

# Toy Testing Council names top picks for 2010

By TERRY PEDWELL, THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Six-year-old Zoltan Biro plays with a Wedgits on Wheels, one of the toys awarded Children's Choice by the Canadian Toy Testing Council, during an event in Ottawa Nov. 16, 2009. REUTERS/Chris Wattie

OTTAWA — A peek-a-boo baby play centre, a tumbling top and a reversible costume set are among the top toys for 2010 chosen by the Canadian Toy Testing Council.

Most top toy choices this year are educational as well as fun, says the council's Janet Heatherington.

"Obviously parents want to have toys that will educate kids and engage them, teach them good social values for example," she said.

"The kids, of course, they love just to play. What we found with our award winners this year is it was a great, great combination of educational value and just plain fun."

The battery-operated toy of the year is for babies aged six months to 18 months.

It's called Songs 'N Smiles Sillytown and uses stacking blocks and a tumble-down slide.

The multicoloured toy includes eight peek-and-pop action blocks and features over 16 songs and goofy sounds.

For older kids, one of the council's Best Bet awards went to a book that gives children tips on how to make comics, called How To Draw Funny.

Parents also asked that some environmentally friendly toys be tested this year, said Heatherington.

"One of our Best Bet picks is a very standard sand play set," said Heatherington.

"What was interesting about it was it was made from recycled plastic," she said. "And parents are looking for those kinds of toys."

Another Children's Choice award winner also uses sand and water.

Keeping in mind that parents might wonder just how that kind of toy will work with indoor carpets, the council notes that the Sand and Water Transportation Station is "best enjoyed outdoors."

A book for babies called Dance Baby Dance was also announced by the council as one of the top books of the year.

## Toy council's top toys

The Canadian Toy Testing Council has released its Children's Choice and Best Bet Awards for top toys of 2010, along with a list of top books.

Here are the toys and books, as listed by the council.

### Top Battery-Operated Toy:

Songs 'N Smiles Sillytown — Fisher Price

### Children's Choice Awards:

Explore 'N Grow Tumble 'N Twirl Top — Playskool-Hasbro

Light-Up Learning Camera — V-Tech

Sand and Water Transportation Station — Step 2

Reversible Dragon-Knight Cape and Hood — Creative Education of Canada

Deluxe Foam Sword — Creative Education of Canada

Snow White-Sleeping Beauty Reversible Pinafore — Creative Education of Canada

Princess Slippers — Creative Education of Canada

Curious George Discovery Beach Game — I Can Do That Games

Dr. Seuss One Fish, Two Fish Memory Game — I Can Do That Games

Research Submarine — Playmobil

Autos Careers Classifieds Homes

Too Many Monkeys — Gamewright

Wedgits On Wheels — Imagability

Yamslam — Blue Orange Games

Art Nouveau Workshop (Felt Tip Markers) — Djeco

Fashion Workshop (Felt Tip Markers) — Djeco

Abstract Workshop (Pastel) — Djeco

### Best Bet Awards:

Dream & Play Light-Up Mobile — Vtech

Teach My Baby — Teach My Toddler Inc.

Sort & Spin Blender — Vtech

Wedgits Starter Activity Tote — Imaginability

Trio Building Set (Bricks, Sticks and Panels) — Fisher Price

Sand Play Set — The Original Green Toy

Uno Moo! — Mattel

Webkinz Jr. — Ganz

Backseat Drawing Junior — Out Of The Box

Richard Scarry's Busy Town Eye Found It! — I Can Do That Games

Playmobil Vet Operating Room — Playmobil

Gobbler Gobblers — Blue Orange Games

Colour Code — Smart Games

Villa Paletti — Wiggles 3D

Paper Beads — Klutz Inc.

Track Turbo Racer RC — Lego

How To Draw Funny — Klutz Inc.

Murder Mystery Mansion — University Games

36 Cube — Thinkfun

Backseat Drawing — Out Of The Box

Take A Letter — University Games

Monopoly City (3D) — Milton Bradley/Hasbro

### Great Books For Children:

Dance Baby Dance — by Andrea Spalding

Saffy — by Paola Opal

Chicken, Pig, Cow — by Ruth Ohi

Bradley McGogg, The Very Fine Frog — by Tim Beiser, illustrated by Rachel Berman

Tulipe: Mon pyjama a moi — by Lucie Papineau, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch

A Royal Little Pest — by Anita Reynolds MacArthur, illustrated by Karen Roy

The Little Toy Shop — by Frances Wolfe

Savais-tu? Les serpents — by Alain M. Bergeron, Michel Quintin and Sampar, illustrated by Sampar

Inside Hockey! The Legends, Facts and Feats That Made The Game — by Keltie Thomas

Good-Bye Marianne — by Irene N. Watts, illustrated by Kathryn E. Shoemaker