

# MAKING HOLIDAY DREAMS COME TRUE

## EIGHT EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING GIFT IDEAS FOR THE GRANDKIDS

By Claire Yezbak Fadden, Associate Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year, especially if you're a kid—and during the holidays, aren't we all a bit childlike in wonder and anticipation? I've gathered some fun gift ideas sure to please your grandchildren and just about any young ones on your holiday list. Best of all, these gifts are educational or good for fine tuning motor skills.



**Their First Tricycle.** The ready-to-ride *Grow 'N Go Lights & Sounds Bike* is perfect for active toddlers. It features solid steel construction, sturdy wheels and a telescoping frame that adjusts to grow with the child. I loved playing with the electronic dashboard's blinking turn signal, honking horn and music (3 AA batteries included). And it's already assembled! Ages 18 mos.-3 years; \$49. Available at Wal-Mart, Toys-R-Us and Amazon.com. radioflyer.com.



**The Land of Make-Believe.** An affordable new line of dress-up products includes realistic rescue outfits to let children portray firefighters, police officers and EMTs, as well as fantasy costumes to capture the spotlight as fairy princesses and ballerinas. The versatile outfits by *Magical Apparel* are constructed of a heavy-duty cotton/poly blend with elastic panels for one-size-fits-all convenience. Incorporated laces, snaps, buttons, zippers and hook and-loop closures help children develop their fine motor skills. Ages 3-8; \$19.99 to \$39.99. Available through funandfunction.com.



**What's Cooking?** Encouraging kids to eat healthy food can be fun and easy. The *Little Playful Chef* cooking kit helps teach children the amazing lessons that cooking has to offer while creating memorable quality time with Grandma and Grandpa. The kits include six educational and entertaining recipe cards, an apron & backpack, mixing bowl, baking pan and up to 10 kid-sized kitchen tools. Ages 3+; \$39.99. The Playful Life product line is sold in major stores. For a listing, go to playfulinc.com.



**Nurture Your Piano Player.** Bring out the inner musician in your grandchild with the *Sesame Street Learn to Play Piano*. This attractive wood piano features 25 keys, two full octaves to give kids a wide



range of notes, keynotes and finger notes guides. An illustrated songbook is included to help kids make beautiful music. Ages 3+; \$50. Sold in major stores. Call 800-755-1902 to locate the nearest store. kidsstationtoys.com.

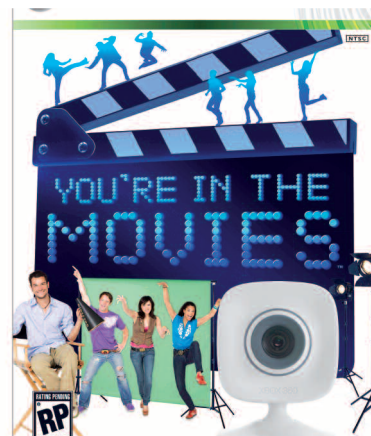
**Test Your Knowledge.** This electronic tabletop version of the TV game show *Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?* asks questions about 13 school subjects. Answer 11 questions in a row, from 1st through 5th grade school subjects, and win one million dollars. The game is shaped like a chalkboard and uses a wireless remote that lets players beam in their answers, use the cheat features or drop out. Ages 8+; \$29.99; Available at major retailers and Amazon.com. tech-nosourceusa.com.



**Safe Scooter Fun.** A freestyle scooter, the *NextSport Fuzion Electron* uses four wheels instead of the traditional two to stabilize the rider. It forces the wheels flush to the ground when it's in motion. Its high-performance features ignite a kid's imagination and challenge his technical limits. The compact and lightweight aluminum frame comes in silver, blue, black and bright green. Ages 7+; \$59.99. Available at Wal-Mart, Dicks Sporting Goods, Toys "R" Us, Sports Authority, Costco and Target. nextsport.com.



**Learning About the Environment.** At the *Bill Nye (the Science Guy) Paper Recycling Plant*, young scientists learn the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Using scrap/waste paper from their own homes, kids can create their very own colorful greeting cards, notepads and other paper products. The kit is packed with information about the environment and the importance of recycling. Ages 8-11; \$24.99. Available at Wal-Mart and specialty retailers. elmersbrands.com.



**Lights. Camera. Action.** Live out your dreams of becoming a scream queen, zombie, or kung fu fighter in the first and only game of its kind to transport players into a magical world of cinema mixed with the hilarious world of improvisation. *You're in the Movies* captures players' actions and turns them into short, riotous films that highlight the unique and often dubious acting talents of friends and family. Performances never end up on the cutting room floor. (Available only on Xbox 360.) \$59.99. Rated E (everyone). •