMind \*  
Monopoly  
Payday  
Pictionary  
Ping pong  
Puzzles  
Quirkle \*  
Rainbow Timber



Rat a Tat Cat \*  
River, Rails and Roads  
Rukus  
Scattergories  
Scrabble \*  
Scrambled States \*  
Set (graphic card game for all ages, even  
non-readers)  
Slamwich  
Sleeping queens \*  
Sock monkey game  
Sorry \*  
Spot it \*  
Squiggle Alphabet  
Story Cubes \*  
Stratego (great, but long)  
Taboo  
Telestrations (multi-age drawing game, from early  
readers on up -- 6-8 players, pee-in-your-pants funny!)  
Tenzi  
Uno \*  
Yatzhee  
Zingo