



Toys that will inspire -- not irritate -- this holiday season

Ask parents what's on their holiday wish list for their kids and many will suggest something that's fun, imaginative and -- best of all -- silent.

There's nothing worse than trying to share a serene family moment during the holidays while all around are the sounds of toys beeping, shooting or talking. For parents looking for some peace and quiet this holiday season, here is a list of toys to seek out for various age groups. These toys will be sure to entertain, educate and enthrall the lucky children who receive them and -- the real gift -- no batteries are required.

The Magic School Bus—A Journey into the Human Body

Ages: 5+ \$22.99 www.kidsciencekits.com

Is there a doctor in the house? A Journey into the Human Body takes mini medical marvels on a wild ride into the human body where they'll find themselves conducting experiments of a lifetime. Young scientists bend bones, make joints, expand lungs, measure heart rates, perform an iodine starch test and create a human body poster, among others. This kit comes complete with a life-size poster with eight sheets of body part stickers.