Christmas 2026

The Wicked Gift Guide

60 gift ideas for kids 2 to 8

Toys by age, stocking stuffers under $20, and New England experience gifts that get busy kids out of the house

Wicked Kids Adventures

Hi, I'm Lindsey

I'm a Franklin, MA mom of a 4-year-old who never stops moving. Every December I go looking for gifts that will still get played with in February, not just on Christmas morning. So I made the list I wish I'd had.

Every pick here is listed right now, and the age is the one the maker gives. I didn't test all of these at home. I picked them for kids like mine: busy hands, big energy and a short attention span for anything with a screen.

My favorite section is the last one. A zoo or museum membership is a gift that turns into a whole year of outings, and every place on that list has a guide on our site.



Ages 2 to 3
13 picks



Ages 4 to 5
12 picks



Ages 6 to 8
11 picks



Stocking stuffers
12 picks under $20



Experience gifts
12 New England memberships and passes



Tap any button
Every pick links to our site and the maker

Good to know: Prices were checked on the maker's site or Amazon on November 3, 2026. They change often around the holidays, so check before you buy. Experience gift prices come from each place's own website.

Full disclosure: As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases. The "Where to buy" button opens this guide on our website, where each pick has its Amazon link. If you buy through one, Amazon pays me a small commission at no extra cost to you. It helps keep our printables free.

Happy hunting!

Lindsey (and Lily, age 4)

Ages 2 to 3

Big pieces, big muscles and a lot of pretend



PRETEND PLAY $27

Felt Play Food: Pizza Set

Melissa & Doug · Ages 2+

Soft felt slices and toppings let a two year old make a pizza, cut it up, and serve everyone at the table again and again.

Where to buy | Maker's site



PRETEND PLAY $46

Little People Caring Fun Animal Farm Playset

Fisher-Price · Ages 1+

A two-story barn with a drop-through silo, a farmer, four animals and a hay bale gives toddlers a whole farm day to act out, with songs and sounds that name colors, opposites and numbers along the way.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $50

DUPLO Deluxe Brick Box 10914

LEGO DUPLO · Ages 18 mo+

Big bricks that snap together and pull apart easily let toddlers build towers, knock them down, and start over with lots of pieces to share.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $95

The Block Set

Lovevery · Ages 1+

Solid wooden blocks in lots of shapes and colors give a toddler years of stacking, sorting, and building, with ideas that grow along with them.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $12

Spike the Fine Motor Hedgehog

Learning Resources · Ages 18 mo to 4

Pushing the bright quills into Spike's back and pulling them out again is a satisfying little job for busy fingers, and the quills store inside him.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $57

Easy Store Jr. Play Slide

Little Tikes · Ages 18 mo to 4

A toddler-sized slide gives a high-energy two year old a safe way to climb and slide all winter indoors, then folds away when it's time to clean up.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $27

Giddy Buggy Bowling Set

Melissa & Doug · Ages 2+

Rolling a ball at a set of bug-faced pins and watching them tumble keeps little ones running, setting up, and cheering in the living room.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $21

Washable Finger Paints

Crayola · Ages 1+

Squishing bright, washable paint with their own hands is pure sensory fun for a toddler, and it cleans up from little fingers with soap and water.

Where to buy | Maker's site



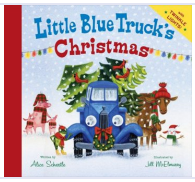
ART $13

Triangle Toddler Markers

Crayola · Ages 2 to 10

Chunky triangle-shaped markers are easy for small hands to grip, so a two year old can scribble big, colorful pictures on their own.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BOOKS $11

Little Blue Truck's Christmas

Clarion Books · Ages 1 to 3

Toddlers love counting the Christmas trees and saying "Beep!" along with Little Blue as he delivers trees to his animal friends.

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $30

My Very First Games: First Orchard

HABA · Ages 2+

Rolling the die and picking chunky wooden fruit before the raven reaches the orchard is a gentle first board game where everyone plays on the same team.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $65

Cozy Coupe

Little Tikes · Ages 18 mo to 5

Climbing in, closing the door, and scooting around with their own feet makes a toddler feel like they are driving their very own car.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $70

Steer & Stroll Trike

Radio Flyer · Ages 2 to 5

A grown-up can push and steer with the handle on walks while a two year old rides along and rings the bell, then they can learn to pedal on their own.

Where to buy | Maker's site

Ages 4 to 5

Building, games and gifts that burn off energy



BUILDING $50

Classic 32 Piece Set

MAGNA-TILES · Ages 3+

Four and five year olds can snap the bright tiles into houses, towers and garages on their own, then knock them down and start again.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $70

Bluey's Family House

LEGO · Ages 4+

Kids who already know every Bluey episode get to build the Heelers' home and act out their favorite scenes with the minifigures.

Where to buy | Maker's site



SCREEN-FREE $110

Yoto Mini 4th Gen

Yoto · Ages 3+

A preschooler can pop in a card and start a story or song all by themselves, which makes car rides and quiet time feel like their own.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $20

Stomp Rocket Jr. Glow

Stomp Rocket · Ages 3+

One big stomp sends a foam rocket flying high into the yard, and the glow-in-the-dark rockets keep the fun going after the early winter sunset.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $90

Micro Mini Scooter

Micro Kickboard · Ages 2 to 5

The lean-to-steer design lets little riders zip down the driveway or a rail trail with confidence and keep up on family walks.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $93

Easy Store 3ft Trampoline

Little Tikes · Ages 3 to 6

On snowy days when everyone is stuck inside, a five year old can bounce out their energy while holding the handlebar, and it folds away afterward.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $20

Stomp Hopper

Stomp Rocket · Ages 3+

It is a squeaky foam pogo that lets kids hop around the playroom or the backyard and practice their balance.

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $20

Animal Upon Animal Stacking Game

HABA · Ages 3+

Stacking chunky wooden animals into a wobbly tower makes for plenty of giggles, and the rules are simple enough for a four year old to play with grown-ups.

Where to buy | Maker's site



PRETEND PLAY $45

Let's Explore Camper Tent Play Set

Melissa & Doug · Ages 3+

Kids who love family outings can set up their own campsite in the living room and pretend they are on an adventure until spring.

Where to buy | Maker's site



PRETEND PLAY $23

Get Well Doctor's Kit Play Set

Melissa & Doug · Ages 3+

With a stethoscope, bandages and a name badge, a four year old can give check-ups to stuffed animals, siblings and anyone else who will sit still.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $27

Created by Me! Stencil Art Activity Kit

Melissa & Doug · Ages 4+

The stencils and rubbing plate help kids who are still learning to draw make animals, flowers and sea creatures they are proud to hang on the fridge.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $32

Chunkies Paint Sticks: Variety - Set of 24

OOLY · Ages 3+

These solid paint sticks glide on like crayons and dry fast, so little artists can paint at the kitchen table without cups of water or a big cleanup.

Where to buy | Maker's site

Ages 6 to 8

Longer builds, real games and their first big projects



BUILDING $80

Fire Station with Fire Truck

LEGO · Ages 6+

With two garages, a ladder truck, a drone and five firefighters, this 843-piece station gives a kid a long build and then a whole town's worth of rescue stories to act out.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $27

SolarBots: Cosmic Explorers

Thames & Kosmos · Ages 6+ with help

Kids build a little robot with a real solar panel and motor, then snap it into four different bodies that walk, crawl and roll whenever the sun hits it.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BUILDING $40

Marble Run Essential 70-Piece Set

Thames & Kosmos · Ages 6+

Every track they snap together gets an instant test run, so they get to watch their own ideas roll, wobble and finally work.

Where to buy | Maker's site



SCIENCE $30

Wow in the World: Kids' Microscope & Biology Kit

Thames & Kosmos · Ages 6+

Leaves, bugs and pond water from the backyard turn into something new to study up close, which makes every walk outside a chance to collect a sample.

Where to buy | Maker's site



SCIENCE $53

Snap Circuits Jr. SC-100

Elenco · Ages 8+

Parts snap together like buttons on a coat, so kids can make a light turn on or a fan spin and feel like real inventors (best for the 8-year-olds on your list).

Best for 8 year olds

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $30

Ticket to Ride: First Journey

Days of Wonder · Ages 6+

It takes the grown-up train game and makes the rules simple enough that a first grader can claim routes and win fair and square against the adults.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $47

Multi-Craft Weaving Loom

Melissa & Doug · Ages 6+

A big wooden frame, a chunky needle and 91 yards of rainbow yarn let kids make a scarf or pouch they can actually use and show off.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $30

The Original Ultra Rocket Launcher

Stomp Rocket · Ages 5+

One hard stomp sends a foom rocket soaring over the yard, and kids will happily run after it again and again until dinner.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BURNS ENERGY $110

Micro Sprite Glow LED Scooter

Micro Kickboard · Ages 6+

Light-up wheels and a sturdy two-wheel deck give a growing kid a grown-up feeling scooter for bike paths, the driveway and the trip to school.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BOOKS $24

Magic Tree House Books 1-4 Boxed Set

Random House Books for Young Readers · Ages 6 to 9

Jack and Annie's trips to dinosaur days, castles, pyramids and pirate ships are short enough for new readers to finish on their own and exciting enough to ask for the next one.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BOOKS $18

Forest Above & Below 100 Piece Double-Sided Puzzle

Mudpuppy · Ages 6+

One side shows the forest kids see on a hike and the other shows the burrows and roots hidden underground, so there are two puzzles and plenty to talk about in one box.

Where to buy | Maker's site

Stocking stuffers under $20

Small gifts that still get played with in January



ART $9

Water WOW! Water Reveal Pad: Animals

Melissa & Doug · Ages 3+

Kids fill the chunky pen with water and watch the hidden colors appear, then the page dries and they get to do it all over again.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $9

Smooth Stix Watercolor Gel Crayons

OOLY · Ages 3+

The twist-up crayons glide on smoothly, and a few brushstrokes of water turn the lines into soft paint, which feels like a small art trick kids can do on their own.

Where to buy | Maker's site



ART $8

Scratch and Scribble Mini Scratch Art Kit: Funtastic Friends

OOLY · Ages 6+

Older kids like scratching away the black coating to uncover rainbow llamas, unicorns and sloths, and the cards are small enough for a car ride.

Where to buy | Maker's site



STICKERS $9

Reusable Sticker Pad: Vehicles

Melissa & Doug · Ages 3+

With more than 165 cling stickers and five scenes like an airport and a construction site, kids can build a busy town, peel it all off and start a new story.

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $15

Spot it! Animals Junior

Spot it! · Ages 4 to 7

Little ones love racing grown-ups to find the one matching animal between two cards, and they often win fair and square.

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $10

On a Scale of One to T-Rex

Exploding Kittens · Ages 7+

Everyone acts out silly things like roaring or yodeling at a secret intensity, and kids get the giggles trying to guess who matches their level.

On sale now, usually about $20

Where to buy | Maker's site



GAME $15

Rhino Hero Stacking Cards Game

HABA · Ages 5+

Kids take turns building a wobbly card skyscraper and moving a little rhino figure up the floors, and the whole table holds its breath until the tower tips.

Where to buy | Maker's site



BATH $10

Ocean Bath Squirts

Munchkin · Ages 9 mo+

Toddlers love filling these sea creatures with bath water and squirting it at the tub wall, their toes or a giggling parent.

Safe for 2 year olds

Where to buy | Maker's site



PUZZLE $13

On The Farm 12-Piece Pouch Puzzle

Mudpuppy · Ages 2 to 4

Twelve extra-thick pieces make a cheerful barnyard scene that little hands can finish, and it all zips into a pouch for the diaper bag.

Safe for 2 year olds

Where to buy | Maker's site



PUZZLE $16

Barnyard Animals Jumbo Knob Puzzle: 3 Pieces

Melissa & Doug · Ages 1+

Big wooden knobs are easy for small fingers to grab, and kids like lifting each farm animal to find its matching picture underneath.

Safe for 2 year olds

Where to buy | Maker's site



NIGHT LIGHT $18

Sunny Patch Trixie Ladybug Flashlight

Melissa & Doug · Ages 3+

The ladybug's easy-grip handle fits small hands, and kids feel brave leading the way on a backyard walk after dark or a blanket-fort reading session.

Needs 2 AA batteries

Where to buy | Maker's site



COZY $18

Kids Knit Mittens

Primary · Ages Kids sizes

Soft cotton knit with a cozy fleece lining keeps small hands warm on sledding hills and walks to see holiday lights.

Where to buy | Maker's site

New England experience gifts

Memberships and passes that get you out of the house all year



MARLBOROUGH, MA

Hey Kiddo's Playtime gift card

$25 to $100

It turns a cold, rainy Saturday into a few hours of climbing and running indoors, without anyone having to plan a thing.

Buy it here | Read our guide



SOMERVILLE, MA

LEGO Discovery Center Boston annual pass

$69 per person

An indoor spot you can go back to all winter means a builder who needs to move always has somewhere to go when the weather says no.

Buy it here | Read our guide



STATEWIDE, MA

Mass Audubon family membership

$85

With trails and boardwalks all over the state, it gives a busy kid a free place to stomp, explore and burn off energy in every season.

Buy it here | Read our guide



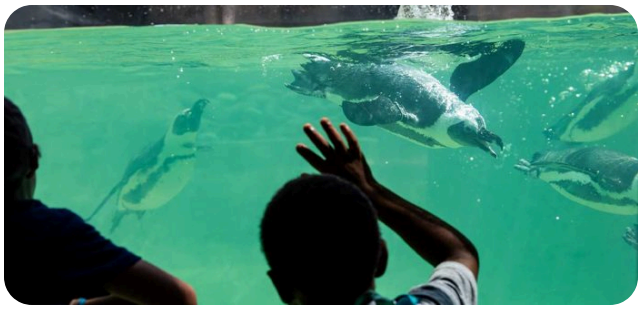
GLEN, NH

Story Land 2027 Gold Season Pass

$89.99 per person

A pass under the tree gives a ride-loving kid a whole summer of trips to look forward to while the snow is still falling.

Buy it here | Read our guide



BOSTON, MA AND STONEHAM, MA

Franklin Park Zoo + Stone Zoo family membership

$130

Two zoos on one card means lots of walking, looking and running from one habitat to the next all year long.

Buy it here | Read our guide



NEW BEDFORD, MA

Buttonwood Park Zoo family membership

$90

A year of zoo visits to see the elephants, red pandas and sloths makes for easy half-day outings in every season.

Buy it here | Read our guide



PROVIDENCE, RI

Roger Williams Park Zoo family membership

$169

A year of zoo days gives a curious, on-the-go kid a reason to keep walking, watching and asking questions every time you go.

Buy it here | Read our guide



EAST PROVIDENCE, RI

Sky Zone Providence Holiday Annual Pass

See website

Daily jump time through the end of 2027 gives a bouncy kid somewhere to let it all out whenever the walls start closing in.

Buy it here | Read our guide



BOSTON, MA

Museum of Science membership for four

$200

There is always another hands-on exhibit to try, so a kid who can't sit still can spend a whole winter day pushing, pulling and testing things.

Buy it here | Read our guide



WORCESTER, MA

EcoTarium family membership (4 people)

$210

Indoor exhibits plus outdoor trails and a train mean a kid with energy to spare can go from room to trail and back again all year.

Buy it here | Read our guide



PROVIDENCE, RI

Providence Children's Museum family membership

$285

A year of climbing, splashing and building gives a young kid who needs to move a place made for exactly that.

Buy it here | Read our guide



MENDON, MA

Southwick's Zoo family membership (Lily-tested!)

$315 for 2 adults + 2 kids

Our Lily-tested pick: a whole year of zoo days, from the petting zoo goats to the giraffes, without buying tickets every time you go.

Buy it here | Read our guide



Need a break after the presents?

Our free printables library has seek and finds, coloring pages and snow day activities for ages 2 to 8.

wickedkidsadventures.com/library

And every Thursday, The Wicked Weekend brings a new printable and 3 things to do near you that weekend.

Wicked Kids Adventures