

How to Stay Merry & Bright!

The Smart Families Gift Buying Guide



“Give gifts that reflect your values.” It’s easy to find yourself scrolling through the latest list of the ‘top 50 toys’ when you are considering gifts for your child this Christmas. Here at Smart Families we have created our own holiday gift guide to showcase some of the more meaningful gifts and experiences that will encourage creativity, time outdoors, and most importantly, time together. We advocate for choosing gifts that align with your family values and promote connection and joy this holidays season!

ARTS & EXPLORATION

Lulu Junior Book Making Kits - Book-making kits from Lulu Junior are the all-in-one way for kids to become authors.
<https://lulujr.com>



The Miniscope - This mini microscope will spark their curiosity in no time! It's a fun activity for both the boys and girls, revealing the micro-world in an educational way.
<https://www.minilabsters.com>



KiwiCo - These unique craft sets were created to celebrate kids' natural creativity and curiosity, while helping parents who want to bring enriching experiences to their children. Monthly subscription boxes for children from 0-16+ delivered straight to your door!
<https://www.kiwico.com>



The Big Book of Nature Art by Yuval Zomer - This awesome book features twenty-two easy craft projects using natural and recycled materials, The Big Book of Nature Art is a fun and eco-friendly way for young children to connect creatively with nature.
<https://www.thamesandhudsonusa.com/books/the-big-book-of-nature-art-hardcover>



SAFE TECH ALTERNATIVES

A Yoto Player - A screen-free audio player that is controlled with physical playing cards that when inserted into the audio player will play stories, music, activities, podcasts and radio. What neat way to hear all that great content out there!
<https://us.yotoplay.com>



Jooki - This premium audio player gives your child safe access to streaming audio content.
<https://jooki.com>



Mighty 3 Music Player - Mighty plays your Spotify and Amazon Music* without a phone, screen, or Internet connection. Just like the original iPod shuffle!
<https://bemighty.com>



Walkie Talkie Fun - Scavenger hunts, hide and seek, family adventures. Lots of possibilities!
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00OXLY49A/?tag=experiencedmommy-20&geniuslink=true&th=1>



Mini karaoke Set - A karaoke machine, portable speaker, music player and party lights all in one! You can also easily connect other devices via Bluetooth, TF, USB drive, AUX.
<https://www.walmart.com>



SPIRITUAL

Tiny Saints - Let your child pick which saint they want to carry with them! With so many options, they will certainly find THE one!
<https://www.tinysaints.com/>



EXPERIENCES

The Adventure Challenge, Family Edition - Give the gift of connection! Every adventure in the book is a surprise until you scratch it off! Don't forget to take photos and let the book become a keepsake full of memories to look back on.

<https://www.theadventurechallenge.com/products/family-edition-book>



Cooking Class for Kids - Check out some of these local businesses offering kids/family cooking classes across Houston.

Flavors Over Fire

<https://www.flavorsonfirehouston.com>

Sur La Table

<https://www.surlatable.com>

Well Done Cooking Classes (age 13+)

<https://welldonecc.com>



Discovery Flight Experience - Does your child dream of becoming a pilot? Anson Aviation at Sugarland offer a discovery flight for those interested in a career in the skies!

<https://www.ansonair.com/disco>



Pontoon Boat Cruise - Do you have a nature lover in the family? Armand Bayou Nature Center offer pontoon cruises aboard the "Bayou Ranger II". Adventure through the heart of the nature center along the Armand and Horsepen Bayous where wildlife gathers to find food, water, and shelter

<https://www.abnc.org/pontoon-boat-cruises>



Family Theater Tickets - Watch your child light up as they enjoy one of their favorite movies or books in person. The Main Street Theater For Youth offers child acted and child appropriate shows for everyone!

<https://mainstreettheater.com/theater-for-youth/>

Main
Street
Theater



EXPERIENCES

Rock Climbing Gyms - Turn your child's furniture climbing skills into rock climbing! Check out 43,000 square feet of space at Momentum Climbing right here in Houston with endless climbing terrain, awesome hangout spaces, and a massive area for cardio, fitness, and yoga.

<https://momentumclimbing.com/silver-street/>



Sporting Events - You don't always need to think Astros! Look for college games, smaller leagues and even high school games for your kids to be inspired! Follow the Huskies, the HBU softball team, for their spring schedule!

<https://hcuhuskies.com/sports/softball>



Escape Rooms - An escape room, also known as an escape game, puzzle room, exit game, or riddle room is a game in which a team of players discover clues, solve puzzles, and accomplish tasks in a limited amount of time. The goal is to escape the game room. Great for friends and family!

<https://locktopiahouston.com/>



Top Golf - A place where everyone can play even if no one plays! Fun for all ages and skill levels.

<https://topgolf.com/us/>



BOARD GAMES

Games for all ages - Look for new games that your kids will love! Check out Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, Telestrations, Catan, Ticket to Ride, Guess Who, and Genius Square (just to name a few!)



SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Baden Champion Volleyball Badminton Set - Easy to set up & easy to store! The Baden Combo set comes with a net, poles, volleyball, badminton supplies, air pump and carry bag! Get more out of one purchase.

<https://www.dickssportinggoods.com/p/baden-champions-volleyball-badminton-combo-set-16bdnuvllybllbdmnstg/16bdnuvllybllbdmnstg>



Street Hockey Net - Bauer street hockey equipment provides you with the same durability and reliability you are used to from their on-ice equipment. This street hockey net is complete with a mock goalie!

https://www.purehockey.com/product/bauer-street-hockey-goal-w-shooter-tutor-stick-ball-48-34-x-37-34-x-18-34/itm/17010-2/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAjrArBhAWEiwA2qWdCLSWgOwIMffaKlQajj9LFNZUO6G2Fs4QuWArIHTcZ2iQ5MbpzyG7gxocYkkQAvD_BwE



Rollerblades - Buying skates for kids may seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be! Look for adjustable kids skates grow as your child does so you can get more out of your gift. Check out the selection at Inlinewarehouse!

https://www.inlinewarehouse.com/Kids_Adjustable_Inline_Roller_Skates/catpage-FITJRSKATE.html



Basketball Hoop - Either over a bedroom door or in your front yard, a basketball hoop is a great way to keep kids active and even better for parents to participate. Who doesn't love a great game of horse!

<https://www.wayfair.com/outdoor/pdp/yaheetech-height-adjustable-metal-portable-full-size-basketball-hoop-ytch2541.html>



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