



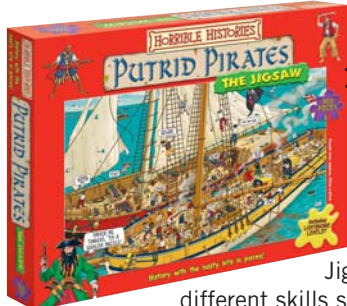
**6yrs+  
£49.99**  
**KNOWLEDGE NOTEBOOK**  
VTech – [www.vtechuk.com](http://www.vtechuk.com)

Encouraging children to learn curriculum-based topics out of school is never that easy but we had no problems when our testers tried out the Knowledge Notebook from VTech. The modern, sleek laptop has a QWERTY keyboard and a real mouse and although the screen is smaller than a normal laptop, it is a great introduction to ICT skills. 80 activities reinforce Key Stage 1 French, maths, English, history, geography, logic, science facts and trivia through fun-packed, strategy, creative and memory games and applications.

**HANNAH MONTANA GLITTER STUDIO**

James Galt & Co. – [www.jamesgalt.com](http://www.jamesgalt.com)

With Hannah Montana such a popular TV personality, this kit was pounced upon by all our girl testers. Filled with more glitter products than you can imagine – pens, art glazes and paint, this kit gave our girls lots of creative opportunities. With 10 message cards, three stencils, plus stickers, jewels and an art pad, the Pop Star Glitter Studio is the perfect gift for an arty pop star in the making.



**8yrs+  
from £4.99**  
**HORRIBLE HISTORIES – PUTRID PIRATES**  
James Galt & Co. – [www.jamesgalt.com](http://www.jamesgalt.com)

Jigsaws help develop so many different skills such as problem solving and hand-to-eye co-ordination that every child should have one this Christmas. And it's not difficult to find one children will like with the fabulous Horrible Histories range from James Galt & Co. Putrid Pirates is a 300-piece detailed puzzle depicting a fun swash-buckling scene. There is also a loathsome leaflet full of pirate facts.

**MAGNEXT**  
MEGA – [www.megabrands.com](http://www.megabrands.com)

Recently named the overall winner of the 2008 Science Museum SMart Toy Awards, MagNext from Mega Brands

is a fabulous magnet construction system. Our testers were particularly impressed with MagNext as it allowed them to build much bigger models than before, and much quicker. 'Self-framing' parts are very strong and allow the models to be picked up and moved around. This system really encourages children to use their imagination and it certainly kept our testers busy for a long time.



**6yrs+  
£4.99-£49.99**



**8yrs+  
£14.99**  
**GUITAR ROCK STAR**  
TOMY – [www.tomy.co.uk](http://www.tomy.co.uk)

Our budding rock stars just couldn't put down this ingenious guitar simulator. It really has to be seen to be believed! With just the neck and top fret of an electronic guitar, everyone can live out rock legend fantasies with the gadget that takes air guitar to a new level of entertainment. Grab the fret, choose your chord and strum the infrared strings to play along to 8 pre-set rock classics or make up your own riffs. Guaranteed to be a big hit this Christmas!

**LEGO CITY POLICE STATION**  
LEGO – [www.lego.com](http://www.lego.com)

LEGO is more popular than ever, and when we brought out the LEGO City Police Station, the children became so absorbed that we had trouble getting them to stop and go home! Ideal for developing concentration and fine motor skills as well as instruction following, once the LEGO models are built, then children just let their imagination run riot. The LEGO City Police Station is packed full of features including three cars, seven mini figures, cells, a watch tower and interview room – everything a child needs to fight crime!



**8yrs+  
from £12.99**

**INTERPLAY KITS**

Interplay UK – [www.interplay.co.uk](http://www.interplay.co.uk)

Every time we test an Interplay kit we have lots of happy children. Whilst they are playing, they don't realise just how much they are learning! Bath Bomb Factory and Luxury Soap Science are from Interplay's Wild! Science range and come complete with all the materials needed to make lovely toiletries, while at the same time carrying out some amazing experiments. For children who prefer more technical pastimes, the Powered Hovercraft kit comes complete with everything you need to build a real working model hovercraft which glides along on its own cushion of air!

**THREE OF A CRIME & SLAMWICH**  
Coiledspring Games – [www.coiledspring.co.uk](http://www.coiledspring.co.uk)

Our slightly older testers (8+) really enjoyed using their powers of deduction in Three of a Crime. A gang of crooks has just been arrested, but only three members of the gang actually committed the crime. Over several rounds, the task is to work out who the three suspects are on the eyewitness card.

Flip and stack the clever loaf of cards in Slamwich in an attempt to build some tasty treats, but watch out for munchers and thieves who can steal your stack of cards. It's fast, it's furious but above all it's fun!

To make life easier for little hands to hold playing cards, why not try out the Little Hands Card Holder (age 3+).



**6yrs+  
£7.99**



## 6+ CHRISTMAS TOY REVIEW

### ARMY OF FROGS

[www.armyoffrogs.co.uk](http://www.armyoffrogs.co.uk)

There's nothing we love more at Creative Steps than a new game; and from John Yianni, the brilliant inventor of Hive, comes Army of Frogs. Our testers were blissfully unaware that their strategic planning and problem solving skills, as well as their spatial awareness, was all being developed as they played this brilliant game. Army of Frogs requires players to strategically place frog stones and then hop over other frogs with the aim of connecting all the frogs of their own colour while preventing their opponents from doing the same. Great fun!

**WIN!**

### A HAMPER OF TOYS!

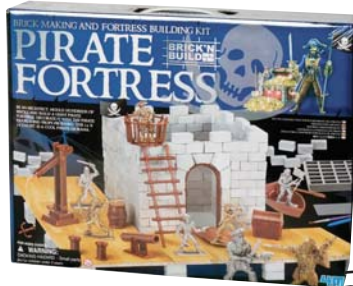
One lucky Creative Steps reader will win a hamper filled with a selection of the toys featured in our Christmas Toy Review. All you have to do is email [info@creativesteps.co.uk](mailto:info@creativesteps.co.uk) with your name and address plus the gender and ages of your children, so we can select the most suitable toys.



### PIRATE FORTRESS

Great Gizmos – [www.greatgizmos.co.uk](http://www.greatgizmos.co.uk)

Construction doesn't get more exciting than building your own pirate fortress! For children who like to really get involved in a project, this kit has everything you need to mould 100s of bricks and then design and build a pirate's prison. The kit also includes full instructions and plans as well as pirate figures and accessories.



8yrs+ £19.99

6yrs+ £14.99



### COOLCARDZ CARD DESIGN STUDIO

Flair – [www.flairplc.co.uk](http://www.flairplc.co.uk)

Presents that can be used straight away with little set-up time are always a bonus at Christmas, and the CoolCardz Card Design Studio can be up and running as soon as it is out of the box. Our testers loved creating the handy-sized cards with the stamps, stickers and pens provided

but it was the laminating that got them really excited as it seals all their hard work forever. Refills for cards, stickers and laminating sheets are also available.



7yrs+ £22.99

### CELLA FASHION

TOMY – [www.tomy.co.uk](http://www.tomy.co.uk)

For youngsters interested in clothes and accessories, Cella Fashion from TOMY offers a great opportunity to wannabe designers. Pre-printed sheets of clothing and accessories can be cut out and made into stickers using the Cella sticker machine. You can then dress one of three diva dolls in the look that you've created. Our testers particularly enjoyed making their own clothes using the patterned papers and stencils provided. There is even a wardrobe to store the clothing stickers which can be used again and again.

### RAPIDOUGH

Drumond Park – [www.drumondpark.com](http://www.drumondpark.com)

We just love Rapidough – the creative modelling guessing game for all the family. A whole group of us, adults and children, played in teams trying to guess what our fellow team members were modelling. If you win, you can claim some of the opposition's dough, leaving them less to play with in the next round. Hilarious fun – perfect for a group activity.



8yrs+ £32.00

8yrs+ £25.99

### WORLD OF DINOSAURS

NES Arnold – [www.nesarnold.co.uk](http://www.nesarnold.co.uk)

Our young testers just couldn't believe their luck when we gave them World of Dinosaurs. They loved all the activities especially making fossils of dinosaur heads and skeletons using the moulds and plaster of Paris, all of which are included. They then assembled dinosaur skeletons, mounted them on special stands and organised a dinosaur identikit system. This set is a fantastic way of putting learning into action and is an ideal group activity.



7yrs+ £19.99