

Resource Round-Up

Resources for
Parents & Kids



Resource Round-Up is a regular column in which we review and feature books, toys, games, CDs, videos, learning kits, and other materials that parents may find helpful in raising their high-potential youngsters. Resources included in this column have been reviewed and evaluated by the editors of Parenting for High Potential. Submit products that are intended for children, youth, or family use to: Karen Yannacio, PHP Resource Round-Up Coordinator, 8 High Point Circle, Apt. 301, Quincy, MA 02169.

We also publish reviews of books intended specifically for parents if we find that they will have interest and value for parents of high-ability children. Send books to be considered to Dr. Jennifer L. Jolly, Editor, PHP Magazine, P.O. Box 21351, Baton Rouge, LA 70894.

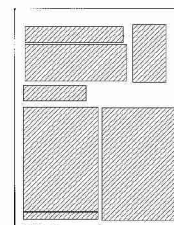
High-Tech Tots!

by Karen Yannacio

Ever notice that, if you are having difficulty figuring out a technology device, the best person to ask for help could be your children? Even if they are under the age of 6? Technological advances surround children, including MP3 players for music, cell phone to contact anyone at anytime, photography with digital cameras, and laptops to watch instantly downloadable Netflix movies. All of these amazing devices may seem new to us but are everyday items to this younger generation. Kids today are becoming very savvy in technology, and toy makers have easily incorporated this into their product lines! According to the Toy Industry Association, the electronic toy industry is a \$1.6 billion dollar business! Adrienne Citrin, from the Toy Industry Association, commented, "We continue to see the increased popularity of tech toys, a lot of which incorporate learning." Let's get innovative! In this Resource Round-Up column you will, of course, find some amazing new featured tech toys for tots, but you'll also find other innovative items for your toddler that can increase learning, promote safety, build independence, and strengthen important skills.

Safety First: Innovation in Protecting Our Kids

Cover Play Yard: Innovative in its germ-limiting idea, the cover play yard offers parents an easy and decorative way to protect their children from germs that can accumulate quickly and daily in the familiar play yards. A hygienic clip cover fits over your portable play yard and keeps the dust build-up, crumbs, bugs, and anything else "germy" a thing of the past. Perfect for use when you are using play yards provided by relatives, daycare



centers, or hotels to provide additional protection from germs. This machine washable and pediatrician recommended cover comes in a variety of styles and sizes, which can fit into your living space. MSRP \$49.99–\$59.99
<http://www.coverplayard.com>

Kiddie Kangaroo: Building independence for toddlers can start right in their very own car seat! Kiddie Kangaroo, which was developed by a mom, is an instant storage system that puts items such as sippy cups, bottles, pacifiers, snacks, and toys all in easy reach of the toddler's hands. Just by slipping this Kiddie Kangaroo over the car seat or stroller seat you can keep all of the toddler's important items right at hand for them while promoting their independence in attaining the items when they need them. Machine washable, sturdy, and collapsible pockets are some other features of this innovative product. MSRP: \$40–\$42
<http://www.kiddiekangaroo.com>

Me4kidz: Keeping your kids safe includes teaching them about keeping themselves safe. Me4kidz products make safety awareness easy and fun. The medibuddy is a pediatrician approved, mom-created, kid-friendly, and compact first aid kit that includes everything (crayon-shaped bandages, sting relief pads, antiseptic wipes, and much more along with smiley faced stickers, too!) needed to treat a child's minor injuries in a fun carrying case. A winner of the 2007 Greatest Product iParenting Award. MSRP: \$4.95
<http://www.me4kidz.com>

Baby Signs Complete Potty Training Kit: Change the way you as a parent look at potty training with this full potty training program developed by Dr. Linda Acredolo and Dr. Susan Goodwyn. Claiming to potty train your child before the age of 2, this program incorporates a straightforward parent guide, a Potty Train DVD, a Potty Train Lift-the-Flap book, Job Well Done stickers, and a fun conductor's whistle. Baby Signs is a company that utilizes basic sign language and gestures to effectively communicate with your pre-talking toddler. The parent guide is created from experts and includes an illustrated signing glossary while the DVD uses fun animation along with five potty time signs to help reinforce each step. The entire combination of items in this complete starter kit helps motivate toddlers to take an active role in their own training, which can boost their self-esteem as well. MSRP: \$39.95
<http://www.babysigns.com>

Techie Toys for Tots: Innovative Technology

Easy Link Internet Launch Pad: Lets face it — the Internet has become as common as a picture book today and kids want to be

surfing the net and cruising the Web sites. But, with the dangers of the Internet, we hesitate. No need to with the Easy Link Internet Launch Pad from Fisher-Price. With this program and smart keys, kids will be linked directly and securely only to their favorite kid-friendly Web sites. All other sites, links, and pop-ups will be blocked, along with blocked access to your desktop and hard drive. You can set the online time while also turning the “print” feature off. Additionally, once the child is at the Web site, it keeps him or her there because the only way to change sites is to plug in a different Easy Link smart key. Operating System: Microsoft Windows Vista, XP, 2000. Not MAC compatible. System includes USB cable for computer connection, CD ROM software for easy, one-time installation, and 3 Easy Link character smart keys to link to the games and activities sections of sesamestreet.com, pbskids.org/dragontales and fisher-price.com. More Easy Link character smart keys sold separately. Recommended ages: 3 and up. MSRP: \$30
<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Giggles Computer Funtime for Baby: Now even a 6-month-old can use the computer! It’s true! With your very own computer at home you can run this Giggles Funtime and let your toddler (ages 6 months–2 years) tap away on the keyboard while learning new skills! When your child taps a key something will happen on the screen such as a changing shape or an appearing critter, which will help familiarize them to numbers, colors, letters, and many other essentials. And don’t worry — the program has a lock feature, which won’t allow your child to accidentally get into, change, or destroy other files or programs on your system. Fully compatible with Mac OS X (10.1 and higher, including Tiger) and Windows 98/2000/ME/NT/XP & Windows Vista. Recent awards include 2007 Media of the Year Award, iParenting Award, and Dr. Toy Award. MSRP: \$20
<http://www.giggles.net>

Kid Tough Digital Camera: Through the “eyes” of babes, this Kid-Tough Digital Camera from Fisher-Price will allow their creativity and vision to easily come through in photography. Essentially a “kid version” of an adult digital camera, the features of this camera includes a 1.3” color LCS preview screen to instantly preview the photos, sturdy handgrips, big buttons, picture controls (no reading required to navigate), and more. The camera stores more than 60 pictures, has a SD memory card slot for increased storage, and a 640 x 480 resolution. The camera is compatible with Windows 2000 or higher and Macintosh. Requires 4 “AA” alkaline batteries. Recommended ages: 3 and up. MSRP: \$70
<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Kid Touch FP3 Player: The digital song revolution is not just for adults — toddlers can now join in the MP3 fun with the Kid Touch FP3 Player from Fisher-Price. The toughness of the product combined with kid friendly icons, big buttons for navigation, a backlit 1.4" LCD screen for easy view, kid-sized headphones, and easy downloads makes this a great fit for a musical and technological toddler on the musical move! Parents can easily download songs and stories from the Fisher-Price Song & Story Online store or from any CD's you currently own. Recommended ages: 3 and up. MSRP: \$70
<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Sakura Tekno Best Friend Robot: A robot that was created just for girly girls! Sakura's jokes, fashion sense, fortune telling, secret keeping, and song singing are sure to entertain a girl who also has big interests in robotics. A remote control allows you to program a variety of different actions and when you place Sakura on her stand, she even performs some ballet moves! Recommended ages 3 and up. MSRP: \$69.99 (Available at major retailers.)

Spark Art Creativity System Easel: Combining technology with art, this Spark Art Creativity System uses a magnetic, dry-erase board combined with their inspiration pod and pen allowing toddlers to get creative as the easel plays sound effects and voice prompts. The pen and pod combination reads hidden codes, responds with more than 600 sounds, and creates starter backgrounds to inspire creativity in your child. The dry-erase easel can convert to a table with storage, is portable and expandable, and includes 6 dry-erase markers, 2 double-sided, dry-erase scene starter backgrounds, 5 color-by-sound activity pages, 12 magic-sound magnets, and 2 magic-sound 3D models. Recommended ages: 3 and up. MSRP: \$80
<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Talkin' T-REX: Spinning, dancing, moving, and grooving T-Rex not only is a fun robot to entertain your child but this Talkin T-Rex says what you say and goes where you go! The four-button remote-controlled talking dinosaur responds to what you control. Want him to tell a joke? Sing a song? Make up a funny story? It's all within your control. Recommended ages: 3 and up. MSRP: \$30
<http://www.cranium.com>