



Toys by category from age 9

TOY REPORT 2011

Construction Toys

★ 9 +	FLICK TRIX BIKE SHOP SPIN MASTER 20022013/20022014/	These toy bikes are replicas of actual BMX bikes, and kids use their fingers to perform tricks with them. The bike looks cool with details like air-brushed colours. Besides doing stunts, the bike features extra parts that can be switched to create a whole new bike. While this set comes with a carrying case, a miniature tool set, and lots of decals, it does not include instructions, which creates frustration for younger children.
★★★★ 9 +	LEGO TECHNIC TRACTOR WITH LOG LOADER LEGO CANADA INC. 4567587	This 2-in-1 model builder comes with 525 pieces and can be built as an impressive pneumatic-powered log loader or into a cool log handler. The set comes with pieces labelled in bags to correspond with the steps in the easy-to-follow instructions. Building time takes more than an hour, but the assembly is part of the fun. Once assembled, the pieces fit well together and hold their connections. Children can use the control knob to steer the assembled tractor and unhitch the log loader trailer with ease. Two pneumatic valves operate the amazing crane arm to grasp logs (with a working grabber that looks like a big robotic claw). The fact that the crane moves using air and levers is not only neat, but it can also be educational. With the log handler, children operate a pump and use the valves to control air to the pistons.

Games

★★★ 9 +	NHL CHALLENGE BLM GAMES INC. 5439600131	In this board game, players get to be NHL coaches and they build their own teams. The points add up as the hockey teams go head to head, and the team with the highest score after three periods wins the game. The first coach to win four games takes home the Stanley Cup. This is a good game to encourage strategic thinking skills in children, and the small board makes it portable. However, the rules are somewhat confusing and the game takes a long time to play.
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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 ***