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ASTRA ANNOUNCES BEST TOYS FOR KIDS FINALISTS

ONLINE VOTING IS OPEN FOR THE YEAR'S TOP PICKS FROM AMERICA'S PLAY EXPERTS



Chicago, IL (April 10, 2019) Ninety-two specialty toys in seventeen categories selected from hundreds of nominations have been named finalists for ASTRA's 2019 [Best Toys for Kids](#) list, the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA) announced today. From this group of finalists, ASTRA member retailers will vote online to select the winning toys that will become "the year's top picks from America's play experts" for the 2019 holiday season.

"Best Toys for Kids is the only annual toy list that is compiled by a national network of grassroots play experts who know specialty toys inside out," notes Kimberly Mosley, President of ASTRA. "Those experts are ASTRA member retailers, and the list represents their collective experience in watching children play with products in their stores, combined with feedback they hear from parents and their own expertise about toys and child development."

Voting to select the winning products has begun. The deadline for ASTRA member retailers to vote is May 8, 2019. Winners will be announced during at the opening of ASTRA Marketplace on Monday June 10, 2019 at ASTRA's upcoming [Marketplace & Academy](#), which will be held June 9-12, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA. Professionally designed four-color flyers featuring the winning products will be available for ASTRA retailers to order for use in their holiday marketing efforts.

More information on the Best Toys for Kids award program and on winning products is available at <http://besttoys.astratoy.org/home>.

ASTRA's 2019 finalists for the Best Toys for Kids awards program are:

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ARTS & CRAFTS: UNDER 7

Crayon Clay | The Pencil Grip
Make Your Own Fuzzimals™ | Klutz
Klutz Jr. My Dino Finger Puppets | Klutz
SloFlo Motion Magic | Play Visions, Inc

ARTS & CRAFTS: 7+

Craft Crush Design Your Own Flower Art | *Ann Williams*
Craft-tastic Design Your Own Animal Necklaces | *Ann Williams*
Crystalize It! Ultimate Crystal Painting Set | *Fashion Angels*
Hey Clay | *Fat Brain Toy Co*
Klutz Maker Lab Radio Boombox | *Klutz*
Y'Art Craft Kit – Puppy | *Kahootz Toys*

CLASSIC

Beka Ultimate Easel | *Beka Toys*
Lite Brite | *Schylling Inc*
Loopedoo Spinning Loom Kit | *Ann Williams*
SET Card Game | *Set Enterprises, Inc*
Stratego Original | *PlayMonster*
Sunshine Symphony | *Small World Toys*
The Original Waterfuls | *Kahootz Toys*

CONSTRUCTION

Architectural Engineering | *Thames & Kosmos*
Hubelino Basic Building Box | *HABA USA*
HAPE Junior Inventor Discovery Scientific Workbench | *Hape International Inc*
Magna-Tiles® House 28-Piece Set | *Valtech*
Sidewinder Looping Coaster | *CDX Blocks*

GAMES: UNDER 7

Butts Up | *PlayMonster*
Chasing Fireflies | *Toysmith*
Fruit Punch | *AMIGO Games*
Pass the Pup | *PlayMonster*
Yeti or Not! | *Fat Brain Toy Co*

GAMES: 7+

Genius Square Game | *MukikiM*
Heist | *Megableu USA*
Just One | *Repos Production*
Planet | *Blue Orange Games*
The Mind | *ACD Distribution/ Pandasaurus Games*
Whozit | *Gamewright, A Division of Ceaco*

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GAMES: FAMILY

Code Stack Game | *AMIGO Games*

Dirty Pig | *North Star Games*

JABUKA | *Jubuka Games Inc*

Kozo™ | *Winning Moves*

MORPHY | *Fat Brain Toy Co*

INFANT & TODDLER

Baby Bird Pull Along | *Hape International Inc*

Kid O Origami Color-Changing Boats | *PlayMonster*

Manhattan Ball | *Manhattan Toy Company*

Match the Baby Puzzles | *Banana Panda*

RollAgain Sorter | *Fat Brain Toy Co*

Sleepy Seas Sound & Lights Whale | *GUND a Division of Spin Master*

OUTDOOR & ACTIVE PLAY

Cosmic Glow Mini Golf – 5 Hole | *b4adventure*

Pop & Pass | *Hog Wild, LLC*

Slacker's Tree Climbers 6pc | *b4adventure*

Wandini | *Fun In Motion Toys*

Warrior's Mark Axe Throwing | *Toysmith*

Giant Kick Croquet | *b4adventure*

OUTDOOR & ACTIVE PLAY: RIDE-ON

PRIMO | *Ambosstoys LLC*

Hippopotomas Ride-On by Janod | *Juratoys US*

Scoot and Ride Highwaykick 1 | *Scoot & Ride US*

PRESCHOOL

Animal High Rise | *HABA USA*

HAPE Sunny Valley Adventure Dome | *Hape International Inc*

Hedgehog Rally by Janod | *Juratoys US*

Mirari myStorymaker | *PlayMonster*

Monster Lock Box | *Tender Leaf Toys*

Wee Baby Stella Yoga Set | *Manhattan Toy Company*

PRETEND PLAY: IMAGINARY

Aqua-mals | *Zorbitz, Inc*

Crystal Palace | *PLAYMOBIL*

Kash, The Sasquatch | *Douglas Toy Company, Inc*

Timber Tots Tree House | *Fat Brain Toy Co*

Mission Rocket w/Launch Site | *PLAYMOBIL*

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PRETEND PLAY: ROLE PLAY

Animal Care Activity Center | *Melissa & Doug*
Dentist Set | *Plan Toys, Inc*
Doll Bike Seat – Flower Meadow | *HABA USA*
My Style Big Cooker by Janod | *Juratoys US*
Pillowie | *Ready Set & Co LLC*
Reversible Rainbow Cape | *Creative Education of Canada, Inc*

PRETEND PLAY: VEHICLES

INSANE Stunt Car | *California Creations*
HyperRunner Stunt | *MukikiM Toys*
Playviator | *Fat Brain Toy Co*
RoboDragon | *Jupiter Creations*
Spirit Sidecar Philip by Janod | *Juratoys US*

PUZZLES

Domino Maze | *ThinkFun, Inc.*
Shashibo – The Shape Shifting Box | *Fun in Motion Toys*
SmartGames Brain Train | *Smart Toys and Games*
SmartGames Smart Farmer | *Smart Toys and Games*
Thinking Putty Puzzle – the Mind Stretching Game | *ThinkFun, Inc*

PUZZLES: JIGSAW

Crazy Puzzle Aqua'zules | *DJECO*
Crocodile Alphabet Puzzle | *Orange Tree Toys*
Escape Puzzle – Space Observatory | *Ravensburger*
Follow and Spot Puzzle | *Petit Collage*
Goddesses & Warriors 500 Piece Puzzle | *eeBoo*
HAPE Solar System Puzzle | *Hape International Inc*

SCIENCE & DISCOVERY

100 om 1 STEM Lab | *OWI INC*
DoodleMatic | *Tink Digital LLC*
Gumball Machine Maker | *Thames & Kosmos*
My Robotic Pet – Tumbling Hedgehog | *Thames & Kosmos*
Foldscope Deluxe Individual Kit | *FOLDSCOPE INSTRUMENTS, INC*
SmartCore 6 | *OWI INC*

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About the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA)

Founded in 1992, the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA) is an international not-for-profit trade organization that serves more than 1,800 independent retailers, manufacturers and sales representatives in the specialty toy industry. ASTRA is a community of dedicated professionals committed to providing children with healthy, quality play materials that have high play value and are designed with a focus on what the child can do, rather than what the toy can do. ASTRA members are leaders who, through their businesses, make a positive impact on the economy and culture of the communities they serve. For more information, visit <http://www.astratoy.org/>.

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