

Our Favorite Things

BOREDOM

BUSTER

AWARDS

15 great toys and
more to cure the
summertime blues



Blast Bubbles (Almost) Into Space

There's no NASA training needed to fly the foam-tipped **Gazillion Bubble Rocket**. Just pour some of the included bubble solution into the base, set the 12-inch-high

Active Toy

spacecraft in place, and stomp on the launcher. You'll send the rocket soaring — with an iridescent, sudsy vapor trail floating behind it.

Ages 6 and up

Funrise, \$17

— FAYE S. WOLFE





Stash This Book in Your Car's Backseat

Cracking codes inspired by ancient Romans, designing a new ride for an amusement park, and taking Rorschach tests are just a few of the refreshingly

Great for Travel original activities

kids can tackle in the 272 pages of **The Big Honkin' Activity Book**. With only a pencil, some markers, and a household item or two (calculator, scissors), your child can try his hand at the 200-plus challenges. **Ages 7 and up Lark Books, \$15**

— DEBORAH GEIGIS BERRY

BOREDOM
BUSTER
AWARDS

Inspiring Craft Supplies

The blank, sturdy board surfaces of **Ready-to-Go** boxes, decorative items, and books come in more than two dozen styles and are meant to be embellished with markers, stickers, and more. Our testers created mini TVs from shadow boxes (for their stuffed animals' viewing pleasure) and illustrated storybooks. **Ages 4 and up C&T Publishing, \$6 to \$12 each** — JENNIFER LYNCH

A New and Improved Video Game System

Take the already popular Nintendo DS, add two built-in cameras and photo-, music-, and voice-editing software, and you've got the bound-to-be-a-hit **Nintendo DSi**. Kids still can play dual-screen games, but our testers spent hours giggling as they distorted photos of themselves and played recordings of their voices backward at high speed. **Ages 6 and up Nintendo, \$170**

Cool Tech

photo-, music-, and voice-editing software, and you've got the bound-to-be-a-hit



— ELLEN HARTER WALL

BOREDOM
BUSTER
AWARDS

Get Back to Basics

The 650-piece **Builders of Tomorrow** Lego set may have a futuristic name, but the square and rectangular bricks have a totally retro look that we love. Adding to the coolness quotient is the clever online component: each month, builders can go to **Legofamilytime.com** to download directions for making three new models (a snail, lions, and birds for August). **Ages 4 and up Lego, \$30**

Rainy-day Activity

totally retro look that we love. Adding to the coolness quotient is the clever

— ELLEN HARTER WALL

We're giving away 50 Builders of Tomorrow sets. Follow **FamilyFun** on **Twitter** for your chance to win. For details, see **page 6**.

DESIGN OF THE MONTH

FamilyFun Bonus

We've partnered with Lego to offer an additional, exclusive **FamilyFun** design each month for the next year. Inspired by our Family Reunion Camp-out story on page 80, **August's FamilyFun model** features marshmallow-roasting campers, a tent, and a skunk.

To download directions, go to **Legofamilytime.com/FamilyFun**.

