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STRAIGHT FROM SANTA'S BAG

WHAT'S HOT FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM THE CANADIAN TOY ASSOCIATION

Here's a look at some of this year's most exciting toys and games for kids of all ages

CATEGORIES:

Special Effects
Action-Packed Play
Dolls
Games
Pre-School
Babies
Crafts
Building
Books, CDs and More
Decorations

SPECIAL EFFECTS

The latest evolution in tabletop hockey is here and the home will never be the same again. Newly invented by the people who know hockey best, Canadians, the **NHL ICE FX MAGNETIC AIR POWER HOCKEY** is the much-awaited NHL endorsed tabletop game. It's a powerful merger of air hockey and slot hockey, minus the slots. Here's how it works. Just plug it in and flip on the power. The Coolest Game comes alive. The puck hovers above the surface. The announcer shouts, "Let's play hockey!" A sharp whistle blows. Grab the controls that invisibly command your team. Your players appear to skate magically over the smooth solid air controlled surface that has over 3000 air holes. As the tension mounts, the puck is dropped. With a flip of your wrist the puck glides effortlessly on a cushion of air to your charging right winger. With perfect timing and a quick flick you send the puck flying into the net. Instantly the goal flashes, the crowd cheers and the announcer shouts, "He scores!" over the built-in speakers. For hockey fans of every age, this is the game that gets everyone rushing home to play together. (**The Mad Hatter's Toy and Game Factory Inc.**, Oakville, ON, Tel: (905) 827-1826)

No cover charge or ID required. Your teen can now bring the dance club into the family room. For most teens, being a dance club DJ with the power to create and mix music is a fantasy waiting to happen. Now, it's real thanks to the radical just launched **DM2 DIGITAL MUSIC MIXER**. This is a cutting-edge device that transforms a home PC into a serious music mixing studio. Music mavericks and novices can create and remix hip-hop, house and techno to build their own personalized music experience. The DM2 is the first integrated hardware software solution that enables users to create real-time club mixes even if they've never mixed music before. Musicians of all ages can write, perform and publish their own music from their home computers. Unique features lets the user spin DJ tricks like scratching, warping, cross-fading, dub delay and more. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Introducing a dog's worst nightmare...the cute, smart, friendly, interactive robotic **DOG. COM**. This four-legged metal pal with a bulbous nose does just about everything a real puppy can do, plus talk. **DOG. COM** speaks no less than 780 phrases, mimics 35 real dog actions, and has 16 different moods. With a little attention, your best friend changes day-to-day, evolving from a barking pup into a responsive chatty pal with its own distinct personality. Like people you know, some days the dog's a grouch, other times he's outrageous, tough, mushy, philosophical, flirtatious, silly, wise, the list goes on. But he never begs or drools. No wonder real canines are quivering. Until now, they

thought they only had to worry about cats. No internet connection or PC required. (**RP Toys Ltd.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 206-0083)

Honey, I shrunk the stereo. **HITCLIPS**, tiny portable music sources, come out of an age where anything is possible. HITCLIPS Micro Music Clips are postage stamp size digital clips that you insert into a variety of mini HitClips players, like teeny personal players, boomboxes and alarm clocks. Each clip plays a one-minute version of a hit single. And now, to further minimize life, there's a new **FM CARTRIDGE** that converts any HitClips player into a mini FM radio. Plus, the new **HITCLIPS GROOVE MACHINE AND WATCH** has a built-in microphone so you can sing along with your favorite HitClip. Clips are cool to attach to backpacks, clothing and jewelry. With over 40 clips and many more to come, HitClips are a collector's dream for any kid. Artists whose hits have been shrunk include *NSync, Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, Faith Hill, Smash Mouth, Aaron Carter and more. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

The microchip continues to revolutionize the toy and game industry. Take, for example, the innovative new **PUMP IT UP, THE EVOLUTIONARY DANCE FLOOR**. This is a top-notch five step dance pad that's great for fun and fitness. This home version of the PUMP IT UP DANCE machine includes a selection of pop chart-toppers, like Oops I Did It Again. The padded mat turns into your stage when you lay it down, step on it and follow the instructions (designed for different skill levels). Dance like nobody's watching. Comes with USB and PS/2 connectors to plug into a PC, desktop or laptop (with USB Port.) (**Jeca Entertainment**, Courtice, ON, Tel: (905) 438-9097)

Sales of karaoke systems to kids have doubled in the past three years. In 1998, category sales were US \$6 million; by 2000, they jumped to close to US\$14 million. The new **E-KARA** will keep the category hot. It's the first truly portable system that makes it easier than ever to be a pop star in your own living room. All you have to do is plug the hand-help E-KARA unit into any standard TV or VCR. Then, sing your heart out while the background music plays and the words appear on screen. The hand-held unit fits into a backpack to take to parties and sleepovers. Each music cartridge has five famous pop songs, digitally recreated. And remember, singing isn't just for kids. All ages should be encouraged to wobble this season. It's good for the soul. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Today's kids yearn to excel at an extreme sport. Now, they can impress themselves and their friends with their mastery of the paddle ball. The new **YOMEGA EXTREME 180 A.P.B. ADJUSTABLE PADDLE BALL** lets you dial in your desired cord length. Beginners start short and progress to long as their skill increases. The included book of eye-popping tricks will guarantee that the paddle ball pro rules the playground. (**Brainstorm Juggling Ltd.**, Woodbridge, ON, Tel: (905) 265-1884.)

The new **PIXTER** could well bring peace to the backseat of cars and allow parents to actually linger over coffee at brunch. What is this exceptional innovation? It's a new portable digital creativity system for kids. The hand-held PIXTER has an electronic touch screen and offers an unlimited number of activities for kids 4 and up. Kids have hundreds of ways to create pictures and play games. The technology even allows them to add special effects and save their work. You can buy additional PIXTER software to keep kids entertained for the long run. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Are you able to transform a pyramid into two intersected pentagons by shifting only five bars? Believe it or not, yes. Want proof? Give it a try it with **GEOMAG**, a new magnetic construction set that is downright addictive. It consists of powerful magnetic rods and spheres that let you construct geometric shapes and anything else you want. A fun way for students to put geometry into action and a great desk toy for adults. (**Brainstorm Juggling Ltd.**, Woodbridge, ON, Tel: (905) 265-1884.)

Everything ancient, really ancient, is cool again thanks to Jurassic Park III. To be in the loop, check out the new **Jurassic Park III DINO-DEX**, a personalized electronic encyclopedia of dinosaur information from A to Z. With high-resolution dot matrix graphics and digitized sound effects, the DINO-DEX features 72 dinosaurs stats with animations for each. DINO-DEX also contains two game modes. Enter the DNA lab to create your very own dinosaur by choosing from over 3,000 different combinations of existing dino DNA; and Battle Dome, where you go head-to-head against another dinosaur. The organizer functions to store personal data - and keeps it secure with a password. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

You insisted on platform shoes when you were a teen, so why be surprised that your kids are now clamoring for the "in" trends. Let them have them. You can give them the all the hottest action shoes thanks to the newly launched **MICROGROOVES**. This line of keyclips features authentic micro detailed replicas of all the hottest brands on the court like Etnies. Plus, each MICROGROOVES comes with a serial number that is a virtual lottery ticket to get hooked up with free gear by registering online. (**Dynatech Action Inc.**, Red Deer, AB, Tel: (403) 343-0455)

Q would be proud- this is no ordinary pen! The **XP-4 SPY PEN** is Xtreme gear for pro spies. Use it in public to take notes and write those reports to headquarters, no one will ever guess it's a top-secret toolkit. Stored inside the cool pocket size case that really locks, are a snap-on scope for long-distance spying, a light sensor, motion alarm, a bending light tube so that you can read and write in the dark, and a flashlight, all perfect for snooping. (**Dynatech Action Inc.**, Red Deer, AB, Tel: (403) 343-0455)

A spy works 24/7. For those night-time stakeouts at night, secret agents turn to **SPY NIGHT SCOPE**, the binoculars with pop up lights. By day, spy faraway objects with green surveillance lenses that magnify at 5X power. When the sun sets and there's still more spying to do, pop-up a secret night beam which casts a light over 7.6 meters. You've got them covered. (**Dynatech Action Inc.**, Red Deer, AB, Tel: (403) 343-0455)

This is your mission, should you decide to accept it. From spy central comes the **SPY VISION SCOPE**, a head mounted telescope and light. Tools include a green light beam that flips down for nighttime snooping, adjustable spy scope to bring faraway objects up close, and safety lenses with breakaway protective eyepiece. It's automatic activation for hands free spying, the perfect gear for the secret agent on the go. (**Dynatech Action Inc.**, Red Deer, AB, Tel: (403) 343-0455)

ET went home long ago, but there's a new alien on the block who makes a great educational playmate. **ME MO MO** is a versatile friendly orange alien who has a screen for a face and comes with an infrared keyboard that can be played up to 8 feet away. And he's a fun extraterrestrial to have around, with 25 activities, including logic and memory games, plus different levels of math and spelling games. He doubles as an alarm clock, and his long legs on suction cups make him a perfect overseer of the night-table. Well-mannered too, he awakes you with a greeting. (Vtech Electronics Canada Ltd., Richmond, BC, Tel: (604) 273-5131)

ACTION-PACKED PLAY

Everybody is clamoring to break into the real estate market these days. Even kids. They yearn for a space to call their own, a clubhouse with no adults allowed. Now they can have their dream property thanks to **POP UP PLAYHOUSES**, which are made of best-grade resilient rip-stop nylon. The line includes a wide range of styles and sizes to choose from, such as an extra large Playhouse with a basketball net attached to the side, a Teepee, a Theatre House and for those who prefer Tudor, a fabulous Castle that has a connecting tunnel between the two wings. The popular crawl-through tunnel can be attached to all playhouses. Each one has a floor and like the best of tents, pops up instantly and safely when you take it out of its handy nylon storage bag. (**Snap Up Toys Inc.**, Toronto, Tel: (905) 763-8075)

The year 2000 marked the 20th anniversary of a classic icon of American pop culture --the **NERF BALL**. Before the foam football made its debut in 1970, kids didn't have a soft alternative to outdoor sports equipment and were told time and again by Mom, "no playing ball in the house!" The invention of the Nerf Ball changed the way kids around the world played with sports toys, and saved hundreds of windows. **NERF ULTRA GRIP FOOTBALL** has a cutting edge, super -grip texture with seriously detailed laces, that makes it easy throw and catch like a pro. **NERF SOCCER BALL** combines realistic pro styling with Nerf's soft foam to help kids build their soccer playing skills. Sizes range from 7-1/2" to a micro 5-3/8" for indoor/outdoor soccer fun. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

LORD OF THE RINGS is the epic tale of a perilous quest to save humanity. The legend that inspired an entire genre of movie and fiction is this year's big holiday blockbuster. Recently named the most popular book of the 20th century, now children and adults alike can create their own stories with the **LORD OF THE RINGS ACTION FIGURES** who all share in the Fellowship of the Ring. Characters include Frodo, Legolas, Strider, Witch King and more, all with swords, daggers and

realistic battle attack action. Enter Middle-Earth, a world full of magic and lore, and let your imagination lead you on an amazing journey. (**Grand Toys Ltd.**, Dorval, PQ, Tel: (514) 685-2180)

Step right up!! Young and old love to try their hand at carnival games and now you can play them inside and out with **FOLD-N-PLAY ACTION GAMES**. Play tic-tac-toe, target and the sand bag game with this bright vinyl set-up that comes complete with 10 large balls, and 6 velcro balls. The lightweight triangular shaped game springs open as soon as you release it from its carrying pouch for easy carrying to any park or backyard. (**Playwell Enterprises Ltd.**, Scarborough, Ont., Tel: (416) 439-0044)

There are robots ... and then there are **TRANSFORMERS ROBOTS IN DISGUISE**. In 2001, the original TRANSFORMERS theme that started it all -- Robots in Disguise -- is back. Optimus Prime and the Autobots will once again battle Megatron and the Predacons, through a product line reminiscent of the 80's look and an all-new kids television series that premieres on YTV. (Hasbro Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

DRAGONBALL Z is going stronger than ever and this year, there's a new toy that delivers the action, sound and lights the fans know to be a trademark of the popular show. **DRAGONBALL Z TIME CAPSULE** includes the favorite Trunks action figure. Place Trunks in the cockpit and fire up the jet engines. The lights will flash, you'll hear the launch sound and you're a go to fire missiles at the bad guys. (**Irwin Toy Ltd.**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 533-3521)

The biggest kink has been worked out of the radio-controlled plane-the tree. The new **E-CHARGER INTRUDER** is a fully functional radio controlled plane that allows pilots of all ages total and easy control over thrust and direction. Now, fliers can perform spectacular maneuvers and daring tricks, and best of all, avoid all trees. The lightweight plane charges in under three minutes, has a computer controlled auto take off system, and lands easily with the press of a button. The remote control plane of the future is here. (**Spin Master Toys**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 364-6002)

TRANSFORMER ROBOTS IN DISGUISE DELUXE FIGURES are vehicle inspired extra-detailed transformers, a must-have for any fan. Prowl the Police car joins Speedbreaker the Sports car and X-Brawn the SUV to keep Earth safe. Also joining in the battle are Bruticus the evil 3-headed dog, Grimlock the backhoe and Heavy Load the dump truck. The 2-packs in this assortment feature a hero and villain facing off. Wrecker goes into battle with Skyfire the jet and a heroic Indy Car races to beat the evil jet. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Made especially for Transformers fans ready to accept an expert challenge, **TRANSFORMERS ROBOTS IN DISGUISE ELECTRONIC SUPER FIGURES** offers an incredible array of features. Electronic Optimus Prime Fire Truck comes equipped with lights and sounds in both vehicle and robot mode, as does Electronic Ultra Magnus Car Transport. Ultra Magnus is also able to carry Deluxe Transformers vehicles directly in the Transport. The real challenge lies in combining these two into one massive, awesome robot. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Hey, check out this 'Ollie'! Kids can imagine that they are Tony Hawk performing the perfect "half cab" or "railslide" with the new **XTREME TONY HAWK SKATEBOARD TMH**. This radio-controlled skateboard is an articulated rider sculpted to look like world champion skateboarder, Tony Hawk. The unique adaptive control system lets Tony perform amazing, realistic, extreme stunts and tricks. The high-tech microprocessor system enhances vehicle performance up to 1,000 times a second for awesome speed and power. It's radical! (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Spiderman splashes into adventure with **SPIDER-MAN MOTORIZED JET SKI**, that really rides and floats on water. When Spidey's adventures take him to unfamiliar terrain, he needs special gear to help him in his mission to protect the innocent. The JET SKI comes with propeller power, Spiderman action figure, underwater face mask, aqua fins, safety vest, grip handle bars and water safety flags. Beware bad guys, he's on the case! (**Grand Toys Ltd.**, Dorval, PQ, Tel: (514) 685-2180)

Race-pass-crash! It's a race to the finish and kids are tearing up the track on the high speed, action packed **HOT WHEELS FORMULA CIRCUIT RACETRACK**. Complete with two Grand Prix cars, motorized pass-and-win lane changers and power charger booster, kids sit in the F1 driver's seat as they zoom around the high bank turns and speed through the five crash zones. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

DOLLS

Girls love to dress up for a party. Once they're ready, they can turn their talents to beautifying a favorite friend with **MAKEUP MINDY DOLL**. **MINDY** comes with a pretend "hair dryer" that magically changes her hair color to a dazzling pink and purple. Create a beauty mask and put it on her face to see her full makeup appear. She's prettier than a picture in her special party dress and matching shoes. She'll be back again and again to this beauty salon! (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Tickle Me Elmo, the Sesame Street star who five years ago set off a consumer craze after Rosie McDonnell featured him on her show, is making a big-time comeback, and he's more ticklish than ever. The new **TICKLE ME ELMO SURPRISE** is ticklish in five places, but only one spot makes him roar and shake with laughter. The spot changes every time so kids will have to look for it. This soft, plush Elmo talks back when you hit a funny spot, "Elmo's not ticklish there," he might sputter between giggles. Rest assured that the quality that made Elmo a must-have in the 1990s is as strong as ever-he still has that infectious giggle that guarantees smiles. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Call it survival, but today's young kids have a developed wry sense of humor. That's why the new interactive shaggy purple plush monster **DON'T FREE FREDDY** is poised to conquer younger kids, and their older siblings. In a word, Freddy is a scream. Lock his wrist-cuffs, press his tummy, and he says the sweetest things, in a disarming voice. "We're pals, aren't we?" he coaxes. "Please unlock my handcuffs." Unleash him and he turns into a roaring, funny monster, with lots of great lines. (**Spin Master Toys**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 364-6002)

DIVA STARZ DOLLS are "cool-errific". Alexa, Nikki, Summer and Tia are four sassy teen friends straight from the frontlines of funk that really know what's up. With lips that light up, blinking eyes and a head that moves and grooves, the DIVA STARZ dolls make a fab-a-licious statement with an irreverent sense of style, fashion and play. Each of these mini mavens has a major personality and expresses it with her unique vocabulary, smooth singing voice, cool fashions and totally extreme attitude. Vital diva accessories like phone and email included. Made for the Groove-a-licious girl. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

With the new **WHAT'S HER FACE FASHION ACTIVITY DOLL**, girls can actually create their own glam doll by changing her face, hairstyle and fashion over and over again. Mix and match for an outrageous look. Each of the four dolls comes with her own expression stampers, washable markers, glitter stickers, two wigs in cool colors and styles and sunglasses. Ultra cool for would-be makeup artists or fashion designers. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Now girls can go on the road with the Barbie band. They'll be reeling and rockin' as **BARBIE JAM'N GLAM** rolls into town in her new **JAM'N GLAM TOUR BUS**. Barbie and her band take to the stage in funky outfits and outrageous hair with extensions. When on tour the JAM'N GLAM TOUR BUS has everything Barbie needs. The bus turns into a totally rockin' concert stage with dance floor and balcony, and comes with a glamorous backstage dressing room with two light up vanities. For cool concert sounds and flashing beat lights, plug into any musical system and groove to favorite music. Barbie rules! (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

The holidays wouldn't be complete without the magical performance of the Nutcracker. The dazzling world of the Nutcracker unfolds in an enchanted land of sugarplums and candy canes that girls can recreate with SUGARPLUM **PRINCESS BARBIE**. Change Barbie into the beautiful princess by putting on her sparkling skirt, letting her hair down and adding jewels for a stunning fairy-tale look. Twirl her in her magic stand and she'll dance her way into the hearts of young girls. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

You're glam and your pet should be too. The **BARBIE PERFECTLY PLUSH FASHION PUPPY/KITTY** are perfect pets that can be dressed up and taken for walks. The loveable plush pet comes with lots of trendy fashions and accessories and when patted on the head, answers with a "meow" or "bark". Each animal comes with a travel pet carrier because you won't want to go anywhere without it. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Suddenly she's a Mom with a real (almost) 6 month old baby. Meet the newest addition to the family, **MIRACLE BABY**, a life-like baby doll with realistic baby-soft skin and real movements and

sounds. Featuring innovative technology, MIRACLE BABY comes alive with adorable facial movements and endearing responses just like a real infant. A special tilt sensor lets baby close her eyes and fall asleep. When she's awake, Miracle Baby blinks, sucks her thumb or a bottle, and makes cute sounds like cooing, burping and sneezing. Best of all, she sleeps through the night, and never needs to be changed. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Want to know Barbie's number one beauty secret? A pink toothbrush that just makes you want to brush. **BARBIE TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER** is designed to inspire kids to take care of their pearly whites. The kit includes a toothbrush, a pretty toothbrush stand that has a flower with a mirror in the middle on a bouncy spring stem, plus a Barbie rinsing cup. This should make the bedtime routine more fun! (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Now children can play with **CAILLOU** all day. The beloved TV star makes his grand appearance in a new doll and bath book package. Little ones feel just how soft and huggable a baby CAILLOU really is with the adorable CAILLOU RAGDOLL, with removable clothing. The special carrying case also includes THE GIFT vinyl storybook with simple text and a hidden squeak toy to make playtime extra fun. (**HB Fenn & Company Limited**, Bolton, ON, Tel: (905) 951-6600)

"Rock-a-bye" **CHOU CHOU** laughs, cries and babbles just like a real baby. When you give her the bottle, she sucks on it. When you lie her down, she yawns. Her eyes gently close as you rock her to sleep. Once asleep, she breathes calmly, but pick her up and she quickly wakes, laughing or crying. This soft, loveable baby has an internal microchip that reacts to motion and positioning, just like a real little one. Dressed in an adorable pink playsuit, she arrives on your doorstep with a pacifier, stuffed teddy bear and magic bottle. You won't be able to tear yourself away from this little bundle of joy. (**ZAPF Creations Inc.**, Richmond Hill, Tel: (905) 780-8681)

Little Moms will really feel a real sense of responsibility, along with all the joys of mothering, when they take care of **BABY BORN**, the baby doll that eats, drinks, wets, cries, giggles, and even soils her potty. Fully poseable with adjustable arms, legs and head, this little sweetie comes with everything she needs to keep her and her Mommy happy, even her own birth certificate. But grandparents be warned, this gorgeous little doll requires serious baby-sitting. (**ZAPF Creations Inc.**, Richmond Hill, Tel: (905) 780-8681)

GAMES

If you like Scrabble, you'll love the vocabulary building game **WORDTHIEF**. In this game, letters have point values and you build words as in Scrabble. But the difference is larceny. Players can snatch away other players' words to use as their own. The result is a high-tension game, with everybody focusing on each other's strategies. The secret lies in the plotting and planning, and of course, the better your vocabulary, the more likely you'll make it as a successful word thief. (**Faby Games Inc.**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 260-3107)

Treasure hunts are becoming all the rage at kids' parties. **SCAVENTURE KIDS** means parents no longer have to burn the midnight oil thinking up ideas for a good scavenger hunt for their child's birthday bash. This adventure game has teams of kids carrying out as many tasks as they can in a limited time. They might have to search the house for something with spots on it, write a poem, or learn the hula dance. High energy, with emphasis on making sure kids get a good case of the giggles, makes this game ideal for chasing away the doldrums on long winter days. (**Faby Games Inc.**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 260-3107)

Frogs, on your mark - get your tigers set - gorillas go! You gotta hang tough if you want to safely move your snake and other jungle creatures in **HANG IN THERE**, the zany plastic 3-dimensional tree topping game with realistic animal sounds. In a rapid race to the beach, players move their animal friends to the jungle beat and across the "bi-directional" spinning treetops by carefully raising and lowering their trees. It's fast paced fun that keeps you hanging on. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

THE NHL GAME is a game of hockey strategy that lets you study the game and view its inner workings in super slow motion. This board game proves that there's more to playing hockey than just chasing the puck. Plays, passes and options that you never considered leap into focus. Everything is about anticipation, positioning, team play and strategy. Along with the challenge of defending your zone and planning your offense, the game includes over 300 questions and

answers that will have you thinking hockey from every angle, from how to fit a skate to how to read a goalie. (**The Mad Hatter's Toy and Game Factory Inc.**, Oakville, ON, Tel: (905) 827-1826)

Ho,ho,ho and a bottle of rum.... for a barrel of family fun, there's **POP UP PIRATE**. Push the pirate into his barrel, then take turns sliding swords into the barrel slots. But beware --if the pirate pops up, you walk the plank. (**RP Toys Ltd.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 206-0083)

Get ready for a magic carpet ride. **MONOPOLY THE DISNEY EDITION** combines the ultimate fantasy of wealth and success with the magical world of Disney. The game board features scenes from over 20 Classic Disney films as collectible character playing pieces trip their way across screen history. The object of the game is to collect Disney films to build monopolies and acquire Disney dollars. With white rabbit cottages and Sleeping Beauty castles, it's a wonderful world. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Hungry for humbug this holiday season? From the classic favorite, "Dr.Seuss - How The Grinch Stole Christmas", comes **WHOVILLE-OPOLY**, a fun family game that recreates the magical town of Whoville and its inhabitants. Buy property, collect Who presents and trade them for a Who tree, get stuck on Mt. Crumpit or win the Holiday Cheermeister award and carve the rare roast beef. But be careful, or you may encounter the nastiest, most contemptible beast of all - The Grinch. It's a hilarious game sure to show even the Grinchiest the true meaning of Christmas. (**Stewart House Publishing**, Etobicoke, ON, Tel: 1-866-574-6873)

How can a game that seems so simple be so frustrating? **TIC TAC TOE** is a mind numbing mental assault that rattles your gray matter and battles your logical pathways with infinite possibilities - and you can still lose. A brain drain for everyone from 6 to 60, this game of strategy is a real head scratcher. It's fast paced play that will have everyone baffled, but still wanting more. (**Stewart House Publishing**, Etobicoke, ON, Tel: 1-866-574-6873)

This land is your land; this land is my land **TRAILBLAZER** is a challenging new board game that takes players on a journey through space and time while crossing Canada. Start in the Maritimes, and travel by canoe, train or bush plane, take supplies to the gold mine and discover who developed Standard Time. Be amazed at the nuggets of knowledge that are unearthed while working your way to Vancouver to win the game. Endorsed by the Canadian Geographic Society and The Dominion Institute. (**Stewart House Publishing**, Etobicoke, ON, Tel: 1-866-574-6873)

The 19th century kindergarten movement of Frederich Froebel inspired the likes of such great thinkers as Buckminster Fuller and Frank Lloyd Wright. It's also behind **WOODEN MARBLES AND BLOCKS** which is a stunning reproduction of a 1920s playset. The simple concept includes 16 square blocks, both sides dimpled with shallow holes, and 246 half-inch wooden colored marbles. An irresistible tactile experience, the game inspires wonderful abstract designs and patterns in the hands of young and old. The set comes in an ingenious box with an old-style illustration by famous advertising illustrator Norman Mills Price. (**T.J. Whitney's Traditional Toys**, Victoria, BC, Tel: (250) 995-0055.)

Amazing! Wannabe Harrys and Hermoines can try their hands at being a great wizard with the **HARRY POTTER LEVITATING CHALLENGE**, the electronic skill and action game that has to be seen to be believed. Use your powers of levitation to actually raise the ball out of the cauldron. Then skillfully navigate the ball around the maze as fast as you can in mid-air. The wizard trainer instructs you as you go. With 10 interchangeable obstacles and over 200 maze combinations, you can design a new maze every time you play. It's a race against time, a challenge for even the most accomplished wizard. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

It's Pandemonium in Motion! Welcome to the world of **HILARIUM**, the wacky game that gets everyone to act out and match up. Perfect for breaking the ice at parties, players can't help getting to know each other as they each perform zany wild actions from their cards. The play has everyone acting, yelling, or singing out what's on their card - all at once. Each card has an exact match, so the object of the game is to find the other player who is acting out what's on your card to win. A great improvement over those "Hello my name is..." tags. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

No wonder kids are getting smarter. Making learning fun is always a challenge but the **KLUTZ KWIZ SETS** really fool kids into having fun while they're learning. With a deck full of questions and

an electronic gizmo full of answers, it's a hand-held personal game show quiz. Just snap the questions into the device, and choose one of the multiple-choice answers. A green light beeps for right, and a red light boops for wrong. Each deck contains hundreds of questions, which meet Canadian curriculum standards for grades K-4. (**Stewart House Publishing**, Etobicoke, ON, Tel: 1-866-574-6873)

Try this. Close your eyes and imagine what you would like to do when you no longer have to work. Now, you can prolong the joy of dreaming with a board game that sets you up for life, with the money and lifestyle you hanker for. **HAPPY RETIREMENT**, the invention of Canadian Martin Kral, lets you acquire what every retiree wants: respect, lots of cash, and membership to a top golf club, or whatever you fancy. Freedom 55 is more than a dream, it's a strategic lifestyle game. (**Marty's Games Corp.**, Vankleek Hill, ON, Tel: (613) 678-5165.)

FLIPS, the Reversible snakes and ladders adds a fun twist to an old classic. Snakes and ladders has been a favorite game for decades. But Patrix, the producer of cunningly educational games, takes it one step further with a new version of the classic, which adds strategy and challenge to make the age-old snakes and ladder game even more fun and skillful. (**Patrix Communications**, Knowlton, PQ, Tel: (450) 242-2380)

Who was Canada's first Prime Minister? In 1,000 questions and answers, **BRAIN QUEST CANADA** covers every aspect of Canadian history and culture from First Nations to Celine Dion. This all - Canada challenge tests knowledge on the people, places, cultural and historic events that make this great country what it is. Ask your family and friends, or play the cards alone. It's more than knowledge, it's heritage. (**Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.**, Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

A new game for five-plus folks this season is **ROBODOC**. The cute plastic robot needs fixing. Follow the cards and they'll tell you which pieces to mend. But if you're not careful, the robot could go haywire on you with his electronic sounds and action. Remove the right parts, and score points. (**RP Toys Ltd.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 206-0083)

There is a way to make math fun. The **MADMATH DICE GAME** is a captivating board game that slips a lot of learning into the play, but the kids won't notice. It's deceptively educational, teaching kids additions and multiplication while they roll the die and try to position their pawns in a row. The made-in-Canada game can be played at different skill levels to flex the minds of players of all ages. (**Patrix Communications**, Knowlton, QC, Tel: (450) 242-2380.)

The best way to get to know the world is to see for yourself what goes where. In **ANIMAL GEOLOTO**, the goal is to find the right animals that shape each of the continents. The game contains eight continent maps and 48 extra strong animal cards. Kids will get to know the continents and the animals who live on them so well, they'll be first in line for the job of zoo guide. (**Patrix Communications**, Knowlton, QC, Tel: (450) 242-2380.)

You know a game has stood the test of time when the latest edition is a "best of." Sure enough, **THE BEST OF TRIBOND** is the newest release of the game that has sold two million copies over the last decade. This edition features the best riddles from the past 10 years, plus over 500 new ones. The goal is to quickly guess the link between three seemingly unrelated clues. Fast...what's the common bond between Kelly, Olive and Emerald? (They're all shades of green.) (**RP Toys Ltd.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 206-0083)

Don't tell your kids, but **McWIZ JUNIOR** is a game that wins thumbs up from teachers everywhere. This quiz game features 1,200 questions, with three questions per card aimed at different ages, from 6 to 12, so siblings can play together. The all-Canadian game is the invention of a teacher who spent 24 years working with kids, and dedicated 3.5 years to researching the questions. Most come from actual schoolbooks. Kids compete for pieces of jigsaw puzzle and the first to finish a puzzle wins. It's clear that inventor Bob McDuff knows how to motivate kids and make them feel good about learning. (**McDistribution Plus, Inc.**, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, (819) 691-1252)

McWIZ 2000 scored high with the Mensa members for good reason. This Canadian invented game is no ordinary game of knowledge and trivia. It has no less than a whopping 4,200 challenging and entertaining questions on serious subjects, trivia, word games, proverbs and lighthearted topics. The game stimulates the brain with interesting twists. The box of trivia cards is great for taking on the road or passing the time waiting at the airport. You don't need to be a college graduate to play,

you just need to challenge yourself to think. (**McDistribution Plus, Inc.**, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, (819) 691-1252)

PRE-SCHOOL

BOB THE BUILDER, the preschool world's favorite fix-it guy, is a phenomenal international success. The show, which premiered on Britain's BBC in April 1999, is broadcast in more than 100 countries worldwide. This season, TALKING BOB and his smart business partner TALKING WENDY are jumping from the screen into the playrooms of Canadian kids coast-to-coast. Carrying their tools, the plush talking dolls also play the show's theme music, Can We Fix It?, a chart-topper in Britain that outsold the previous record holder, Elton John's Candles in the Wind. Bob and Wendy are down-to-earth stars that have all the right stuff-an upbeat, positive attitude. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

There's lot of different ways to put **BOB THE BUILDER** to work in your home. Brio is introducing the **BOB THE BUILDER WOODEN PLAYSETS**, with the ever-friendly builder and his helpful team of construction machines. SCOOP & BOB features a poseable Bob figure with all action machine working Scoop. TRAVIS & SPUD has the poseable scarecrow and sturdy tractor, while LOFTY & WENDY features a mobile crane with poseable Wendy. All playsets come with magnetic couplings to connect to each other. Working together, Bob and the gang always get the job done. (**BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

The fishing craze has taken over the household. Now, **CATCH 'N COUNT FISHING** has youngsters reeling in eight colorful sea pals with a vibrating fishing rod. As all fishing pros know, it takes skill and learning to conquer fish fry. In this case, every time kids cast, they'll engage in five different fun activities that teach colors, numbers, music and lots more. Plus, they learn hand-eye coordination. The educational toy is played on dry land and comes with a bag for easy storage. Bragging rights are assured. (**Vtech Electronics Canada Ltd.**, Richmond, BC, Tel: (604) 273-5131)

Now baths are barrels of fun. **JUNGLE WATER SLIDE** brings all the thrills of a water park to toddler's bath with three cute jungle animals that come complete with their own slides. Suction cups attach to the bath so baby can get busy pouring with the multi-shaped vessels, sorting the shapes, and tipping the elephant, hippo and bear. Wearing bath rings, all three float merrily in baby's bath to frolic in the waves. (**Playwell Enterprises Ltd.**, Scarborough, Ont., Tel: (416) 439-0044)

PLAY-DOH proves that you can never run out of ideas for the classic modeling compound. The latest innovation from PLAY-DOH is a sturdy preschooler clear backpack that comes with four cans of PLAY-DOH, a flip-phone stamper, two animal extruders and a colorful plastic jackknife cutter. The backpack is great for storing accessories and carrying the modeling compound wherever the young sculptor travels. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

BRIO CURIOUS GEORGE BLOCK PLAY is a set of classic wooden blocks with printed Curious George pictures on four sides. That cute little monkey gets into everything and with these quality blocks, babies can mix and build their own stories. Blocks match up to create 4 different sides of big picture fun. (**BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

Rub-a-dub-dub, now there's something new in the tub - a brand new line of **SASSY FOR KOOSHIES BATH TOYS. SQUIRTING SEA PALS** is sure to be a favorite. Squeeze the lobster's belly to squirt water towards the ball he holds in his claws and the ball spins. **COUNTING FISH N' NET** includes a colorful fishnet and three numbered fish. **REEL EASY FISHING SET** turns the bathtub into a pond, stocked with bright fish that can be caught six different ways with a fishing reel. Suddenly they can't wait to get in the bath. (**Kooshies Baby Products**, Stoney Creek, ON, Tel: (905) 662-4281)

Wolfgang, the musical plush wolf, does so much more than howl at the moon. This interactive, adorable wolf gives new meaning to musical fun. **WOLFGANG -THE MOZART MAGICAL ORCHESTRA** teaches budding musicians how sounds combine to form true polyphonic music. Future Leonard Bernsteins can conduct and arrange a multitude of Mozart masterpieces by a gentle squeeze of Wolfgang's paw, which adds or subtracts instruments. With such Mozart compositions as Marriage of Figaro, Magic Flute, and Twinkle, Twinkle, this wolf is headed for the stars. (**Munchkin Inc.**, Newmarket, ON, Tel: (905) 853-8971)

BLUE is a preschooler's dream dog. The TV character is as bouncy, responsive and happy in plush as she is on the screen. Pat her head, and her ears wiggle and tail wags. Call her or clap and she'll bark excitedly, wag her tail and raise her ears as she bounces to you, with great sound effects. Call her again and she bounces about to the popular Blue's Clues Theme Song, just like she does for Steve. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Every kid is born to make music. Now even the youngest ones can create their own versions of baby chart-toppers like Old MacDonald, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Hokey Pokey and more with the **SING WITH ME MAGIC CUBE**. This interactive cube plays the hot tunes and lets little ones really get in the groove by adding or subtracting specific instruments with just a gentle squeeze. The latest research shows that playing music stimulates the entire brain while building the foundation for early learning skills, including reading and math. Now that's something to sing about. (**Munchkin Inc.**, Newmarket, ON, Tel: (905) 853-8971)

Rip-roaring fun is what you can expect from the new line of four **TOOTSIETOY TERROR RISERS** Monster trucks. These are even better than the trucks that crush cars in stadiums. Take the **MONSTER MASHER**, like the other trucks in the series, it mutates from an innocent sleek street truck into a menace on wheels. Its monster mask eyes light up and it comes with its own set of tools, heavy duty chains, and all terrain tires. Also, for major truck action, is the **TOOTSIETOY MOTOR-MONSTER TRUCKS** with heavy duty tires and durable bodies that give you motorized two wheel drive without batteries. Too cool. (**Strombecker Canada Ltd.**, Oakville, ON, Tel: (905) 815-9909)

This is a great year for wannabe truckers. They can get into the spirit of trucking big time with **TOOTSIETOY POWER RIGS VEHICLES** that have real-wheel drive, flashing lights and power sounds. The **FOREST FIRE SET** includes a powered pumping water cannon, and multi-position rotating buzz saw. (**Strombecker Canada Ltd.**, Oakville, ON, Tel: (905) 815-9909)

Dump truck, fire truck, or tow truck? That's a tough choice for a truck-loving kid. The new **TRANSFORMING TIMMY** from **MEGA BLOKS** means they no longer have to choose. The 12-piece maxi-block set lets kids put together all three, one at a time. When the back of each different type of truck is put on the base, Timmy recognizes it and says what he is, plus other friendly phrases. He also honks his horn and makes lots of great sounds. (**Ritvik Holdings Inc.**, St.Laurent, PQ, Tel: (514) 333-5555)

It's light and sound rescue action with the new series of rescue vehicles from BRIO that add to the **BRIO WOODEN RAILWAY SYSTEM**. Powered by imagination, with a little help from a battery, the **AMBULANCE, FIRE ENGINE** and **POLICE CAR** all have flashing warning lights and siren sounds to warn others out of their way- they're in a hurry! Poseable characters in full uniform drive the vehicles on the railway tracks for role-play fun. They're here to save the day! (**BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

The **MEGA BLOKS LEARNING STATION** is an entire learning center in one. With six discovery themes, kids learn shapes, colors, animals, instruments and music, letters, words, vehicles, sounds, and numbers. Four different learning modes for skill range add up to 100 learning possibilities. And each one is engaging. (**Ritvik Holdings Inc.**, St.Laurent, PQ, Tel: (514) 333-5555)

BABIES

Research shows that brain development begins in the womb, and in the third trimester of pregnancy, babies can hear and recognize sounds. **WOMBSONG PRENATAL SOUND SYSTEM** lets expectant Moms and their families talk, sing, play music and listen to their baby in the womb. The bonding starts with this revolutionary sound system. Soon-to-be Dads can coo, siblings can introduce themselves and make clear which toys aren't to be touched, and Moms can croon favorite show tunes to their captive, but very willing audience. Then listen to the baby's own song, a combo of hiccups, kicks and other special sounds. The system includes headphones, microphone, and Mozart Womb Song collection CD to nourish baby's mind development. (**Munchkin Inc.**, Newmarket, ON, Tel: (905) 853-8971)

There are so many ingenious new inventions for infants on the market that you can't blame parents of older kids for feeling that today's new moms and dads have it easy. New parents do have it easier thanks to **SING ME TO SLEEP SOOTHER**. This soft and comforting toy features a plush

Pooh on a pillow, cuddling Piglet and a bee. When the remote control or pillow is pressed, Pooh and Piglet bid goodnight and Pooh sings a lullaby from the The Tigger Movie. If baby stirs, a parent can activate the toy with the infrared remote control to replay the music. The toy automatically shuts off after eight minutes. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

The **LAMAZE OCTOTUNES** is the cutest thing on eight legs for baby. With tentacles that create musical notes when pushed, this multi-colored octopus teaches baby sights, sounds, colors and nurturing play. Made in soft, love-to-touch plush, the happy huggable creature boasts a variety of patterns and textures to stimulate tactile sensations. Comes with a songbook to show new rock-and-rollers how to play the 'Octo' so baby and parents can sing along to their favorite tunes. (**Brigitta's Import Inc.**, Concord, ON, Tel: (905) 669-1570)

Little ones will love this crib buddy. **THE HUNGRY PELICAN** is a cheery crib mate in soft plush as well as a fun-filled activity toy. Open its bright orange beak to feed the chubby bird with its favorite plush friends - shrimp, octopus, crab and fish. Each happy little sea creature is made of bright plush colors with textured surfaces, and squeaks and rattles for extra fun. After feeding, the toys come right out again through a hole in the pelican's tummy so baby can feed him again and again. (**Playwell Enterprises Ltd.**, Scarborough, Ont., Tel: (416) 439-0044)

The new **FISHER-PRICE BABY PLAYZONE CRAWL 'N CRUISE PLAYGROUND** is a baby's idea of a state-of-the-art home gym. Multiple levels of activities are specifically designed to help baby grow stronger and better at crawling, pulling up, cruising and standing. The fun starts as soon as baby crawls and continues through to standing. Funny faces, mirrors, dancing lights, music and fun sounds make this playground a happening place. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

1st **STARTS - STEP START WALK 'N RIDE** is two toys in one. The sturdy, stable walker helps babies learn to stand and walk, then it easily converts to their first ride-on toy, with a locking mechanism that only parents can activate. Both modes include fun activities for children to explore: a clicking gear shift, a spinning drum to create funny faces, a flexible antenna, a colorful spinner, various textures to touch, and a hood to open and close. (**Playskool, distributed by Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

ure beats the lazy-boy chair. The 1ST **STARTS - SIT-START ACTIVITY SEAT** is a toddler seat with five silly sounds... and a fun-filled activity toy, too. Each time the toddler sits on this colorful activity seat, it makes a surprise sound, from giggling to booing. There are lots of hands-on play features of activities, like a spinning disk, shapes to sort into the matching holes, a sliding clicker, and a lift-up door for drop-in play. Now little ones can have twice the fun with this silly surprise seat. (**Playskool, distributed by Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Go ahead, baby, put your hands in this cookie jar. When you reach into the **FISHER-PRICE BABY SMARTRONICS COOKIE SHAPE SURPRISE**, you'll learn to identify shapes and numbers and hear some fun music too. Take your hand out and the music stops. The cookie jar recognizes when the right shape goes into the matching opening and responds by saying the shape name or number. The cookie jar's nose blinks to songs or sounds for an even friendlier experience. How sweet it is! (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

CRAFTS

Cross over the generation gap. If you were like most girls, you loved your **EASY BAKE OVEN**, and if you were like most boys, you secretly wanted one too. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Since 1964, the classic ever-popular oven has been making the stuff sweet memories are made of. Now, the real working oven has been updated with a look-through window, and a delicious assortment of fun mixes and recipes for baking real treats of cookies, cakes, brownies and so much more. **EASY-BAKE OVEN AND SNACK CENTER** lets young chefs create cheese sauce for nachos, melted chocolate chips for dipping pretzels or fruit for starters. The oven comes with four different mixes, two baking pans, two utensils, pan pusher, two warming trays, tray cover, and recipes. **EASY-BAKE FEATURE & MINI BAKE SETS** add to the list of favorite foods with character licenses for more tasty fun. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Remember Shrinky Dinks? They were popular plastic toys that you colored, cut out and asked Mom to stick in the oven for shrinking. Invented in 1973, they stayed on the must-have list for 17 years, by which time harried Moms had other things to do than bake toys. This season, what's old is new again. The **INCREDIBLE SHRINKY DINKS MAKER** lets kids trace, color, cut, and shrink their work to one-third of its original size, and nine times its thickness, without having to use a real oven. You can make durable keepsakes in three minutes. But kids beware. Parents who grew up making SHRINKY DINKS will be fighting you for their turn at this new and improved toy. (**Spin Master Toys**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 364-6002)

CRAYOLA MAKE & KEEP CRITTERS SET lets kids create fun, wacky critters out of colorful Model Magic. This unique spongy modeling material is lightweight, soft and pliable, and air dries in 24 hours. Comes complete with 6 bags of Model Magic, markers, tools, pipe cleaners, project booklet and even a pet carrier to store your crazy critters. (**Binney & Smith Canada**, Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 513-9753)

Girls just want to have fun with beads. That's why the **GIRL ZONE BEAD SCENE** is where it's at this year. Creating cool jewels with this automatic beader is not just fun, it's magical. Pour any of the 400 beads that come with the set into the Bead Scene and watch the beads swirl around and magically come out as amazing bracelets, necklaces, belts, and more. Look up the Girl Zone Ancient Text and read your fortune from the beads. As the kids would say, "Sweet." (**Irwin Toy Ltd.**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 533-3521)

There's a lot of hocus-pocus brewing this holiday in **HARRY POTTER'S PROFESSOR SNAPE'S POTIONS CLASS**. Kids magically mix potions they can really drink and unique treats they can really eat. Boys and girls will love the potions that fizz and change colors with the cauldron's self-stirring wand. There's even a dispensing tube that "magically" moves potions from the cauldron directly in the sorcerer's cup. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

This is the science generation. Kids are wowed by the possibilities and eager to experiment. The new **WILD SCIENCE** kits deliver the results students are looking for. Each kit lets kids make something they can use while demonstrating the scientific concepts behind the creation. **HYPERLAUNCHER** is a case in point. While learning about polymer chemistry, Newton's law of motion, elastic collisions and more, kids produce super elastic balls, similar to super balls only they control the bounciness. (**Borgfeldt Canada Ltd**, Scarborough, ON, Tel: (416) 497-2004)

Should a child who is sitting on a new white sofa and yearns to draw, be handed a red marker? Absolutely, as long as it is from the **CRAYOLA COLOR WONDER** system. This mess-free, stress-free line of colorful markers and fun coloring books from Crayola frees up kids to colour anywhere, anytime. The ink in the revolutionary no-mess Color Wonder markers show up only on Color Wonder paper. New coloring and activity books include SPORTS and OUTDOOR FUN. (**Binney & Smith Canada**, Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 513-9753)

Budding artists will be inspired by the exciting line of glittery art tools from **CRAYOLA. CRAYOLA METALLIC COLORED MARKERS, METALLIC PENCILS** and **METALLIC CRAYONS** will sparkle up any masterpiece. CRAYOLA GLITTER GLUE in bold and pastel colors adds dazzle to drawings. Tips and techniques on the boxes offer ideas for fun projects, but with these neat tools, creativity just flows. (**Binney & Smith Canada**, Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 513-9753)

Those paint-your-own ceramics stores are going gangbusters. Now, you can bring the idea home with **MINI WINDOW SILL GARDEN**. This is an adorable ceramic garden set which includes two pots, a watering can, a set of tiny garden tools, and a holding tray. Paint the entire set beautiful with 8 vibrant colors of ceramic paint to really make it your own. Soil and seeds are included. (Creativity for Kids distributed by **BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

Everyone appreciates hand-painted cups, including bears and dolls. Treat your guests to a special tea party and serve them using a tea set you designed yourself. **MINI TEA SET** is a 17 piece tiny ceramic tea set for four, with cups, saucers, plates, a tea pot, creamer and sugar bowl. Mix 8 colors of paint for an unlimited palette of bright and pastels to create any design that inspires you. There's always time for tea with friends. (Creativity for Kids distributed by **BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

Move over pretty paper birds. **UNDERWATER ORIGAMI** lets kids create 12 dazzling origami animals, including fish, using waterproof paper. The kit includes practice sheets and easy to follow

instructions to make the art of origami a breeze for novices. And kids can display their sea world underwater. (**Roylco Limited**, Waterloo, ON, Tel: (519) 885-0451)