



Active Play



6 +

HOP SCOTCH ROCK

HASBRO CANADA
INC.
54404



Hop to it! This musical toy provided an exciting twist to the traditional game of hopscotch. Each play set included a large, star-shaped marker as well as chalk to draw the hopscotch patterns. Kids enjoyed lots of active fun as they drew one of three hopscotch configurations, threw the marker onto the playing field, and then hit the star to make it play a tune. Children were supposed to complete their hopscotch jumps before the music ended. This was an enjoyable activity that got kids moving out of doors. NOTE: Three "AAA" batteries required (included).

Arts & Crafts



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CRAFTS IN MOTION

ROYLCO LTD.
87005

This craft kit provided lots of materials to make exciting mobiles, including star wreath, butterfly racers, whirling windmills, beads, yarn, foam, paper, tissue, stickers, craft peel and stick tape and more. Kids enjoyed creating the mobiles, but found they needed assistance because the instructions were concept-based (explaining scientific principles) rather than step-by-step. Still, this was a comprehensive kit that provided loads of materials and possibilities.



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CURIOUS GIRL SHIMMER LOTION POTION KIT

CURIOSITY KITS INC.
003

Shimmery skin! This craft kit for making glittery personal body lotion was a hit with preteens. Each kit came in an attractive round tin and included the supplies needed to blend two bottles of "custom scented shimmer lotion"--one bottle of lotion base, two blue glass bottles, shimmer dust, beads, decals, wire and two corks. This craft was easy and contained useful skin care and beauty tips. Fun to make, with a pleasant end result.



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FIMO SOFT

STAEDTLER-MARS
LTD.
8023 20

Make, bake and wear! Kids were impressed with the cool results of this craft set. Its soft modelling compound came in exciting, bright colours and was easy to knead and form. The kit also contained seven flexible moulds so different shapes could be pressed and "popped" out like ice cubes from a tray. Kids created teddy bear, dolphin, gingerbread figure or flower designs; materials for finishing as rings or necklaces were included as well. Kids were particularly taken with the Millefiori roll, which provided a fun design on each side when sliced. While children needed adult supervision/assistance when "popping out" the compound and baking the shapes, overall, this kit was a hit. NOTE: Baking required to complete craft; those worried about fumes should try baking in a toaster oven located outside of the house. Poke holes in necklace shapes with straw before baking.




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FUNKY FAB DOOR CURTAIN

A.W. FABER-
CASTELL USA, INC.
1523

Kids could really make an entrance when they finished this groovy bead and flower hanging door curtain craft kit. Each kit contained six dozen ready-to-string fabric flowers, colourful straws, sparkly beads, nylon cord, five pre-beaded strings, a plastic holder plus metal screws. Children found beading this colourful curtain fun and easy to do, and were very pleased with final results. HINT TO PARENTS: The flowers were the big attraction; either plan out design before stringing, or divide materials into five groups to avoid running out of flowers.

Arts & Crafts

<p>★★★★</p> <p>6 +</p> 	<p>HOLLYWOOD COSTUME DESIGNER DAMERT COMPANY 026005</p>	<p>Glamour time! This fun craft kit inspired children to create their own fabulous costume designs, and the results were terrific. Each kit included 12 professional costume sketch outlines, 10 pencil crayons, glitter, feathers, rosettes, ribbons, jewels, double-sided adhesive tape plus a techniques booklet. Kids were thrilled as they created their outfits on paper, using tips from the booklet or their own ideas. The entire kit came in a handy, portable storage case. Children loved doing this craft and wanted to create more costumes.</p>
<p>★★★</p> <p>6 - 8 yrs</p>	<p>HOME DECOR CRAFT KIT ROYLCO LTD. 87010</p>	<p>This craft kit contained an amazing amount of materials so that kids could make groovy looking paper lanterns, fans, baskets, mobiles, wreaths, switch plates, etc. Instructions, however, were somewhat vague and young crafters needed a helping hand to complete projects. This kit did contain an excellent glue pot and spreaders as well as quality templates for tracing shapes; children who like open-ended imaginative craft play enjoyed this kit best.</p>
<p>★★★★</p> <p>6 +</p>	<p>KEY CHAIN POPPER WILD PLANET WP 80010</p>	<p>Eye popping cool! This craft kit came with a simple device that let kids make eye-catching keychains and necklaces. To make a popper creation, a child would put a disk in the popper machine, select an image or photo, place a plastic dome over it, and use the device to "pop" into place. The process could also be reversed to the pieces could be reused. Kids liked the groovy designs of the keychains or necklaces and especially enjoyed putting the keychains on backpacks. A neat activity with attractive results.</p>
<p>★★★★</p> <p>6 +</p>	<p>SCULPEY FLEXIBLE FRIENDS BOOKMARKS POLYFORM PRODUCTS CO. K3 4023</p>	<p>Bookmarks to brag about! Kids were pleased with the results of this moulding and baking craft. Each kit included clay in bright colours that was soft and easily kneaded, and remained flexible after baking. Children could follow the instructions to make bookmarks in the shape of fun animals or use their own imaginations. The results were very cute, although in some cases a little bit too thick to actually slip in between the pages of a book. NOTE: Baking in oven requires adult supervision.</p>
<p>Not Recommended</p>	<p>SECRET AGENT KIT ROYLCO LTD. R88208</p>	<p>Young spies and sleuths were eager to crack open this craft kit, but the extremely detailed instructions for play proved far too confusing for children. Each kit included masks to colour, head bands, spy books for binding, secret mirror, cases to crack and codes to create. The object was to create codes, send messages, study surveillance and solve two cases. However, the spy activities were difficult and time-consuming; kids were not able to complete any activities beyond colouring the masks.</p>
<p>★★★</p> <p>6 - 8 yrs</p>	<p>SECRET RINGS KLUTZ INC. 1-57054-588-X</p>	<p>This was an easy, quick craft that involved punching out various stickers and placing them in the centre of attractive plastic rings (three per package). The activity took minutes to complete and the rings looked very cute. However, the rings themselves were a tad big for little fingers; they did not fit into the carrying case either. Children enjoyed making these rings, but tended not to wear them.</p>

Arts & Crafts

Not Recommended	SPRAY PAINTING GALT TOYS A4269B	Kids were interested in creating designs for greeting cards, gift wrap and other items featured on the box of this craft kit, but nobody could achieve satisfactory results. Each kit included three spray bottles of paint (red, blue and yellow), eight stencil cards, two sheets paper, two greeting cards and instructions. The stencil cards were provided whole and had to be "poked out" to create the stencil areas. The paper was coated (glossy) and repelled the paint when it was sprayed on. In addition, the nozzle on the paint bottles moved around so the paint would spray in the wrong direction--difficult to control--making this craft messy and frustrating.
★★★★ 6 +	WINDOW ART KLUTZ INC. 30767-46436-3	***BEST BET AWARD 2002***Glass with class! Kids found this window art craft kit to be easy and fun, with fabulous results. Each kit included a 62-page, wire-bound book with numerous designs and plastic sleeves for tracing, plus six squeeze tubes of non-toxic, peel-off colour(black, violet, turquoise, light green, yellow and red). This craft, which involved squirting out colour within the black outlines, could produce simple pictures or complex designs (no paint brush required). Once the designs were dry, kids peeled them off and stuck them on windows or other glass surfaces. This activity was a huge hit with little artists.

Computer Software, & Games

★★★★ 6 +	BARBIE BEAUTY STYLER MATTEL MEDIA ISBN 1-58294-036-3	Virtual style! This CD-ROM let wannabe designers create all kinds of cool looks for Barbie--change her hair, change her clothes, add bubbles, stars or sparkles, and change the background as well. In reality, this was a virtual "paper doll", and kids really enjoyed playing with her. Creations could be saved into a special "beauty book" or printed out. A fun activity for Barbie fans. NOTE: Playable on both Windows and Macintosh systems.
★ 6 +	LEGO ISLAND 2: THE BRICKSTER'S REVENGE LEGO CANADA INC. 2201275	This CD-ROM invited players to save Lego Island by playing 15 sub-games in various worlds (e.g. jousting a knight, matching mummies, etc.) Kids thought the games were very cool, but they experienced technical problems when trying to play. Installation took about 15-20 minutes, and the images were often slow on screen unless the players had a high-end computer. The software required an 8 MB video card in order to operate properly; when it did work, it was fun. NOTE: Playable on Windows systems only.
★ 6 - 8 yrs	POKEMON GOTTA LEARN 'EM ALL! MATTEL MEDIA ISBN 0-7630-5286-8	This mini CD-ROM with a square shape and rounded ends featured one Pokemon creature (like Psyduck) plus math and reading quizzes on each CD. Kids had a lot of expectations because of the Pokemon theme, and were somewhat disappointed by the fact that each CD only featured one character--the object was to collect all the other CDs. The math quizzes were of some value. NOTE: Playable on both Windows and Macintosh systems.
★★★★ 6 +	READER RABBIT 2ND GRADE MATTEL MEDIA 379534	Rabbit tracks! This fun and educational CD-ROM was a huge hit with kids, who loved helping Sam the Lion rescue Reader Rabbit from the dragon's castle. Children had to solve problems requiring skills in spelling, math, science, reading comprehension, writing and more. Children, especially those in Grade 2, found this creative, well-designed software both fun and challenging, offering games and music to stimulate thinking while playing. NOTE: Upgraded from personalized 2nd grade; playable on both Windows and Macintosh systems.

Computer Software, & Games



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READER RABBIT 2ND GRADE: MIS-CHEESE-IOUS DREAMSHIP ADVENTURE!

LEARNING
COMPANY INC.
80810

Cheesy fun! With this CD-ROM, kids helped Reader Rabbit and pals explore Mt. Cheesemore Island, and learned grammar, reading, science, fractions, telling time and other skills along the way. Players enjoyed working towards a goal and earning rewards. Everything in the game was cheese-related, and the program's concept and adventure captivated players. Multiple levels. A well designed, fun, educational software. NOTE: Playable on Windows and Macintosh systems.

Construction Toys



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ROCK 'EM SOCK 'EM ROBOTS

MATTEL CANADA
INC.
24698

Kids couldn't wait to construct these 17 pieces plus battle bots made of colourful hard plastic, and pit them against each other. Each kit came with a "customizing wrench" to help build the robot; combat features included a projectile part and spring-loaded arm. The robots could battle each other or combine to create an "ultimate warrior". The figures did not stay together well during imaginative play, but overall children enjoyed building and playing with these robot models.

Educational Toys



6 +



BLINK

OUT OF THE BOX
PUBLISHING INC.
ISBN 0-9708554-1-9

CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD 2002Speed... skills! Kids absolutely loved this simple card game for two players that could be played in a minute. Each box contained 56 symbol cards and rules. The object of the game was to be the first player to rid himself or herself of all the cards, and children really needed to use their wits as they matched the shape, count or colour on the cards played. The game was indeed fast, and a huge hit. Its compact box made it perfect for travel, too.



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CHOMP!

GAMEWRIGHT
ISBN 1-888439-34-3

Shark snacks! This nature-themed card game for two to six players had kids learning about the undersea food chain as they played. Each game included 45 food chain cards, three octopus cards, four electric eel cards, plus rules. The winner was the one who gobbled up the most cards. The game did a good job of explaining the food chain--who eats who--and kids had a great time swallowing up the competition. Sharks ate everything! Appealing colour illustrations. Compact packaging makes the game good for travel.



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DINO DODG'EM

BINARY ARTS
6530

Deceptive dinos! This compact, simple, dinosaur-themed puzzle game kept kids amused and challenged as they tried to dodge opponents' dinos without getting penned in. The rules were easy to follow, and once the game was mastered, there were hints and strategies for more challenging versions. This game included a drawer for the purple and green dinosaur pawns, making it great for travel.



6 - 8 yrs


DOUBLE TEAM

VTECH
ELECTRONICS
CANADA LTD.
80-3400





Green means go! Kids were impressed with this blue, green, yellow and grey laptop-style toy with carrying handle, but they really liked the little green portable handheld unit made of durable plastic that could be detached and carried separately. The laptop portion offered 32 activities and games in four levels, as well as a personal organizer. This really was a toy to be used by a single child, as organizer functions were not easily shared. NOTE: Three "AAA" batteries required (not included) and one CR2032 battery for handheld unit (included); difficult to insert batteries.



Educational Toys

<p>★ 6 - 8 yrs</p>	<p>ELOISE BALANCE YOUR STUFF GAME BRIARPATCH BP18102</p>	<p>Kids were attracted to the theme of this game, but they needed a very steady hand to get Eloise's room cleaned up by hanging items on the clothes tree, in order to attend a tea party. The game included clothes tree with balancing arm, 18 items for hanging, spinner, 12 chance cards and 13 tea party pieces. The looseness and positioning of the dowels on the clothes tree made it difficult to get things to hang properly, and players tended to knock things off after they were hung. Because of the delicate touch required to succeed, plus necessary reading skills, this game was best enjoyed by older players.</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>GO GETTER 1 DAMERT COMPANY 071807</p>	<p>Kids who liked brain teasers and puzzles enjoyed this self-contained, puzzle-solving activity. Each toy came with nine illustrated tiles that fit onto a durable plastic, lime green case. The toy also included a spiral-bound booklet that challenged kids to match the illustrated paths with the tiles provided. It sounded simple, but the 12 challenges all had several solutions. Players found the book got stuck in the case, and some of the challenges were very easy to solve. Still, overall, this was an engaging game. No reading required.</p>
<p>Not Recommended</p>	<p>HUMMINGBIRD BOOK AND FEEDERS SOMERVILLE HOUSE BOOKS LIMITED ISBN 1-55286-036-1</p>	<p>This book and feeders set featured an educational field guide to hummingbirds with detailed information that children enjoyed. The four-sectioned plastic feeders, however, were leaky and tended to break (a plastic base on the bottom of the feeder would fall off). Kids required parents' help preparing the boiled sugar solution for the birds, and had to use bleach to clean the feeder to avoid mould growth. Overall, the book was useful, but the feeders portion was a disappointment.</p>
<p>★ 6 +</p>	<p>LEAP PAD PRO LEAP FROG 30030</p>	<p>This electronic toy (plastic base with interchangeable books to read with attached stylus) offered interactive learning activities for more advanced readers, but it was the general music and geography book that proved the most fun. The package tested included an interactive version of "The Wizard of Oz", but children found the narrator's monotone voice spoiled the excitement of the long story. The concept of using the toy's stylus to have kids read along each word in the book was good, but in practice it did not succeed with "The Wizard of Oz." Still, children enjoyed the general music and geography book, although it focused on U.S. facts.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 + </p>	<p>LOOK-ALIKES 100 PIECE PUZZLE BRIARPATCH BP21203</p>	<p>More than meets the eye! Children enjoyed this 100-piece puzzle as the finished puzzle showed a detailed harbour scene with a twist--many of the items in the scene were made with everyday objects. For example, one boat deck was a brush, windows on another ship were dice, and deck poles were made from matchsticks. There were 102 hidden objects in the puzzle (answer sheet included), and while kids were unfamiliar with many of the items, they enjoyed making this puzzle and its "I spy" inspired theme.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>MAD MATH DICE GAME PATRIX COMMUNICATIONS 00014</p>	<p>Roll into math! This reversible board game for two to four players entertained kids while teaching addition and multiplication. Each game included the board, two dice, and 16 pawns, plus six quick and easy-to-learn rules. The object of the game was to get three pawns to line up vertically, diagonally or horizontally, and players had to roll the dice and practice math to play as well as read the numbers on the board like the coordinates on a map. The game reinforced knowledge of addition and multiplication tables but was remarkably fun.</p>

Educational Toys

<p>★★★ 6 - 8 yrs</p>	<p>MATH LAB VTECH ELECTRONICS CANADA LTD. 80-44100</p>	<p>This electronic learning toy made of durable plastic offered players 10 math activities at three different levels, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, counting, number patterns, memory challenge, and telling time. Counting numbers had to be entered left to right, while addition numbers had to be entered right to left, causing some confusion. The screen on this unit was small, but the sound was good and overall children found this math aid useful and fun. NOTE: Three "AA" batteries required.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p> 	<p>MATHSHARK EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS EI-8490</p> 	<p>First reported in 2001. Take a bite out of math! Kids loved this compact, light and entertaining electronic math toy that helped build skills in seven different math functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percents) at several levels. The toys featured push buttons and a small LCD screen. Children were most taken with the light and sound feedback, but the toy also featured timed drills and a general purpose calculator. The toy also had rubber "feet" so it was perfect to take along during travel. This toy made math fun and did help kids with homework. NOTE: Two "AA" batteries required (not included).</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 - 12 yrs</p>	<p>MC WIZ JUNIOR MC DISTRIBUTION PLUS 95554 00004</p>	<p>Trivia treat! This box of 400 trivia question cards and four puzzles amused kids as they put on their thinking caps to answer fascinating questions on various subjects (languages, math, science, geography, history and the arts). The game featured different questions for different age groups (ages six to seven, eight to nine, and 10 to 12). Players took turns answering questions, and the object was to be the first player or team to complete a puzzle. Kids also enjoyed just answering the questions. Younger children needed help reading the cards, but all enjoyed playing. Great first trivia game.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>OPERATION SPACE CHASE LEARNING RESOURCES LER5059</p>	<p>Race into space! This board game for two to four players challenged players with the mission to be the first space pilot to get all of his or her ships to the space station. Each game included five dice with numbers, one operation die, and 12 spaceship markers. The way players got into space was by adding and subtracting using spaceships with the values of 1, 10 or 100. Kids enjoyed using their wits to advance on the board, and loved it when there was a "blast-off" if two spaceships landed on the same space. Great theme and educational too.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>SAVES SOMERVILLE HOUSE BOOKS LIMITED ISBN 1-55286-006-X</p>	<p>Ice hockey cool! This terrific full-colour book offered up hockey trivia and goalie profiles, complimented by a cardboard viewer that offered stereoscopic (3D) hockey scenes. Kids enjoyed the book and had fun looking at the 12 different cards in the viewer. Like its brother book, Goals, this activity book scored highly with hockey fans.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>TIC TAC CHEC DREAM GREEN TTC99</p>	<p>Simple chess! This beautifully crafted wooden board game combined Tic Tac Toe with chess to provide kids with an easy and fun way to learn chess strategies. Children enjoyed this two-player hybrid version and it proved quite helpful in mastering moves. Players found it quick to set up, quick to learn and quick to play. A great introduction to the classic game.</p>

Educational Toys

<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>TRIASSIC TRIOPS DLX INTELLI-KID 67968 93016</p>	<p>Prehistoric pals! This science kit provided everything needed for kids to hatch their own tiny prehistoric three-eyed creatures and watch them grow. Each kit included a view tank with lid, glow-in-the-dark beads for night observation, decorative gravel, fossil replica, magnifying ruler, thermo-strip to monitor water temperature, 20-30 cultured triops eggs, sealed nutrient pack, mixed food and instruction booklet. Spring water had to be used; the eggs hatched within 24 hours, much to children's amazement. They enjoyed studying their growth and behaviour. Kids really had fun with this sea creature experiment--it worked!</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p> 	<p>TURBO TWIST FACT BLASTER LEAP FROG 80030</p> 	<p>Let's twist again! This flashlight-shaped electronic toy in cool colours had kids rockin' as they played trivia games. Players could choose from three game modes, featuring seven categories. Games involved listening to questions and answers, answering questions to accumulate points, and playing "beat the clock". No reading required; the questions appeared onscreen but were also were repeated verbally. While the questions were interesting, several categories had a U.S. slant. A "leap link", sold separately, allowed access to the Internet for new games and personalized learning (not tested). NOTE: Four "AA" batteries required.</p>

Imaginative Play




<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>BASKIN ROBBINS SHAKE & SMOOTHIE SWIRLER IRWIN TOY LIMITED 73001</p>	<p>This authentic-looking little play blender could whip up nice flavoured drinks using powdered pouches (three included), chocolate syrup and milk, but could not make thick ice cream milkshakes. Its plastic blade and blending function could mix up a teaspoon of ice cream for extra creaminess. Still, kids enjoyed making drinks for themselves and their friends. Parts were easy to disassemble for cleaning with warm, soapy water; not dishwasher safe. NOTE: Two "C" batteries required (not included).</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>BRATZ MGA ENTERTAINMENT 248552-1</p>	<p>These large fashion dolls with attitude (Cloe, Yasmin, Jade and Sasha) have big eyes, big shoes, and big, pouty lips. Their hair is long and designed to be brushed (brush included) but strands tended to come out during play. The dolls wore very trendy clothes but they were not always easy to dress and undress. When their platform shoes were removed, the dolls were left with "peg legs". However, kids liked the cool look of these characters as they had a chillin' rock star attitude.</p>
<p>Novelty 6 +</p>	<p>CHIRPY-CHI THE INTERACTIVE BIRD TIGER ELECTRONICS 59706</p>	<p>This electronic bird was another addition to the cyber-pet menagerie. Kids were drawn to the robo-parrot's bright colours and happy singing and chirping. Its digital eyes were expressive and indicated how it was "feeling". Kids liked feeding this pet its special sensor corn cob but could not understand why the corn could not be placed directly into its beak (as per instructions). This bird was very chatty but did not provide sustained play. NOTE: No on/off button; three "AAA" batteries required (not included); batteries tricky to install; significant battery replacement noted.</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>CURIOUS GIRL FAB PHOTOGRAPHY KIT CURIOSITY KITS INC. 041</p>	<p>This photography activity kit came attractively packaged in a trendy looking metal box, and kids were eager to use the flash camera inside. The kit also included a photo album for children to decorate and keep their pictures in. While the album pages were really too small for the developed photos, and the camera functioning was unreliable, overall amateur shutterbugs found this to be a nice introduction to photography.</p>

Imaginative Play

<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>DIVASTARZ MATTEL CANADA INC. 27493 & 27494</p>	<p>Kids found these wide-eyed interactive dolls with large feet very cool looking, and different models (like Alexa and Nikki) could talk to each other about clothes and going to the mall. Children liked the dolls' interactive aspects, as they would ask for a certain item of plastic clothing to wear (included) or request a new hairdo. The overall vocabulary of the dolls seemed focused on shopping, clothes and the mall, and kids found having to reset the toy's clock on activation annoying. Still, these dolls were appealing and hip. NOTE: Four "AA" batteries required (not included).</p>
<p>Novelty 6 +</p>	<p>POO-CHI: SUPER POO-CHI THE INTERACTIVE DOG TIGER ELECTRONICS 59696</p>	<p>This robot-like dog was the next step in interactive pets, but kids needed a lot of patience to teach this robo-dog new tricks. This one-child dog could be programmed to respond to a child's voice commands, but if another child in the same household wanted to play, the dog had to be re-programmed from scratch to respond to the new voice. Kids liked feeding this pet its special sensor bone but could not understand why the bone could not be placed directly into its mouth (as per instructions). In the end, programming (and re-programming) was complicated and lengthy, which limited the play value of this toy. NOTE: Three "C" batteries required (not included).</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>RADIO DJ WILD PLANET 70034</p>	<p>This was a very cool-looking durable blue plastic electronic unit that featured a DJ mike, tape deck, on-air sign, music volume control, fade-in controls, sound effects buttons and a CD player plug-in jack. While kids enjoyed playing DJ with the various functions, the unit was supposed to transmit through a radio, and the radio reception was irregular. Still, this toy provided entertainment as kids interviewing each other and made up pretend radio shows. NOTE: Four "AA" batteries required (not included); cassette tapes and CD player not included.</p>
<p>Novelty 6 - 8 yrs</p>	<p>SHOEZIES HASBRO CANADA INC. 61270</p>	<p>These miniature shoes were meant to be the footwear equivalent of mini-skateboards or "fingerboards". Kids placed their fingers in the shoes to make them walk or dance. The shoes were well made and very attractive, in jazzy styles, but despite being excited by the TV ads they had seen, kids soon lost interest beyond having the different shoe designs on display.</p>
<p>★★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>SPY DETECTORS MOTION ALARM SET WILD PLANET WP 70025</p>	<p>Sound the alarm! Kids worried that brothers and sisters might be getting into their things were delighted with this compact, portable motion alarm set. The set was comprised of an invisible beam door alarm, a motion sensor alarm, and a carrying case with pocket clip. The alarms could be placed on the floor, on books, near the door--anywhere--and would start beeping when motion was detected (up to six metres). Kids loved using these lightweight devices, which were easy to operate. NOTE: Four "AAA" batteries required; good battery consumption.</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>SPY LISTENER WILD PLANET 70039</p>	<p>Spy kids were eager to try this toy, which consisted of a pair of sunglasses with a micro listening dish and ear plug attached. These glasses were very cool looking, and had protective UV lenses; the sound dish could be detached from them when agents were "off duty". The sound dish was activated and turned off by an on/off switch and featured an automatic volume limiter to protect against loud sounds. The listening dish worked fairly well, but children had the most fun enjoying imaginary play as secret agents. NOTE: "LR44" button cell battery required (included).</p>



Imaginative Play

<p>★ 6 +</p>	<p>SPY VISION SCOPE WILD PLANET 70037</p>	<p>Secret agent or cyborg wannabes enjoyed this head set that held a flip-out light and folding telescope attachment. The headband had a poor fit and proved uncomfortable for many children, and the telescope would not always focus. In addition, the light worked intermittently. Still, kids with vivid imaginations found this toy fun as they went on imaginary missions or conquered alien worlds. NOTE: Two "LR41" button cell batteries required (included).</p>
<p>★★★ 6 +</p>	<p>SUPERSONIC EAR 2 WILD PLANET 70801-8000-2L</p>	<p>Calling James Bond Jr.! Spy kids loved this eves-dropping set that included a mini dish, headphones and clip on/off microphone. The device worked well, allowing kids to listen through windows and walls. The headset fit different head sizes, and the battery was not used up unless the device was activated. A big hit with little 007s. NOTE: 9-Volt battery required (not included).</p>
<p> A good choice for a birthday gift, rated at *** and priced under \$15</p>	<p> A good choice for a travel toy, rated at *** and compact</p>	<p> An Energizer® recommended toy, rated ***</p>