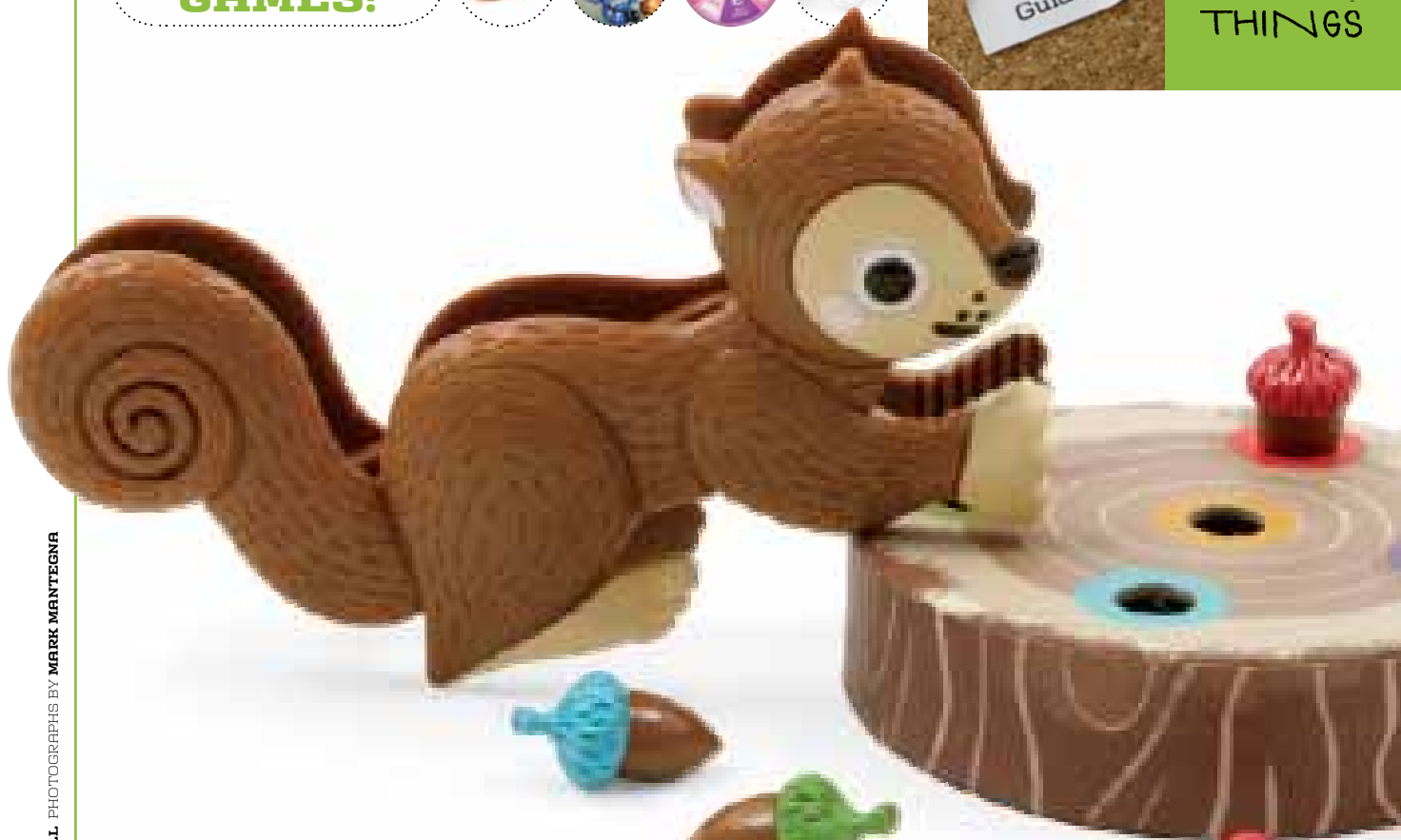


A Special Guide to the
Best New Family
GAMES!



**OUR
FAVORITE
THINGS**



Color-matching game

The Sneaky, Snacky Squirrel Game!

Ages 3 and up. Educational Insights, \$20

Sometimes, simple really is best. Players spin to win brightly hued acorns, then use squirrel-shaped tongs to move the seeds to matching spots on their logs (above). Bonus: Our testers liked playing with the acorns (feeding them to their menagerie of stuffed animals) almost as much as they loved the game. *2 to 4 players*

Laugh-out-loud game

Bubble Talk

Ages 8 and up. Techno Source, \$20

If laughter is truly the best medicine, then Bubble Talk should be FDA-approved. In each round, one player is deemed judge and selects a photo card. From the cards in their hands, the other players pick what they think is the funniest caption for that image. Get the biggest laugh from the judge (and other players!) and win that round. *3 to 8 players*



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CLASSIC WE LOVE

We never tire of **Blokus**: try to play all your pieces while blocking others from playing theirs. *2 to 4 players. Ages 5 and up. Mattel, \$30*





Word game

Konexi

Ages 10 and up. The Wonder Forge, \$20

It takes a steady hand and a sharp eye to score in this game. Players link up letter blocks in every direction to form words and earn points while trying not to topple the tower. 2 to 6 players

Active & educational video game

Body and Brain Connection

Ages 5 and up. Namco Bandai, \$50 for Kinect

Players take full advantage of the Kinect's use-your-body-as-the-controller feature to kick, glide, and jump through 20 brainteasing exercises in such categories as math and logic. It's a true total body — and mind — workout! 1 to 4 players



Strategy game

Skippity

Ages 5 and up. MindWare, \$20

Looking like a cross between a checkerboard and a kaleidoscope, this colorful game quickly became a favorite with our testers. On a turn, players can move any piece (called skippers) to jump and capture other pieces, with the goal of collecting the most sets (one of each color). Testers liked that they had to strategize to collect the pieces they needed — and to make sure their siblings couldn't! 2 to 4 players

Laugh-out-loud video game

Rabbids Party Collection

Ages 8 and up. Ubisoft, \$30 for Wii

More than 175 active mini games featuring the wacky rabbids (think demented bunnies) get players up off the couch and moving. This disk brings together three previously released games we loved in one new bargain pack, for hours of gut-busting fun. 1 to 4 players



We're not sure if the salaries in **Payday** have kept up with inflation over the years, but we know the fun factor has. 2 to 4 players. Ages 8 and up. Winning Moves Games, \$18



Risk-taking game

Make Me a Cake!

Ages 4 and up. Chronicle Books, \$17

Be your own Cake Boss as you spin to collect pieces (stands, tiers, icing, and toppers) that let you make a cake. Players earn points based on the height of their confections, so you have to decide: keep the cake small and bank points now, or take a chance and keep building? If someone lands on "Big Spill" before you've finished, all your pieces go back to the kitchen and you have to start over. *1 to 4 players*



Silly video game

Oops! Prank Party

Ages 6 and up. Hudson Entertainment, \$20 for Wii

This game's tagline says it all: Victory is sweet, but losing is hilarious! Compete in 100 mini games (bowling, ninja attack), but if you lose, be prepared for the consequences. We don't want to give too much away, but let's just say lots of costume changes are involved. *1 to 4 players*

For more game recommendations, get our **ToyHopper** app, available on the App Store.



Active & funny game**Phineas & Ferb 104 Days of Summer**

Ages 7 and up. Jakks Pacific, \$20

Based on the popular Disney Channel TV show, this game has players perform silly acts of derring-do as they race to the end of summer (the end of the board). Tester-favorite activities included timed challenges (how many times can you bounce and catch a plastic brain?) and talent shows (watch Mom try to balance the mummy on her head).

2 to 6 players

**Imaginative game****Rory's Story Cubes**

Ages 6 and up. Gamewright, \$8

The possibilities of this game are nearly endless. Toss the dice to reveal your set of pictures — flashlight, turtle, magic wand, abacus, and so on — then tell a tale that incorporates all of them. Play alone or with a group; roll all nine cubes at once or one at a time. The rules are up to you! 1 or more players