



Toys by category from age 10

TOY REPORT 2011

Arts & Crafts



10 +



FASHION ORIGAMI

KLUTZ INC.

ISBN-978-59174-745-1

Origami with style! Offering plenty of large and small sheets of double-sided origami paper, sequins, ribbons and glue, this craft set gives kids all they need to make 10 different fashion patterns and designs, which they can then decorate as they please. Children enjoy using the beautiful paper to make the tiny origami fashions. The directions and illustrations are easy to follow. A fun craft.



12 +



TRICKY VIDEO

KLUTZ INC.

ISBN 1081-59174-623-X

For the budding filmmaker, this comprehensive guide to creating 23 different types of special effects comes with its very own slate! Young directors explore shooting quality videos and learn about such concepts as storyboards, sound, acting, angles and perspective. The step-by-step instructions are easy to follow, clear and present good illustrations. Recommended for older children with access to a video camera and a computer; younger children may require adult assistance. A well-written resource.

Games



10 +



KONEXI

ZIMZALA GAMES

Children's Choice Award 2011The entire family can enjoy this 3-D word-building game that encourages spelling, dexterity, and understanding balance and physics. The game comes with 26 chunky letter pieces that stack together to build a teetering tower of words. The clear instructions explain that the goal of the game is to get to 20 points, but watch out – the wrong move could cause gravity to kick in and make the entire Konexi collapse! This is a learning game that does not feel like a learning game; children revisit it often to challenge their friends, siblings, and parents.



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LEXIGO

WIGGLES 3D INCORPORATED

2428460030

For the fast-paced word game fan, Lexigo challenges players to add letter tiles to a grid to spell out words in any direction: backwards, forward or in a twisting path. The first player to use up all of their tiles wins! This game is good for building vocabulary and strategy, and it comes in an attractive cloth travel pouch. Instructions are easy to follow, and adults have as much fun playing as children. Families who like word games enjoy playing this simple and exciting game together.

Games

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| <p>★ 12 +</p> | <p>LOL THE TXT MSG GAME DISCOVERY BAY GAMES 1116</p> | <p>IF U CN TXT THN U CN PLAY. In this game of text spelling, players receive a set of tiles from which they must make as many text messages as possible in three minutes. After a round (where everyone plays simultaneously), scores are added up, and the game continues to a predetermined number (the game suggests 300). The game is fast and portable, with well-constructed pieces, but it is better suited for an adult or teen who likes to text. This places younger players at a significant disadvantage. The limited number of words available also leads to frustration due to the distribution of letters.</p> |
| <p>★★★ 14 +</p> | <p>MAD GAB CARD GAME MATTEL CANADA INC. T5135</p> | <p>This card game comes with 50 playing cards and a sheet of instructions for play. Each card features a visual puzzle, and the first team to solve five puzzles wins. The game is compact, durable and the packaging is attractive. Some families may find the answers to the puzzles to be out-dated or too adult and unfamiliar to children. Children find the game to be very challenging.</p> |
| <p>★★★★ 10 + </p> | <p>PERPLEXUS BUSY LIFE LLC 8597000078</p> | <p>***Children's Choice Award 2011*** It's perplexing! Easy to play, but hard to master, this colourful 3-D maze is built inside a clear plastic ball. Children must twist and turn it to keep a small silver ball running along the maze track – but never let the silver ball drop. The goal of the game is to get the silver ball all the way through the maze without letting it fall off the track. This game is fun to play alone or in competition with friends. The maze is marked with numbered landmarks (1-100) for easy score-keeping. Parents and kids alike test their patience and skill, and those who pick it up cannot put it down.</p> |
| <p>★★★★ 12 +</p> | <p>SORT IT OUT UNIVERSITY GAMES 01026</p> | <p>Guessing is half the fun! Players try to place a group of concepts or objects into the proper order; they move forward along the game board by two spaces for every correct answer, and back one for every incorrect answer. Answers are strategic, though, because players don't have to attempt to rank every item and can play conservatively, answering only what they know or aggressively, guessing about everything. Two sets of cards provide additional challenges. Players like the colourful design and clear instructions, and at 30 to 60 minutes per session, this game does not take long to play.</p> |
| <p>★★★★ 10 + </p> | <p>U-BUILD MONOPOLY HASBRO CANADA INC. C-3252A</p> | <p>Don't just build hotels – build an entire city with this game for two to six players! Players assemble the game board from the included pieces according to the plans in the instructions, and then add buildings and other features as they play the game. While the objective – to bankrupt opponents – will be familiar to anyone who has played the original Monopoly game, U-Build Monopoly also allows players to increase and decrease property values (and rents) by placing hazards like power plants or amenities like sports fields along the map. This added complexity can be overwhelming for some players, but the rules also offer three different map layouts, allowing for shorter, simpler games. The components are sturdy, the board snaps together easily, and a completed city makes for an impressive site. It may not be traditional Monopoly, but those who are open for a challenging new board game enjoy this one.</p> |

Games



10 +



WORD ON THE STREET

OUT OF THE BOX
PUBLISHING INC.
5939001792

The "word on the street" is fun! The board for this innovative game is set up like a four-lane highway with a strip of 17 letters down the middle. With players divided into two teams, players take turns drawing cards and then brainstorm to come up with words that fit the category listed on the card. Once the word is agreed upon, the team says the word aloud and uses the 17 letters in the middle of the board to spell the word (note: the 17 letters do not include vowels or the letters J, Q, and X, but players may use those letters in the spelling of their words). When letters are used to spell, they are shifted over into the spelling team's "lane." A tug of words ensues as the opposing team spells a word that brings the letters back to their side on their next turn. The object of the game is to be the team that moves eight letter tiles of the board first. This fun family game helps children improve their spelling abilities and teaches children to co-operate and brainstorm.



12 +

YOU DON'T SAY!

SPIN MASTER
20035025

Based on the 1960s game show, the object of this game for two to four players is to guess the name of a person, place, or thing. Players use incomplete sentences where the last word cannot be said, in an effort to get their partner to try and say that word. A team has 30 seconds to answer as many questions as they can, moving each time they get an answer correct. The game is very fast-paced, with very clear instructions, and the 500 bilingual cards (featuring a total of 3000 words!) ensure that there is plenty of variety. Younger children may have difficulty with more difficult concepts or words, but it is always possible to pass when a difficult or unknown word comes up.



A good choice for a birthday gift, rated at * and priced under \$25**



A good choice for a travel toy, rated at * and compact**



A battery operated toy, rated ***