

Hot for the Holidays

Family Gift Guide

By Jennifer Stein, MSW

Tis the season to be jolly and buy the greatest gifts ever! No matter what your budget this year, we have suggestions for one and all, from bears to balls! With the economy on everyone's mind, we have chosen a wide assortment of possible perfect presents. Sometimes thinking outside of the "box" will let you put more in it. Books, cosmetics, chocolate and music all are light on the budget but big on the delight scale. Just because something is functional does not mean it isn't a fun gift. Cosmetics are a perfect example of this. Most girls, young or old(er) adore gifts that smell good and pamper. Blankets, phones, clothing, subscriptions and even memberships to a gym all fall in this category.

We never could forget to add to Santa's list the original, innovative and completely fabulous products that manufacturers have come out with this year. They have upped the ante and outdone themselves once again. New and costly are not synonymous. Don't rule out any one gift based on prices from six months ago. Many exciting items have come down in price in the last month, especially toys. Look online and at local flyers for the best deals.

Below are items we feel are hot for the holiday for kids 0-120. We hope that the gift recipients receive as much joy as we did testing the products! Prices vary and are all approximate. The numbers next to each item do not indicate a ranking due to the fact that everything on the HOT LIST is exciting.

3. **Moonman** 3+ ee publishing & productions, LLC \$19.99 plush that is musical and lights up with cute moon head and stars on the body

7. **Nana Star** 3+ ee Publishing & Productions, LLC \$21.99 soft, happy, poseable doll with cute accessories

WEBSITES

Find additional information on great products from some of the fantastic companies mentioned above.

www.babyabuelita.com

www.booninc.com

www.bryancoillier.com

www.digiblue.com

www.FriendsForeverGirls.com

www.ilovemyplanettoys.com

www.jjcoleusa.com

www.journey-cakes.com

www.keendistribution.com

www.littlemonsterrecords.com

www.NanaStar.com

www.beginsmartbooks.com

www.PixieHollow.com

www.playjishaku.com

www.playskool.com

www.rmpalmer.com

www.Sjaaks.com

www.shopbestever.com

www.smartebear.com

www.theblackcandle.com