

Decorate your windows for the holidays, along with your fridge, mirrors and kitchen tiles. You can dress up any plastic, metal, glass, or smooth wood surface. **ARTI'STICK** is a cutting-edge painting activity that's so satisfying, it's hard to stop expressing yourself. You simply trace patterns from the kit, or your own designs, onto the supplied acetate sheets and paint them in with Arti'stick tubes of paint. You don't need a brush. The paint goes on opaque, but dries bright and transparent. Peel it off and stick it on any slick surface. **THE ARTI'STICK DECORATE YOUR WINDOWS FOR CHRISTMAS KIT** is a festive feel-good way to get the whole family into the holiday spirit. (**Pebeo Canada**, Sherbrooke, QC, Tel: 1-800-363-5012)

Butterflies are in this year, and here's a novel way for kids to make lots of them. **BUG WINGS** is a new kit that includes 20 bright plastic bug bodies, easy patterns and colorful tissue paper for wings, pipe cleaners for antennas, glitter glue pens and an inspiring activity guide. The butterflies are fun to make and eye-catching so they're great to decorate a room or use as a substitute for bows on presents. (**Roylco Limited**, Waterloo, ON, Tel: (519) 885-0451)

Coloring tools have gone radical. **FLYING COLORS CRAYON GELS** feature a gel ink that is made for coloring, rather than just writing. The 18 color crayon pen set includes glitter colors, metallic and pearlized. Also fun are the **AQUA COLORS LIQUID INK MARKERS** that come in an 8-marker pack and deliver color with a splash. These marker pens are clear so you can see the ink splashing around inside. (**Lane Sales Development Group**, Guelph, ON, Tel: (519) 822-4849)

Give your kids an exotic adventure, without leaving the living room. **I DIG TREASURE MYSTERIES OF EGYPT** is a new giant-size excavation kit that lets kids play at being archaeologists. Their mission is to search through a mysterious pyramid for relics of Egypt's past. The kit comes with steel hammer, chisel, a field guide and digging goggles. Six replica Egyptian artifacts are encased in non-toxic, dust-free glacial rock. Once unearthed, the archeologist can paint their discoveries for display using the paints supplied in the kit. A different easy clean-up project to warm up a cold day. (**Action Products Canada**, Winnipeg, MA, Tel: (204) 654-1030)

If you don't like the view from your window - change it. With **KLUTZ WINDOW ART** you can easily turn any glass surface into a work of art. Create beautiful sun catchers in four easy steps - just trace, squirt, peel and stick. The kit contains over 100 ready-to trace designs, plastic overlays and 5 lively squirt-on, peel-off colored paints with black outline - everything you need to brighten your décor. The finished sun catchers won't fade or melt, and won't stain or mar windows in any way. Perfect for gifts. (**Stewart House Publishing**, Etobicoke, ON, Tel: 1-866-574-6873)

Finally, a great way to dress up the fridge door. **BARBIE DRESS UP MAGNETS** are fashionable magnets with designer flair. Over 20 different combos can be created to dress Barbie in trendy style for lots of fun mix and match looks. (**Mattel Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

The new refillable **CAILLOU COLORING DESK** lets kids color anywhere, anytime. The lightweight red desk with storage space and a handle is made for the comfort of small laps. The desk has 6.7 meters (22 feet) of wonderful bold CAILLOU pictures and kids can easily turn the giant knobs themselves to make a new page appear. (**Wrebbbit Inc.**, St. Laurent, QC, Tel: (514) 744-8444)

Young car collectors will love the new **DODGE VIPER GTS COUPE** and **CHEVROLET CORVETTE** kits from Bburago of Milan, Italy, manufacturer of many of the world's most popular cars. These metal die-cast kits are easy to assemble and include everything you need to build the hip cars. Metal parts are pre-painted and snap together, steering wheels turn, hoods and trunks open and close. Neat decals are included and few tools are needed. Kits are available in 1:24th and 1:18th scale. (**Borgfeldt Canada Ltd**, Scarborough, ON, Tel: (416) 497-2004)

Wrebbit, the company that revolutionized puzzles when it launched its first line of foam three-dimensional jigsaws in 1991, remains a trendsetter. This year the innovative company is launching another radically new concept: **THE WREBBIT PERFALOCK PUZZLE**, the first ever pliable puzzle. The Perfalock system has laminated foam puzzle pieces that stick together without glue. The fit of the pieces is almost invisible. The puzzle can be picked up, without falling apart, and moved from room to room, hung on a wall or used as a decorative piece. Wrebbit is introducing six 1000-piece Perfalock puzzles with illustrations ranging from nature landscapes to animals and antiques scenes. (Wrebbit Inc., St. Laurent, QC, Tel: (514) 744-8444)

Every year, 3D puzzle fans wonder what new challenges Wrebbit has in store. This season, they had better prepare to roll up their sleeves and get serious. Their task is to recreate Michelangelo's **WREBBIT PUZZ 3D SISTINE CHAPEL** in 379 double-sided pieces. This stunning puzzle is rated difficult. It's not quite as tough as rejigging the **WREBBIT PUZZ 3D SANTA MARIA 1492, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' CARAVAL**. It takes 370 puzzle pieces to build this impressive three-dimensional ship which rates as "very difficult." Also new is the **WREBBIT GREAT WALL OF CHINA**, rated easy at 191 pieces. Plus, for roadsters, there's the new **X-TREM 3-D** line of vehicles that include **WREBBIT BOMBARDIER ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE** and **WREBBIT SKI-DOO**. (Wrebbit Inc., St. Laurent, QC, Tel: (514) 744-8444)

Setting up tabletop picture-perfect villages in the home is a popular trend. With that in mind, Wrebbit's new line of 3D puzzles, inspired by master American artist Thomas Kinkade, lets you create stunning pastoral scenes for display. The **PUZZ 3D THOMAS KINKADE PAINTER OF LIGHT** series includes a wondrous 3D replica of the painter's GARDENS BEYOND SPRING GATE. Also in the series is a replica of the American artist's LAMPLIGHT MANOR, which is rated easy, but looks impressive. The new Thomas Kinkade GAZEBO is a picturesque 3-D 231-piece puzzle gazebo that comes with four small award-winning Thomas Kinkade masterpieces. There's a clever lighting system for inside the gazebo to illuminate the paintings from behind. (Wrebbit Inc., St. Laurent, QC, Tel: (514) 744-8444)

Step into the private 3-D museum of Thomas Kinkade. But first you must build it. The new **THOMAS KINKADE PUZZ 3D CD** is the ultimate puzzle experience. From the worktable to the pieces sorting system, you flex your mind as you assemble Kinkade's Lamplight Manor. But construction is only the beginning. Different skill level CD games with art-related themes will take you deep into the heart of the painter's world. (Wrebbit Inc., St. Laurent, QC, Tel: (514) 744-8444)

As your child unwraps this new toy, you might want to mention that using it will earn them piggybank money. The **JUNIOR STATIC SWEEPER** is a fully-functioning kid size version of the popular kitchen mop that uses disposable cloths to pick up dirt and dust. In fact, youngsters actually like to help clean and this sweeper will encourage them to work for their allowance. (Strombecker Canada Ltd., Oakville, ON, Tel: (905) 815-9909)

## **BUILDING**

Here's a stroke of genius...completely eco-friendly colorful building blocks that aren't plastic or wood. Instead, they're made of 100% biodegradable, edible cornstarch and food coloring. **MAGIC NUUDLES** work like, well, magic. Simply moisten the colored nuudles and they stick together for easy and safe building of anything you can imagine, from top hats to a bouquet of flowers, robots to houses. You don't need tape or glue. They're ideal for making forts, mountains and other school projects and a great way to while away the hours over the holidays. As an added bonus for the planet, you can dispose of your nuudle creations by running them under water. They melt like ice. (Di Tomasso & Associates, Elmira, ON, Tel: (519) 669-1876)

Put **STRAWS AND CONNECTORS** in the hands of kids, and they turn into instant architects. The urge to assemble all kinds of creative structures is irresistible when you have 130 bright colored

plastic building straws that can be easily curved and cut, and 100 connectors to hold the straws together. (**Roylco Limited**, Waterloo, ON, Tel: (519) 885-0451)

In a time before time, when the Island of Mata Nui was a fantasy paradise, a dark shadow fell over the land... So begins the legend of **BIONICLE by LEGO TECHNIC**. A new line of collectable Lego action heroes, BIONICLE is the single most largest new product launch in Lego history. Mighty heroes and evil villains fight on strange landscapes to collect the lost Kanohi Masks of Power.

Also new in the line is **LEGO BIONICLE: QUEST FOR THE TAO**, for Game Boy Advance and **LEGO-BIONICLE: THE LEGEND OF MATA NUI PC CD-ROM**. There's a whole new world for kids to build and explore. (**LEGO Canada Inc.**, Richmond Hill, ON, Tel: (905) 764-5346)

It's not news that the Harry Potter is taking over the toy world. But what is new is that Lego has exercised its own trademark wizardry to create the high-appeal **LEGO HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCEROR'S STONE BUILDING SETS**. The HARRY POTTER sets include eight of the most popular characters, along with an assortment of weird and wonderful animals, ghosts and imaginary creatures. Scenes and places from Harry's world let kids recreate their own magic, and many of the sets can be combined to create the "Ultimate Hogwarts Experience".

**LEGO CREATOR HARRY POTTER PC CD-ROM** lets kids build and play in a virtual Lego Harry Potter World. (**LEGO Canada Inc.**, Richmond Hill, ON, Tel: (905) 764-5346)

Can we fix it? Yes, we can! But first, you have to build it. Fans of BOB THE BUILDER TV series, will love **BRIO BOB THE BUILDER - BUILDER SYSTEMS**. SCOOP, MUCK, DIZZY and TRAVIS are Bob's buddy machines, four captivating and challenging wooden sets for the hard-working junior builder. Once built, the sturdy construction machines are equipped with working features to recreate all the adventures of Bob and his crew. (**BRIO Scanditoy Inc.**, London, ON, Tel: (519) 680-3080)

New from the Czech Republic, sturdy, high quality crafted wood building sets that offer an age-old wonderful tactical experience. The pieces in the ingenious **BAGOGO CONSTRUCTION SET** can be connected in any direction and freely rotated around the connecting pins. The 3-D **WOODEN ARCHA PUZZLES** are a European hit. This line includes sets to design sheepfolds, shepherd's cottages, and more. As well, larger sets with more pieces let you make up to 25 different houses, from stables to inns to cottages for a complete little wooden village. (**Evas Import**, Toronto, ON, Tel: (416) 621-4750)

## **BOOKS, CDs AND MORE**

Disney's timeless classics live on in **WALT DISNEY'S CLASSIC STORYBOOK**, a treasury that will delight generations of Disney fans. This brilliant collection of 18 stories is illustrated with beautiful vintage storybook art. Many of the stunning pieces are presented here for the very first time, and represent the finest examples of Disney's vision. Illustrations are taken from the beloved storybooks of the 1950s and 1960s, and include such favorites as "Sleeping Beauty" and "Peter Pan", along with rediscovered treasures like "Pedro" and "Scamp". Disney works its magic once again, this time with a volume made to be treasured. (**HB Fenn & Company Limited**, Bolton, ON, Tel: (905) 951-6600)

**LEAP PAD** is the interactive book that is designed specifically to introduce and encourage children not only to read, but to fall in love with reading. The book comes with a special pen which the child runs across the pages to hear words and stories out loud, learn letter sounds, play learning games and hear characters speak. The newest series of books in The **LEAP PAD** learning system will keep kids ages three to 10 running to the book shelf. For the very young, **MATH COUNTING ON LEAP** combines problem solving and math skills with lively fun stories for young children and **MOTHER GOOSE SONGBOOK** gets kids singing along and playing melodies on the Mother Goose paper piano. (**Hasbro Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 238-3374)

Announcing the most compulsive, perplexing, and heaviest gargantuan puzzle book ever. **1000 PLAY THINKS** is an enormous collection of 1,000 brainteasers -visual challenges, mental games, puzzles, paradoxes, riddles and illusions, both classics and unique originals. It's jam-packed entertainment for hours and answers are in the back, for those who want to confirm their brilliance. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

Forget the Iron Chef, now you can cook with Barbie! **BARBIE FUN TO COOK BOOK** has great recipes, with easy step-by-step instructions and photos to show little cooks how it's done. Lunchbox ideas, after school treats, sleepover snacks and favorite party sweets, each recipe is delicious and nutritious and sure to please even the pickiest palates. Everything from Sunshine breakfasts to Lemon Cooler and Super Shakes. Fun to read and easy to make, the book also comes with special tips from Barbie. Bon appetite! (Mattel Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

Believe it or not, George is 60. That's Curious George, the mischievous little monkey. He is celebrating his anniversary with a special edition of **THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES OF CURIOUS GEORGE**. Tales of this cheerful and loveable little chimp have kept generations of readers enthralled. This delightful 400-page collection of George's best-loved adventures also includes a retrospective note with photos and history of the authors and illustrators. **CURIOUS GEORGE BOARD BOOKS BOXED SET** features four Curious George storybooks in a sturdy, reusable, carry-along box. Brightly colored and reinforced for the littlest readers, the books feature art from the original storybooks by H.A. Rey. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

Introducing a new series of activity books based on North America's favorite word game - **SCRABBLE FUN FOR KIDS**. With 100 million games sold worldwide, Scrabble is an icon and these new activity books add an important learning aspect. The series, with levels for kids ages 3-12, reinforces language arts, reading skills, math skills and problem solving. The School Scrabble program has been a hit in the US for over a decade, now Canadian kids can enjoy the learning at home. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

Books are going the way of the dinosaur - literally. The new **DINOMAZE** is a one-of-a-kind activity book that comes in a tube shaped like a huge dinosaur bone. Inside the bone is a collection of more than 50 mazes, printed on a poster size pad, that take you through the anatomically correct skeletons of prehistoric animals. Each maze includes lots of great information about the dinosaur that you are winding your way through. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

To wow classmates, or office colleagues, try flying these paper airplanes around the room. The **AVIATION LEGENDS PAPER AIRPLANE BOOK** provides easy-to-make, easy-to-fly, accurate models of 12 historically important planes, along with facts on the greatest planes in powered aviation. These paper airplanes, like the Spirit of St. Louis and the P-51 Mustang, are so impressive that the book includes stands to display them. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

One of the great delights of winter is warm blankets and steaming chicken soup. Now, there is also **CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL -CHRISTMAS TREASURY**, a collection of stories to kindle the holiday spirit. Also new in the series this year is **CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE BASEBALL FAN'S SOUL**. This collection may remind those suffering from sun-deprivation that spring will come--eventually. Inspirational hang-in there stories from famous players as well as backyard pitchers. (Thomas Allen & Son Ltd., Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

At first, this may seem like the Grinch's idea of a holiday present. But in fact, **SUMMER BRIDGE BOOKS** are a favor to your kids. Experts say kids forget much of what they learned in school during the summer vacation. These activity books for grades K-6 feature Canadian curriculum-based activities to maintain and extend scholastic skills when school's out. (S & S Learning Materials, Nepean, ON, Tel: 1-800-463-6367 ext.231)

Here's another gift that, like broccoli, really is good for you. The **PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE ONTARIO GRADE 3 TEST** is designed to improve your child's confidence and reduce anxiety on test day by creating realistic test situations that help kids prepare. But a word to the wise: Don't even try pretending this one is from Santa. (**S & S Learning Materials**, Nepean, ON, Tel: 1-800-463-6367 ext.231)

Pre-readers will learn that books are fun with the new die-cut board books **MINI SCHOOL BUS** and **MINI FIRE TRUCK** that double as toys. With doors that open, windows to explore, and four working wheels, each page of these chunky books opens up to adorable characters and rhyming action. (**Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.**, Markham, ON, Tel: (905) 475-9126)

The wonderful thing about **CAILLOU**, the star of his own animated TV show, is that he grows up in books alongside his readers. Inspired by the work of a well-known psychotherapist, the **CAILLOU COMPASS SERIES** for children two and up, are books all about learning how to deal with everyday childhood experiences. Through his adventures, children learn to understand and express their feelings and parents are encouraged to talk about these new emotions. There are sturdy flap books and situation books that relate to a little one's world, like **CAILLOU BAD DREAMS** in which he and Mom find a solution for nightmares and **BABY SISTER** in which he deals with jealousy over the new baby. (**HB Fenn & Company Limited**, Bolton, ON, Tel: (905) 951-6600)

News flash! Kids actually enjoy learning. All they ask is that knowledge be presented creatively. **GEOSAFARI LAPTOP** has long accomplished just that for older kids, and now there's a Geosafari Laptop for kids 4 to 7. The concept is the same. There are 126 fun games, customized to different levels, designed to make you smarter. Topics include social studies, science, math, reading, phonics, and more. Children can challenge themselves or play against a partner. A cheery music and light show reward the right answers. The compact and durable construction has storage space for the 63 doubled-sided game cards, making it easy to learn-on-the-go. (**Educational Insights**, Carson, CA, Tel: 800-933-3277)

**FISHER-PRICE SEE 'N SAY KIDS AROUND THE WORD** is an updated classic. This electronic toy with two-sided 3-D screen introduces kids to geography, world music, and foreign language through fun and games, and awesome special effects. Kids will have a blast learning and wow people with their knowledge of 150 facts about countries and their ability to count in no less than 10 languages. Six modes of play at varying skill level. (Mattel Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON, Tel: (905) 501-0404)

We've come a long way since Run, Spot, Run. Learning to read is now a multi-sensory blast. The **PHONICS FIREFLY** is a case in point. This bright, large keypad in the shape of a firefly teaches the alphabet, as well as letter sounds and how to spell over 500 3-letter words. The fly talks, letters light up to guide play, and seven games make learning to read pure, interactive fun. A lot more fun than See Spot run. (**Educational Insights**, Carson, CA, Tel: 800-933-3277)

## **DECORATIONS**

It happens every year around now. You plug in your outdoor or indoor holiday lights, stand back to admire your work and experience...annoyance. Inevitably, one light in the set burns out or is loose so they all go on strike. Not anymore. The new revolutionary **STAY-LIT** includes a patented technology that allows the set to stay lit even if one or more bulbs are missing. Also, the IC chip in each light socket regulates voltage for longer life. Hassle-free decorating, who would have thought it possible? (**Alderbrook Industries Limited**, Pickering, ON, Tel: (905) 420-0494)

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## **TORONTO INTERNATIONAL GIFT FAIR AND CANADIAN TOY & HOBBY FAIR TO COOPERATE BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2002**

WHITE PLAINS, NY, February 5, 2001... George Little Management, LLC (GLM), managers of the Toronto International Gift Fair, and the Canadian Toy Association (CTA), sponsors of the Canadian Toy & Hobby Fair, have aligned their show dates and agreed to cooperative efforts beginning in January 2002.

The two events, which will run at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, collectively to be presented as Toronto Gift, Toy & Hobby Week, will run Saturday, January 26, through Tuesday, January 29, 2002. The Toronto International Gift Fair will run January 26-29 in the South Building and the Canadian Toy & Hobby Fair will run January 27-29 in the North Building. GLM and CTA have agreed to share joint promotion, including a common registration system, shared badges and shuttle service.

"This is a wonderful new relationship for us as we develop the Toronto gift market," said George F. (Jeff) Little, II, president of GLM. "The timing of these shows together will collectively create a stronger combined market for the Canadian gift and toy buyer."

"We're delighted to work together with GLM to merge our complementary markets into a resource that will benefit many buyers," said Charles Parker, CTA Chairman and president of Alderbrook Industries, Ltd. "We're confident that the synergy between these two Fairs and management teams will lead to a successful cooperation."

The Toronto International Gift Fair is owned by dmg world media and managed by GLM. The Show will present 700 exhibiting companies in 140,000 net square feet of exhibit space and attract approximately 10,000 retail buyers. Product Categories include general giftware, Featuring Canada, tourist and resort products, Accent on Design and Handmade among others.

The CTA is Canada's national Association serving the interests of the toy, game, seasonal decorations, hobby product, manufacturers, importers and distributors. The Canadian Toy & Hobby Fair expects to feature 120 exhibiting companies within 60,000 net square feet of exhibit space and will attract approximately 2,500+ toy buyers.

For further information regarding the Toronto International Gift Fair, contact Anita Schachter, Show Manager at 1 Concorde Gate #800, Toronto, ON M3C 3N6 Telephone: (416) 385-1880. Fax (416) 385-1855.

For additional information regarding the CTA or the Canadian Toy & Hobby Fair, contact Sheila Edmondson, executive director, the Canadian Toy Association, PO Box 294, 10435 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg, ON LOJ 1C0. Telephone (905) 893-1689. Fax (905) 893-2392. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Association's website at [www.cdntoyassn.com](http://www.cdntoyassn.com).