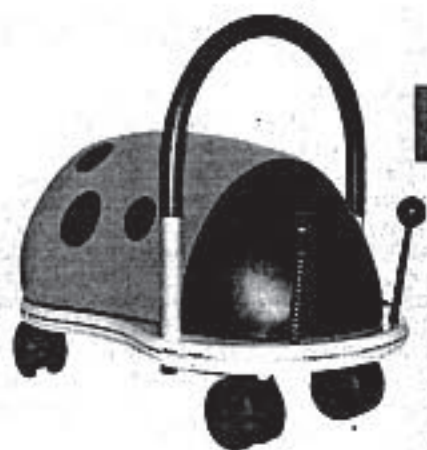


Just for fun



This year's must-have, wanna-have and just-can't-live-without toys

JOANNE RICHARD
SunMedia

I want to be a kid again! Santa's bag is jammed packed with a tonne of fantastic toys — from tiny, terrific indoor helicopters and flying insects, to bunches of board games, bizarre books, crafty craft kits, and a budding population of penguin products, from wobbles and plush, to games and more. And

let's not forget the Icky Pool! From hi-tech to traditional, some offer thrills and spills, others provide cuddles or high tech connections. The bottom line: The pickings are dynamic, the competition fierce, the sales ferocious — it's a \$1.5 billion industry!

Read on and weep — if you don't get at least one of these to put under the tree. Here's what's hot:



GAMES

■ **Penguin:** A family game that has players trying to stack as many of their penguins on an ice floe while blocking opponents from doing the same. Lion Rampant Imports, 5+, \$14.99.

■ **Quelf:** Expect crazy things to start happening, like your friend wrapping himself up in toilet paper as your sister talks to Dracula! Insanely entertaining! Outrageous categories. Outset Media Games, 8+, \$36.99. 1-877-592-7374 toll free.

■ **Cranium Puzzles Plus Seek & Find** games and puzzles in one, including Let's Go to the City or Take Me to the Carnival. Cranium, 3+, \$11.99.

■ **Zookeeper's Nightmare:** Children play the role as zookeeper and try to "slide and glide" a runaway animal back home. Be careful not to tangle tails and snouts. Educational Insights, 6+, \$19.99.

■ **KHET — The Laser Chess Game:** An award-winning chess-style strategy game where players alternate moving Egyptian-themed pieces, some with mirrors and fire lasers, to eliminate the opponent's pieces. 10+, \$49.99. Stortz & Associates.

■ **Mindtrap Geometrical Riddles:** Stuff stockings full of mind-bending challenges, Riddles and brain teasers for every level — novice, master and genius. 10+, \$12.99. Outset Media.

■ **Triple Triumph:** An exciting 3-D strategy game that has players stacking and racing colourful pyramids. Cranium, 6+, \$24.95.

■ **All Canadian Trivia:** Oh, Canada! This fantastic new edition features 100% Canadian content, with more than 2000 questions about geography, history, arts and general knowledge. 14+, \$39.99. Outset Media Games.

■ **Keesdrow:** Scrabble with a twist! Deluxe word-seek game that challenges the two to six players to spell out words — even in circles. Pywacket, 8+, \$39.99.

