

## 10 Tips for Selecting the Best Holiday Learning Gifts

Look for toys that will delight your child, encourage curiosity and build skills.

By Lisa Rosenthal and Kelsey Parker, GreatSchools Staff

Looking for toys that won't be broken or abandoned soon after the package is open? How do you find the right holiday gifts that will delight your child, encourage curiosity and build skills? "Good toys have staying power; they engage," says Diana Huss Green, founder of [Parents' Choice](#). "They help build attention spans, not fragment them. A good toy does not offer answers; it stimulates questions and presents problems for solving."

### Highlights From This Year's Award-Winning Lists

From [Dr. Toy's 100 Best Children's Products for 2008](#):

Wise Alec Wise Alec is the all new multi-generational, family party game of trivia, tongue twisters and sassy social strategy. The game is a great variety of brainteaser challenges, silly-natured abstracts, and personal behaviors that allow players of various ages and abilities to play together, because in Wise Alec there is a choice of two levels of difficulty on every turn. Since Wise Alec was created as a total forum for wholesome fun, it incorporates positive lifestyle habits and encourages good manners that can continue in between rounds of the game. When families play Wise Alec on a regular basis, everyone will think twice about holding the door for someone or eating a piece of fruit instead of a candy bar, because next time the game is played your recent actions can help you out. Ages 9 to 12. (\$24.99)

