

## parties, crafts & activities

### Toys, Books & More

#### Gifts for \$20 or Less

Small on price (but big on play value!), these toys and games will thrill every kid on your list

By Marcia MacQuarrie, Contributing Editor, Toys

**Our lead-free policy:** We have sent all painted infant, toddler and preschool toys to the McMaster University Labs in Hamilton, Ont., to test for lead content. The toys listed here have all tested as lead-free.

#### More toys!

- Top Toys 2007
- Latest Greatest Toys 2007
- Pick-a-Present toy-finder

#### Don't miss:

- Where to find them
- Toy Forum with Marcia MacQuarrie
- How to Become a Toy Tester

#### Mr. Potato Head Parts 'N Pieces

(2+, Hasbro, \$5 per set)

An inexpensive way to expand your Potato Head's wardrobe of silly parts. Each set includes just the right accessories to outfit your plastic spud as a princess, king, construction worker, fancy lady, party dude or firefighter (pictured). Collect all the different sets for tons of mix-and-match fun. (Note: Sets do not include body or basic face pieces.)



#### Funny Face Bath Beakers

(12m+, International Playthings, \$12.50)

These colourful nesting beakers with comically expressive eyes have loads of fill-and-pour appeal.

#### Littlest Pet Shop: Teeniest Tiniest Pet Shop

(4+, Hasbro, \$15)

Push the button and this Rubik's cube-sized box unfolds to reveal a playscape complete with three miniature pets. Totally portable, these sets offer quiet fun — and a perfect diversion at the doctor's office or anywhere else boredom lurks.



#### Treehouse Bugs

(4+, Chicken Socks, \$17)

Kids delight in transforming the book into a cozy bug house, complete with insect inhabitants. But the best part is going back again and again to play in this little world you've created.



#### Polly Pocket: Polly Wheels

(4+, Mattel, \$4)

Each of these colourful die-cast vehicles features a removable mini Polly Pocket figure. Seat-belt her in, and she'll stay put during races and through all sorts of car-inspired imaginary adventures.



#### Play-Doh Make n' Display Domes

(3+, Hasbro, \$3 and up)

This see-through plastic dome is the perfect way to preserve a little Play-Doh creation — until you decide to squish it and make something else. A small amount of Play-Doh is included.



#### Bella Sara Cards

( 5+, Hidden City Games, \$2.99)

Sure to be a hit with the horsey set! Each foil pack contains five beautifully decorated cards depicting a horse or a piece of riding gear, plus an inspirational message and a special code kids can use to play with a virtual horse online.

