

NOVEMBER 2020



# Life With A Baby HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

## 2020 TOY WISHLIST

From the educational to the zany, we've got the lowdown on this year's most-wanted toys.

## DELICIOUS EATS

Delectable eats you can prep, serve - and still put your feet up.

## THE FRUGAL HOLIDAY

Tips & tricks to decorate, entertain and make merry - on a budget

# MERRY & BRIGHT

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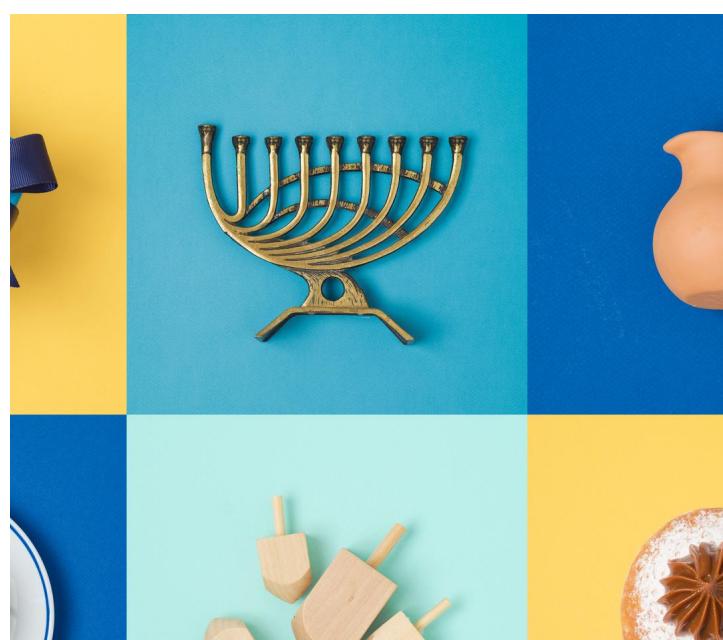


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# “FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE.”

Getting the gift that gets **that** reaction is everything. In this guide, you'll find options for babies to tweens, for every budget. Plus, we've got you covered with food, entertaining and decor ideas that won't break the bank - or you!

We can't think of a better way to support local businesses and spread joy. Cheers!





# Babies & Toddlers

FIND THE ONE THEY'LL PLAY WITH INSTEAD OF **THE BOX**

When it comes to our tiniest sources of joy, we're extra picky about what toys make the cut. Lucky for us, every choice is safe, fun and built to last. Now, if only they'd put the packaging down....



## REAL BLOX

REAL BLOX may be pretend but the fun is real! Depicting every day food, household and nature items, REAL BLOX are a great tool for teaching early language and colour skills. Fun, non-toxic and made of natural cedar, it's about to become your baby's go-to toy.

**Perfect For:** Age 1-3

**MSRP:** \$40

Visit [robotpowertoy.com](http://robotpowertoy.com) to learn more

### Photo Specs

265 W x 450 H pixels, min 72 dpi

### Format

JPEG or PNG, Max file size 100KB

### Cost

\$500



## BIG OLE' DINO



BIG OLE' DINO is here to stay with it's soft, non-toxic silicone covering made just for babies to bite-back. With a friendly face and internal beacon to ensure it never gets left behind, this guy is triceraTOPS!

**Perfect For:** Age 2-3

**MSRP:** \$30

Visit [bigoledino.com](http://bigoledino.com) to learn more



## SNUGGIE WUGGIE BEAR

Say it - AWWWWW! That's it, we found something that might break the cute-meter. Made from organic, bleach-free cotton knit, SNUGGIE is the softest, warmest, snuggiest bear there ever was. Easy to grab for little hands, this bear has no hard parts to disrupt the comfort. Get ready to find this cutie wrapped up tight in the arms of your little one.

**Perfect For:** Age 0-3

**MSRP:** \$40

Visit [snuggiebear.com](http://snuggiebear.com) to learn more

**Photo Specs:** 265 W x 380 H pixels, min 72 dpi

**Format:** JPEG or PNG, Max file size 100KB

**Cost:** \$450





**BIG OLE' DINO**  
[bigoledino.com](http://bigoledino.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 2-3

**MSRP:** \$30



**BABY BUILDER**  
[babybuilder.com](http://babybuilder.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 1-3

**MSRP:** \$20



**SNUGGIE WUGGIE  
BEAR**  
[snuggiebear.com](http://snuggiebear.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 0-3

**MSRP:** \$40



**CUDDLE MAT**  
[cuddlemat.com](http://cuddlemat.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 0-1

**MSRP:** \$35



**SUPER DUPER  
RUBBER DUCKY**  
[youretheone.com](http://youretheone.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 1-3

**MSRP:** \$15



**SLEEP FRIENDS**  
[sleepfriends.com](http://sleepfriends.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 0-3

**MSRP:** \$40



**BUBBO BATH**  
[cleanclean.com](http://cleanclean.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 0-1

**MSRP:** \$55



**CHOO CHOO**  
[choochoo.com](http://choochoo.com)

**Perfect For:**

Age 1-3

**MSRP:** \$30

**Photo Specs:** 170 W x 151 H pixels, min 72 dpi  
**Format:** JPEG or PNG, Max file size 100KB  
**Cost:** \$250



# DIY Decorative Ornaments

A brilliant choice for more than just a tree, ornaments can add pops of joyful colour to any room! This is an easy-peasy craft to create personalized ornaments. We recommend putting them in clear vases, in bowls and as a whimsical part of a centrepiece!

## YOU'LL NEED:

- Plain white or clear ball ornaments (Dollar stores are a great place to snag these!)
- Spray paint in at least three coordinating colours
- Sticks or dowel rods appx. 1/3" to 1/2" in diameter

## "COLOUR BRINGS JOY INTO ANY ROOM!"



Begin by removing the top of the ornaments and place them upside down on the dowel rods. Use the dowel rod to hold your ornament up while you use your spray paint to spray bursts of paint onto random sections of the ornament. Repeat with all the colours until your ornament is covered. Place your dowel rod into a piece of styrofoam or holes in a cardboard box to let the paint dry. Once dry, replace the cap of the ornament and decorate!

## Hosting? No problem.

Thanks to the pandemic, you may be on the hook for a holiday gathering for the first time. The good news? Small groups mean less people to entertain, and our current times mean no judgement for your efforts. The truth is, we just want to be with our loved ones, the atmosphere and food are just a bonus.

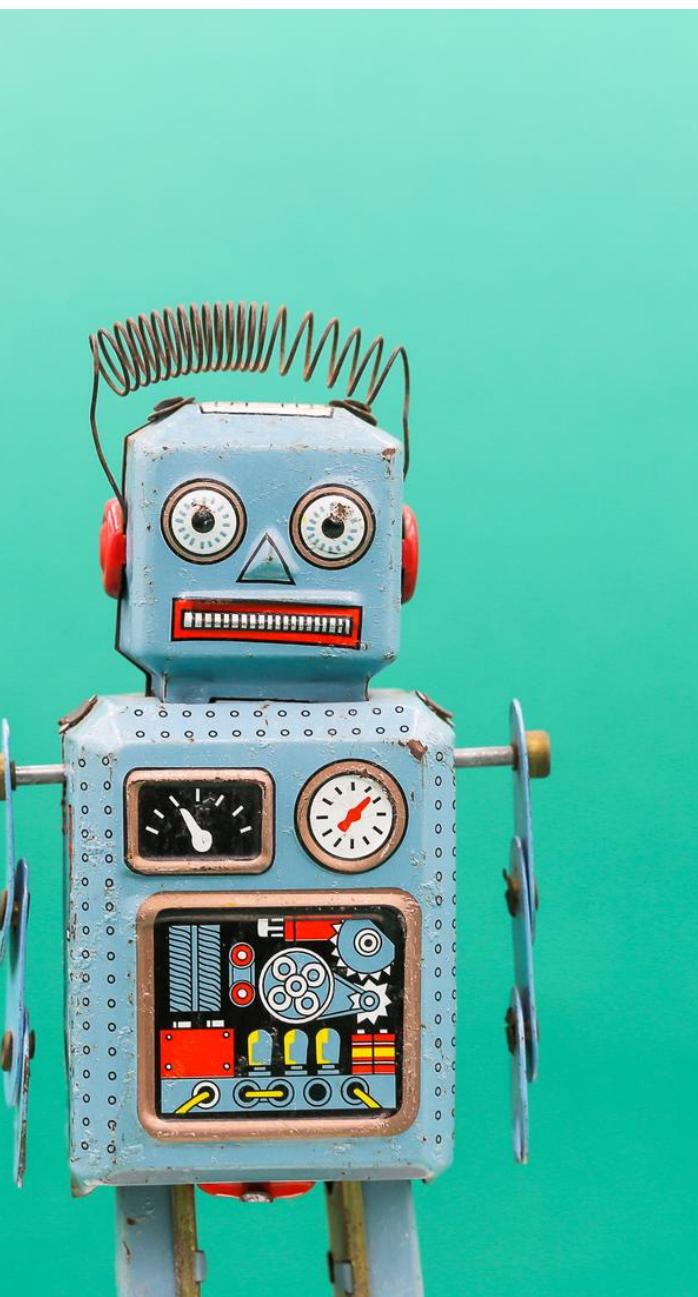




# Ages 4 to 8

KEEP THEM CURIOUS

Let their curiosity and imaginations soar with books, toys, games and learning resources made to nurture wonder.



## ROBOT POWER

Already one of the hottest toys of 2020, **ROBOT POWER** is set to light-up wish-lists everywhere. Made to teach basic code and automation, it's science and math wrapped in fun!

**Perfect For:** Age 6-8

**MSRP:** \$40

Visit [robotpowertoy.com](http://robotpowertoy.com) to learn more



# KIDS' CRAFT

BY KRISTA

Our beloved Community Manager Krista has the perfect craft for little fingers and short attention spans! Besides that, they're adorable, use things you likely already have at home (we KNOW you have TP rolls, we all do!) and you won't mind putting them up around the house to create some cheer!

## YOU'LL NEED

- 4 Paper Rolls
- Paint – white, light pink and your choice of skin tone for the Santa and elf.
- Red Glitter Paper
- Green Glitter Paper
- Small Black Buttons
- Small Red Buttons
- Small Red Pom Poms
- Medium Red Pom Pom
- Orange Cardstock
- Small Googly Eyes
- Cotton Balls
- Medium White Pom Poms
- Red Pipe Cleaner
- Black Sharpie



## Instructions:

### **SNOWMAN:**

1. Paint the toilet paper roll white.
2. Make the earmuffs by gluing the pipe cleaner over the top. Glue two medium sized white pom poms to the side.
3. Cut out a carrot nose from orange cardstock and glue down.
4. Cut out a strip for the scarf and then wrap around the paper roll and glue down.
5. Glue on two black buttons.
6. Draw on the mouth and eyes with a black sharpie.

**THE PERFECT CRAFT  
FOR LITTLE FINGERS !**





# PRETEEN (9-12)

KEEP THEM ENGAGED

Unpredictable and totally loveable, Preteen or Tweens are one of the toughest groups to buy for. Our advice? Look for gifts in line with their natural curiosity and interests.



## VIDEO CRAZE

Prepare for hours of fun with VIDEO CRAZE. It's the latest in tech that combines fun and learning. With over 30 games to choose from, kids can explore everything from coding games, to adventure quests to dance competitions and sports. With parental controls and programmable timer, you can rest easy.

**Perfect For:** Age 9-12

**MSRP:** \$80

Visit [videocraze.com](http://videocraze.com) to learn more





# MAKE THE HOLIDAY BRIGHT

Yeah, this year is a tough one to say the least. But you know what? We can still have a wonderful holiday season; one full of gratitude, intention, community and hope. Here are 8 tips to help you manage a holiday season like no other.

1

## PLAN AHEAD

Things that freeze, refrigerate, bag and can are your friends. Use frozen veggies for 'fresh' dishes, canned for baked. Include dishes that can be fully or partially prepped in advance. On the day of, start early so you don't feel rushed.

2

## LIMIT THE GUEST LIST

For your sanity and safety, be rigid with the guest-list. Base this on the room you have, i.e. seats at the table, so everyone can be seated comfortably and not too close. Plus, you can prep less when it's a controlled group.

3

## MIX SELF-SERVE COCKTAILS

Choose one or two festive hits, make large batches and place in a serving bowl with ladle or pitcher and voila - everyone is their very own bartender (meaning it's not you!).

4

## USE NO-COOK APPS

Sliced cheese, crackers, nuts, fresh and dried fruit and veggies - honestly the possibilities are endless when it comes to things you can cut up, cover, and pull out when guests arrive - saving oven for the showstoppers!

5

## DELEGATE

Learn to delegate. Whether you need help cleaning up the yard, scrubbing the guest bathroom, or making a playlist, ask your spouse or child to pitch in so you aren't doing it all.



6

## SET-UP THE NIGHT BEFORE

Do as much as you can the night before. Rearrange furniture or gather extra seating; restock the restroom with toilet paper and clean towels; decide where to put the drinks; make or choose the music playlist. Set the table and decide what food will go in what dish for serving.

7

## PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT

To reduce the pressure of having to 'entertain' everyone at all times, consider putting a few things out that people can use to conjure up some fun on their own such as board games, dominoes and picture albums.

8

## SURRENDER

Hey - there's no such thing as the perfect function - for anyone. So turn off the oven, give yourself a pat on the back, and go join the group, laugh and be merry.



LIFE IS  
UNCERTAIN.  
EAT DESSERT  
FIRST.

