

# top 10 toys

## Toys are supposed to be child's play.

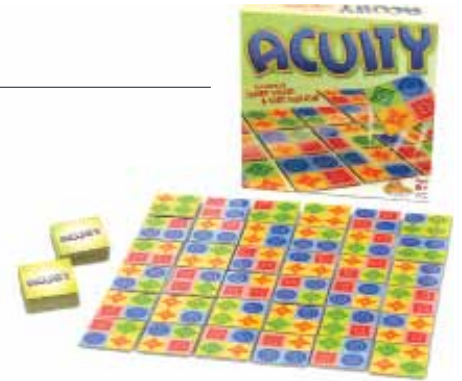
But finding quality toys at reasonable prices often isn't fun and games. So, for our 2010 Holiday Toy Guide, we asked Parents' Choice®, the nation's oldest and most respected nonprofit guide to children's media and toys, for holiday gift suggestions. We asked, specifically, for a list of 10 toys that deliver entertainment and learning for less than \$25. Here are the Parents' Choice Foundation's picks for 10 of the best toys for kids this holiday season.



### Spot It!

Blue Orange Games;  
[blueorangegames.com](http://blueorangegames.com)  
\$12.99; ages 7 and up

This easy-to-learn game puts a new spin on picture matching. Fifty-five round cards each show an array of eight different images. There is always one, and only one, matching symbol between any two cards. The player who spots it first wins. Players of all ages will discover how the size or positioning of an image makes it challenging to find its match.



### Acuity

Fat Brain Toy; [fatbraintoyco.com](http://fatbraintoyco.com)  
\$19.95; ages 8 and up

Each tile in this pattern-matching game shows a unique set of brightly colored shapes. Players set up a grid of tiles and try to match a remaining tile not to a single tile, but to overlapping edges or to rotated tiles.

### Natural History Museum Pocket Microscope

Wild Creations;  
[wildcreations.com](http://wildcreations.com)  
\$13.99; ages 5 and up

Children will love this microscope's small size. It travels well, allowing them to make new discoveries not visible to the naked eye. Children will have fun collecting items specifically to view in detail. This product got our testers thinking about the world around them in a whole new way.



# that aren't top dollar



## Orbo

Popular Playthings; [popularplaythings.com](http://popularplaythings.com)

\$9.99; ages 4 and up

A nicely weighted ball that fits comfortably in your child's hands is studded with 12 holes, each outlined with a different color. Marble-sized spheres of corresponding colors peek out from 11 of the holes. The twelfth is empty. Players can snap a neighboring ball into the interior as they try to return the mini-balls to their original conformation.



## U-Build Connect 4

Hasbro Games; [hasbro.com](http://hasbro.com)

\$19.99; ages 6 and up

The playing area of U-Build Connect 4, a system of ramps and chutes with a movable bumper at the top of each chute, combines an old game with a novel set-up. Once they've constructed the board, players drop checkers from any of the ramps into the grid, positioning the bumper to deflect their checker pieces into the correct column.



## Eco Kit Tyrannosaurus

iLot 307; [ilot307.com](http://ilot307.com)

\$19.99; ages 6-12

This 3-D puzzle is not just a puzzle one assembles and displays, but it's a model to be built and used for imaginative play. The Eco Kit Tyrannosaurus comes with directions and pieces to construct a Tyrannosaurus (made from environmentally-friendly materials) in multiple poses.

Throughout the year, Parents' Choice Foundation's panels of educators, scientists, performing artists, librarians, parents, and kids themselves, identify the best products for children of varied skill and interest levels. Rigorous evaluation standards and a combination of concept, educational value, quality, originality, age-appropriateness, appeal, and long-term play value help determine Parents' Choice Award-winning products.



**Imaginets**

MindWare; [mindware.com](http://mindware.com)

\$24.95; ages 3 and up

Snap open the case and behold a colorful array of 42 wooden blocks. They don't spill out because they are magnetized to adhere to the panels lining the case. The varied shapes and gentle colors of the blocks are readily adaptable to many themes, and the set includes a deck of cards showing 50 full-color designs ranging from easy to complex.

**Guess My Picture**

Wild Planet Entertainment, Inc.; [wildplanet.com](http://wildplanet.com)

\$14.99; ages 4 and up

Guess My Picture comes with 100 photo cards and 82 multi-colored shapes used to build the pictures found on the photo cards. Each card has pictures of a variety of items, such as animals and objects. Players take turns using the shapes to "build" the picture. Other players guess what the builder has made.

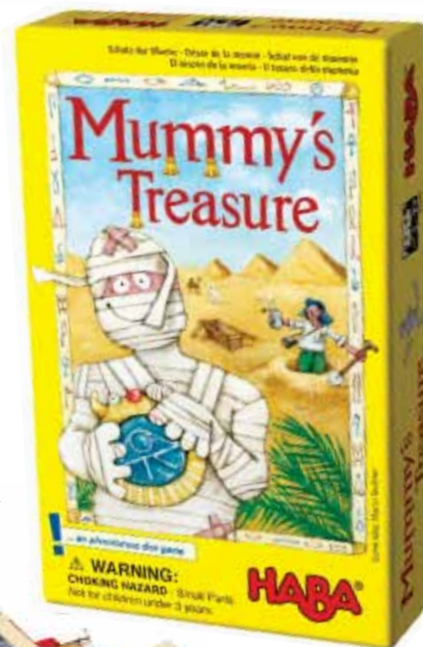


**Mummy's Treasure Game**

HABA; [habausa.com](http://habausa.com)

\$12.00; ages 3 and up

The Mummy's Treasure Game encourages young children to strategize. It comes with four game cards called "excavation sites," five dice with six different pictures of treasures on them, and multiple game "tiles" with pictures matching the dice treasures. Players will develop problem-solving skills as they try to cover their entire card with treasures.



**Stix & Stones**

Educational Insights, Inc.; [educationalinsights.com](http://educationalinsights.com)

\$24.99; ages 7 and up

In Stix & Stones, teams compete to identify a word or phrase represented by a design made of plastic sticks and stones. A player from each team bids on words by claiming to be able to create it using only a small number of pieces. The player bidding the lowest then makes the design and his or her team has to identify the image.

Established in 1978, Parents' Choice is the nation's oldest nonprofit guide to quality children's media and toys dedicated to providing recommendations for books, toys, music, video games, digital media, and more. For more information, visit [parents-choice.org](http://parents-choice.org). © 2010 Parents' Choice Foundation.