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Bottom Line

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PERSONAL

Family fun

Stevanne Auerbach, PhD

Dr. Toy's Favorite New Toys and Games for the Holidays



These great new toys and games make learning fun...

• **Baby Annabell.** Sensitive to touch and sound, this interactive doll makes facial expressions when given a bottle—even rejects it if she's not "hungry." Rub her tummy to stop her crying. Teaches nurturing skills. Age three and up. **\$49.99.** * Zapf Creation, 877-629-9273...www.zapfcreation.com

• **Cariboo.** Explore the island of Cariboo in this treasure-hunt game. Find castles, boats and balloons while matching drawings. Unlock secret doors to find hidden treasures. Teaches the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors. Includes game board, treasure chest, treasure map, matching cards, key and six treasure balls. Two to four players. Ages three to six. **\$16.95.** Cranium, 877-732-9272...www.playeranium.com

• **Electronic Handheld Boggle.** Based on the popular word game, this version is great for travel. The goal is to win points by forming as many words as possible in just three minutes. One or two players. Age eight and up. **\$12.** Hasbro Games, 888-836-7025...www.hasbro.com

• **GeoSafari USA Search.** Touch a spot on this map on a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen, and the screen responds with information, sound and music. More than 1,000 facts about the US. One or two players. Age seven and up. **\$99.99.** Educational Insights, 800-995-4436...www.educationalinsights.com

• **Gobbler.** Strategy game where each player gets four stacks of nested cylinders and takes turns placing a new piece on an empty square, moving to an empty space or "gobbling" other players' smaller pieces. Get four pieces in a row to win. Two players. Age seven and up. **\$29.95.** Blue Orange Games, 415-572-3885...www.blueorangegames.com

• **Jungle Robot.** This robot crosses ropes hand-over-hand like a monkey or walks on the ground like a gorilla. Say, "Wake up!" and it moves. Helps children learn about sensors, gears, electronics and reasoning. Age 10 and up. **\$19.95.** OWL, 800-638-1694...www.owlrobot.com

• **Knights of Knowledge.** Three-dimensional castle invites children to

*Prices are manufacturers' suggested retail. Discounts may be available.

select educational adventures. Characters—including Sir-Counts-a-lot—lead math, reading, logic, spelling and other activities. Includes LCD screen, joystick and keyboard disguised as a drawbridge. One player. Age five and up. **\$49.99.** Vtech Industries, 800-521-2010...www.vtechkids.com

• **LEGO Creator Deluxe Game.** First player to complete the LEGO model wins the game. Offers three skill levels. Two to four players. Age four and up. **\$24.99.** Warren Industries, 800-447-2151...www.roseart.com

• **Musini.** This electronic unit has a sensor that plays music every time your child moves. Expansion pack available for \$19.99. Requires four C batteries. Ages three to eight. **\$59.99.** Neurosmith, 800-220-3669...www.neurosmith.com

• **Proverbial Wisdom Jr.** Teams sketch proverbs, "solve" sketches or define sayings. Includes sketchboard and a nontoxic dry-erase marker. Four to 12 players. Age seven and up. **\$19.95.** Proverbial Wisdom, 877-462-7579...www.proverbialwisdom.com

• **Star Theater 2.** Portable home planetarium projects hundreds of stars and constellations onto the ceiling and walls. Includes 45-minute guided audio tour on CD. Age eight and up. **\$29.99.** Uncle Milton Industries, 800-869-7555...www.unclemilton.com

• **There's a Growly in the Garden!** Players help each other plant the biggest flower garden possible. They also change Crabby, Messy, Greedy, Stinky and Snobby into happy creatures. Two to six players. Ages five to nine. **\$15.** Family Pastimes, 888-267-4414...www.familypastimes.com

• **Time's Up.** Players race to collect the most celebrity cards from the Deck of Fame by guessing who is on each card. Requires creative thinking and improvisation. Fun for the whole family. Four or more players. Age 10 and up. **\$19.99.** R&R Games, 888-874-3333...www.rrngames.com

Bottom Line/Personal interviewed Stevanne Auerbach, PhD, San Francisco-based consultant on child development, toys and play. She is author of *Toys for a Lifetime* (Universe) and *Dr. Toy's Smart Play* (St. Martin's). www.drtoy.com

