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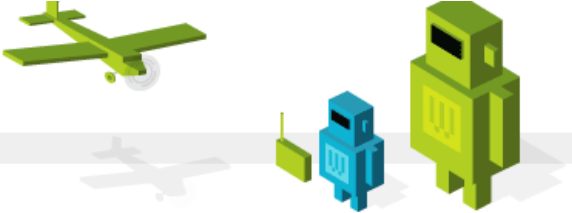
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# The 5 Best Toys of All Time

By Jonathan Liu January 31, 2011 | 8:00 am | Categories: [Armchair Geek](#), [Toys and Technology](#)

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"Treasure Box" photo by Flickr user Evelyn Giggles. Used under Creative Commons License.

Here at GeekDad we review a lot of products — books, toys, gadgets, software — and I know it's impossible for most parents to actually afford all of the cool stuff that gets written up. Heck, most of us can't afford it either, and we're envious of the person who scored a review copy of a cool board game or awesome gizmo. (Disclosure: that person is probably me.) So while we love telling you about all the cool stuff that's out there, I understand that as parents we all have limited budgets and we sometimes need help narrowing down our wishlists.

So to help you out, I've worked really hard to narrow down this list to five items that no kid should be without. All five should fit easily within any budget, and are appropriate for a wide age range so you get the most play out of each one. These are time-tested and kid-approved! And as a bonus, these five can be combined for extra-super-happy-fun-time.

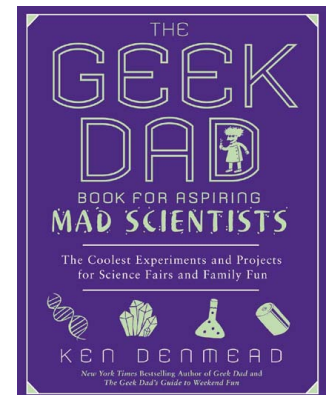
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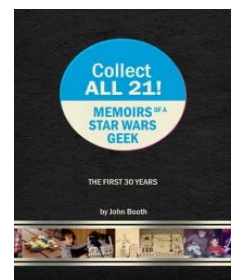
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"A Gripping Scene" from Flickr user chefranden. Used under Creative Commons License.

## 1. Stick

What's brown and sticky? A Stick.

This versatile toy is a real classic — chances are your great-great-grandparents played with one, and your kids have probably discovered it for themselves as well. It's a required ingredient for Stickball, of course, but it's so much more. Stick works really well as a poker, digger and reach-extender. It can also be combined with many other toys (both from this list and otherwise) to perform even more functions.

Stick comes in an almost bewildering variety of sizes and shapes, but you can amass a whole collection without too much of an investment. You may want to avoid the smallest sizes — I've found that they break easily and are impossible to repair. Talk about planned obsolescence. But at least the classic wooden version is biodegradable so you don't have to feel so bad about pitching them into your yard waste or just using them for kindling. Larger, multi-tipped Sticks are particularly useful as snowman arms. (Note: requires Snow, which is not included and may not be available in Florida.)

As with most things these days, there are higher-end models of Sticks if you're a big spender, from the smoothly-sanded wooden models (which are more uniformly straight than the classic model) to more durable materials such as plastic or even metal. But for most kids the classic model should do fine. My own kids have several Sticks (but are always eager to pick up a couple more when we find them).

One warning: the Stick can also be used as a sword or club, so parents who avoid toy weapons might want to steer clear of the larger models. (On the other hand, many experts agree that creative children will just find something else to substitute for Stick, so this may be somewhat unavoidable.)

Although she is not generally known as a toy expert, Antoinette Portis has written this [helpful user manual](#) for those needing some assistance in using their Stick.

Wired: Finally, something that *does* grow on trees.

Tired: You could put someone's eye out.

*Disclosure: I have received several samples of Sticks from one manufacturer for review.*

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"It came from the mail room" by Flickr user last mariner. Used under Creative Commons License

## 2. Box

Another toy that is quite versatile, Box also comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. Need proof? Depending on the number and size you have, Boxes can be turned into [furniture](#) or a [kitchen playset](#). You can turn your kids into [cardboard robots](#) or create elaborate [Star Wars costumes](#). A large Box can be used as a fort or house and the smaller Box can be used to hide away a special treasure. Got a [Stick](#)? Use it as an oar and Box becomes a boat. One particularly famous kid has used the Box as a key component of a time machine, a duplicator and a transmogrifier, among other things.

Still stuck for ideas? Check out this [Box user manual](#) by Antoinette Portis for a few more ideas.

The Box may be the most expensive item on my list, available from many retailers and shipping companies, but they can often be had cheaper if you know where to look. [Amazon](#) is one of my main sources of the small- to medium-sized Box; I include one with virtually every order I place there. If you don't mind second-hand toys, the grocery store, bookstores and recycling centers are also great sources for Boxes. Oh, and the best place for the extra-large version is an appliance store (though sometimes they'll try to sell you an appliance along with it, which could get pricey.)

Note: If you're in a pinch, Laundry Basket is a similar item and can often be substituted for Box in some instances, though it's generally not as great for costumes (other than a turtle). And if you're thinking of using Box for your next building project, [Mr. McGroovy's Box Rivets](#) make a great optional accessory.


Wired: Best celebrity endorsement: Calvin & Hobbes.

Tired: Paradox: what do you put Box in when you're done playing with it?


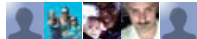
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"How long is a piece of string?" by Flickr user izzie\_whizzie. Used under Creative Commons License.

### 3. String

My kids absolutely love String — and when they can't find it, sometimes they substitute other things for it such as scarves or blankets, but what they're really after is String. Now, I should start off by saying that String is *not* intended for toddlers and babies: it is a strangulation hazard and your kids must be old enough to know not to put it around their necks. However, when used properly your kids can really have a ball with String.

The most obvious use of String is tying things together, which my kids love to do. You can use it to hang things from doorknobs or tie little siblings to chairs or make leashes for your stuffed animals. Use String with two Cans for a telephone (and teach your kids about sound waves), or with [Stick](#) to make a fishing pole. You'll need String for certain games like [Cat's Cradle](#) — there's even an [International String Figure Association](#) for lots more information. String is a huge part of what makes some toys so fun — try using a yo-yo or a kite without String and you'll see what I mean. Try the heavy-duty version of String (commonly branded Rope) for skipping, climbing, swinging from trees or just for dragging things around.

Although you can buy String at a store, it's generally sold in much larger quantities than your children will probably need — usually my kids are happy with roughly two or three feet of it. I actually have no idea where it comes from, because I don't remember buying them any, so it must be pretty easy to come by.

Wired: It really ties everything together.

Tired: There's a reason "no strings attached" is a benefit.

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"A Series of Tubes" by Flickr user Orin Zebest. Used under Creative Commons license.

#### 4. Cardboard Tube

Ah, the Cardboard Tube. These are kind of like the toy at the bottom of a box of Cracker Jacks — they come free with a roll of paper towels and other products but you have to wait until you get to the end of the roll before you can finally claim the toy. (Perhaps this explains why my kids — who love the small size — go through toilet paper so quickly.) The small- and medium-sized are most common, but the large versions that come with wrapping paper can be more difficult to obtain — I had a roll of Christmas wrapping paper that lasted about three years before my kids finally got the Tube. There's also an extra-large size that is sometimes sold with posters, and a super-sized industrial version which you'll generally only find from carpet suppliers. (Of course, carpet stores aren't toy stores, and while their product also goes by the name Cardboard Tube it's hardly the same thing and probably shouldn't be considered a toy.)

My kids have nicknamed the Cardboard Tube the "Spyer" for its most common use in our house, as a telescope. (Or tape two of them together for use as binoculars.) But if you happen to be lucky enough to get a large size, the best use is probably whacking things. Granted, [Stick](#) is also great for whacking, but the nice thing about Cardboard Tube is that it generally won't do any permanent damage. It's sort of a Nerf Stick, if you will. If that sounds up your alley, look up the [Cardboard Tube Fighting League](#) — currently there are only official events in Seattle, San Francisco and Sydney, but you could probably get something started up in your own neighborhood if you wanted. Or if you're more of a loner, perhaps the way of the [Cardboard Tube Samurai](#) is a better path.

Obviously if your own kids are younger you'll want to exercise discretion about these more organized activities, but it probably wouldn't hurt to provide them with a Cardboard Tube or two just so they'll get used to the feel of it. You never know if your kid will be the Wayne Gretzky or Tiger Woods of Cardboard Tube Fighting, right? Best to give them the opportunity so that if they show some particular aptitudes they'll have that early advantage. And if not, well, there are still plenty of people who enjoy playing with Cardboard Tubes casually without all that pressure.

Wired: Comes free with purchase of toilet paper, paper towels, and wrapping paper.

Tired: Doesn't hold up to enthusiastic play.





"Most exciting things ever" photo by Flickr user pfly. Used under Creative Commons License.

## 5. Dirt

When I was a kid one of my favorite things to play with was Dirt. At some point I picked up an interest in cleanliness and I have to admit that I'm personally not such a fan of Dirt anymore — many parents (particularly indoor people like me) aren't so fond of it either. But you can't argue with success. Dirt has been around longer than any of the other toys on this list, and shows no signs of going away. There's just no getting rid of it, so you might as well learn to live with it.

First off, playing with Dirt is actually [good for you](#). It's even sort of edible (in the way that Play-doh and crayons are edible). But some studies have shown that kids who play with Dirt have stronger immune systems than those who don't. So even if it means doing some more laundry (Dirt is notorious for the stains it causes) it might be worth getting your kids some Dirt.

So what can you do with Dirt? Well, it's great for digging and piling and making piles. We've got a number of outdoor toys in our backyard, but my kids spend most of their time outside just playing with Dirt. Use it with [Stick](#) as a large-format ephemeral art form. (Didn't I tell you how versatile Stick was?) Dirt makes a great play surface for toy trucks and cars. Need something a little gloopier? Just add water and — presto! — you've got Mud!

Dirt is definitely an outdoor toy, despite your kids' frequent attempts to bring it indoors. If they insist, you'll probably want to get the optional accessories Broom and Dustpan. But as long as it's kept in its proper place, Dirt can be loads of fun.

Wired: Cheap as dirt.

Tired: Dirty.

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*Jonathan Liu is a stay-at-home dad, Etch-a-Sketch artist, community agitator, board game geek, and a voracious reader.*

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Elizabeth

The other great thing about using a Tube instead of a Stick, besides the decreased possibility of damage, is that nice satisfying 'thunk' sound you get when you hit your brother on the head with it. You just don't get that with a Stick, although I tried.

4 days ago 157 Likes

Like Reply



Michael Klasmeier

I think it is hard to truly convey the beauty and satisfaction of 'thunk' in comments.

4 days ago in reply to Elizabeth 70 Likes

Like Reply



DanielD

No. More of a "thwack" with the stick. This I know first hand having been the recipient as well the the beneficiary.

3 days ago in reply to Elizabeth 19 Likes

Like Reply



Cyn

Yes, I agree with the "thwack" rather than the "thunk". As a rotten little sister I can attest personally to this.

3 days ago in reply to DanielD 9 Likes

Like Reply



garboon

I can't find any of these on Amazon !?!?!?

5 days ago 111 Likes

Like Reply



[Jonathan H. Liu](#), GeekDad senior editor, Etch-a-Sketch artist, book lover, board game ...

Well, if you buy something else, they'll usually include BOX for free. ;)

4 days ago in reply to garboon 81 Likes

Like Reply



Jrs7530

Which also brings to mind another classic, bubble wrap.

4 days ago in reply to Jonathan H. Liu 52 Likes

Like Reply



[Jonathan H. Liu](#), GeekDad senior editor, Etch-a-Sketch artist, book lov...

Bubble Wrap was narrowly eliminated — I actually had started writing about it, but then remembered Dirt.

3 days ago in reply to Jrs7530 36 Likes

Like Reply



Homeschoolingmy3sons

Plus rocks are usually included in the dirt. So you get an added



bonus. My daughter spends hours moving the rocks and dirt from one place to another leaving her brothers lots of opportunities to use shovels and brooms (toys for teens).

2 days ago in reply to Jonathan H. Liu 13 Likes Like Reply



Star

And you can write on cement with those rocks! It's semi-permanent remember when we didn't have sidewalk chalk all packaged up for us and used rocks? Grass was another great one to write on the sidewalks with but it usually stained so that could be trouble LOL

1 day ago in reply to Jonathan H. Liu 1 Like Like Reply



Damaris

Bubble wrap. Yes! My kids love bubble wrap, and secretly so do i.

3 days ago in reply to Jrs7530 11 Likes Like Reply



Cheryl

jumping on the bubble wrap in particular

1 day ago in reply to Damaris 2 Likes Like Reply



sarah

Make that a 'modern classic'.

3 days ago in reply to Jrs7530 10 Likes Like Reply



Markus Nikolas, <http://www.thehottoys.com>

Good point! :) simple and great toys are not available on the Amazon, they are around us.

19 hours ago in reply to garboon 2 Likes Like Reply



JoFlemings

As the mother of 13, 9 of whom are boys, I can attest to the expert analysis presented here by Mr. Liu about classic playthings. How refreshing to find a true expert in the field still faithful to the timeless ideals of mothering and fathering translated into the modern age!

Thank you so much for testifying to the wisdom of the ages in your fearless geeky recommendation on the five all time best toys! Looking forward to following you for insight into the need for independence in children to maximize creative activity with said toys; and the value of bumps, bruises, scrapes and small cuts in building character and perseverance in youth-becoming all too soft in the digital and virtual milieu!

5 days ago 59 Likes Like Reply



Txmom2many

There's someone with more boys than I have! Woo hoooo! I have 7 and you'd think by the comments I get that having boys is worse than having a deadly disease. I think they're wonderful (as is my lone girl).

Boys have a special relationship with dirt that I knew nothing about until I had them. We had a sandbox in the garage, one in the backyard, a digging place in the front, and several individual sandboxes (plastic boxes with sand from outside in them) kept in the kitchen. The more I respected their need for dirt play, the better they behaved. I think people believe boys are hard to raise because they don't let them be boys. If being who you are is not allowed, there's really no option but misbehavior.

4 days ago in reply to JoFlemings 50 Likes

Like Reply



georgefamily5

When my younger brother was three he came inside and asked how to spell "danger", we asked him why he needed to spell it. He said, "I want to make a sign to put up next to the hole I'm digging in the backyard.

1 day ago in reply to Txmom2many 15 Likes

Like Reply



Jo

Love it!

21 hours ago in reply to georgefamily5

Like Reply



[Sonita @ CowsDontMoo.com](#), Homeschooling mama of 2 boys.

"A special relationship with dirt" LOVE IT! Our yard is full of holes! Because my 2 had to have more dirt!

4 days ago in reply to Txmom2many 7 Likes

Like Reply



DanielD

Just add water and you have a whole new amazing toy.

3 days ago in reply to Sonita @ CowsDontMoo.com 26 Likes

Like Reply



grmom2

Mine own DS still believes he \*could\* find dinosaur bones in our yard, given time....

2 days ago in reply to Txmom2many 1 Like

Like Reply



October7prairie

The BEST TOY is a roll of scotch tape!!! One of the smartest things I did as a young parent was to give my preschool boys an allowance expressly so that they could buy their own scotch tape to use/"misuse" as they pleased. This took me entirely out of the annoyance equation, and they enjoyed themselves immensely, whether they folded up sheets of scratch paper and completely taped them up, or unwound yards of it into a nice big sticky ball. My inspiration was one of the early Ramona Quimby books, in which Ramona gives a three-year-old her own box of Kleenex for her birthday, so that she could freely enjoy pulling the tissues out one by one and tossing them into the air and watching them float down.

5 days ago 62 Likes

Like Reply



Beth

Coupled with sticks, my seven year old makes brilliant swords and blades with good old Scotch tape. I think this should be number 6 on the list!

4 days ago in reply to October7prairie 8 Likes

Like Reply



Ellisonjen

My son's list - in addition to the list above - includes Scotch or masking tape, and also toilet paper. He tapes his trains together, tapes the door handle to the frame, tapes random objects to paper, the frig, the windows...all big fun. And TP is good for

impromptu long hair, a cape, and a multitude of spooky decorations...including on the cat, but proceed at your own risk with that one. :)

5 days ago in reply to October7prairie 8 Likes

Like Reply



Ldsunga

Before kids, the only time I had to buy scotch tape was at Christmas.

1 day ago in reply to Ellisonjen 3 Likes

Like Reply



Allysson McDonald

I used to use facial tissues and tape to make doll clothes!

4 days ago in reply to Ellisonjen 8 Likes

Like Reply



sarah

My sister and I used to use toilet paper + water to make casts for our dolls' 'broken arms'.

3 days ago in reply to Allysson McDonald 6 Likes

Like Reply



Jenn

I did that, too! It's amazing how kids come up with the same things!

2 days ago in reply to sarah 2 Likes

Like Reply



WordVixen

Sounds like a future engineer to me. Watch out when he gets his hands on duct tape!

4 days ago in reply to Ellisonjen 6 Likes

Like Reply



Agustín Amenabar

+1 to the masking tape! it's easier to handle

4 days ago in reply to Ellisonjen 1 Like

Like Reply



Afeidt

Duct tape is the best ever! I gave my nephew a roll for his birthday when he was about 5, and he was so thrilled to get it. When someone asked, "What do you do with duct tape?", he answered, "You can do ANYTHING with duct tape!"

3 days ago in reply to Agustín Amenabar 20 Likes

Like Reply



Jamie\_mcardle

Best Christmas present ever for my tween boy (now a teen) was 6 rolls of duct tape in assorted colors, his own utility knife, a ruler, and a cutting board. Now he's outgrown it (mostly), and his tween sister is commandeering the duct tape.

2 days ago in reply to Afeidt 5 Likes

Like Reply



Kenjotay

I am so busted. Masking tape was the ultimate toy! Even up into the teen



years when we used to "tape" cars (no, not literally, it was a roadway annoyance we just did) and add layers of tape underneath one leg of our favorite teachers desk (really, would you put that much effort into a teacher you didn't like?)

2 days ago in reply to Agustín Amenabar

Like Reply



r1k125

I have to agree on the scotch tape...I only dole it out in small amounts which makes it THAT MUCH MORE SPECIAL to my four year old son.

4 days ago in reply to October7prairie 4 Likes

Like Reply



Kali

Oh this is so great, nice story, nice comments, nice replys. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

4 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Mijay Pavon

Ha! This article wins at life.

5 days ago 40 Likes

Like Reply



Seetryfly

I think you should remove Tube and replace it with Water. Though it may be considered a summer toy, it also comes in a winter Snow and Ice version and a nightly Bath version. It is quite versatile and can be used for things as wide ranging as science experiments, cleaning, or practical joking. It can be taken along in a flask for hydration, plunged into the depths if kept in a pool, used to make Jello, shot from a gun, watering the garden, sprinkler play, ice hockey or even a shaved treat.

Addendum: water? Remove the tubes? Water is too good to be off the list.

4 days ago 26 Likes

Like Reply



Larry

Yes! Water! At the age of 5 I invented perpetual motion by accidentally creating a siphon out of my round plastic swimming pool with a garden hose. I visioned myself rich until I ran into the house and announced my discovery to my mother. Oh, that's a siphon she said. Endless fun with water, although at times extra expense was invovled for squirt guns, balloons and other accoutriments built to take full advantage of this primal toy as a means of harrassing sisters.

1 day ago in reply to Seetryfly 3 Likes

Like Reply



Annlittlewood3

Combine Water with dish soap for a whole 'nuther experience--compelling, especially with a few plastic cups and plates. Water is really tops, and quite inexpensive if you buy in large quantities. Just avoid additives, which run up the cost for very little benefit.

3 days ago in reply to Seetryfly 3 Likes

Like Reply



deedee

run that through a blender and you have one of the great toys of all time - really fine foam that provides hours of enjoyment. i loved it more than anything.

a can of old school shaving cream is pretty fun, too.

3 days ago in reply to Annlittlewood3 4 Likes

Like Reply



Ed

Entire industries exist for people who play with water, ice, and snow. Also: Winter Olympics.

3 days ago in reply to Seetryfly 3 Likes

Like Reply



Jonathan H. Liu, GeekDad senior editor, Etch-a-Sketch artist, book lover, board game ...

Thanks for the suggestions! — you (and the other commenters) should check out my #6 Best Toy post now. :) <http://www.wired.com/geekdad/2...>

2 days ago in reply to Seetryfly 2 Likes

Like Reply



sarah

Oh yes, water definitely has to be on the list!

3 days ago in reply to Seetryfly 2 Likes

Like Reply



Kendra

Is this C? Hahahah if it is, b/c this is my first time here! I had the EXACT thought. And, my daughter's favorite is to combine water with dirt to make the infamous fav... mud!

3 days ago in reply to Seetryfly 1 Like

Like Reply



Nancypoer

Yes, Indeed, all the gifts of mother Earth, support a healthy child, but earth and water especially are tops for joy and healing...

12 hours ago in reply to Seetryfly

Like Reply



Kellyann

One long stick + one cat's cradle string = bow; lots of small sticks = arrows; you = Robin Hood.

5 days ago 21 Likes

Like Reply



Avon

Bake the mudpies (water and dirt) for your kids! This is an awesome learning/science experience. My daughters, now ages 27 and 29, still talk about me being the only mom in the neighborhood who would bake mudpies. I consider that high praise!

3 days ago 11 Likes

Like Reply



MP

as kids we would add leaves, pine needle/cones and other stuff we could find to add to our mud pies, sometimes it more resembled soup.

2 days ago in reply to Avon

Like Reply



Rotunda

Piece of fabric! Piece of fabric! House/Mommy/long-haired princess/magical cape/carry the cat.

Darn boys

5 days ago 16 Likes

Like Reply



Gemfyre

My dad had a few large canvases, my God they were my favouritest thing ever - throw them over a frame or a bush and you have a cubby! Hide under/roll around in it on the ground or even better, on the trampoline! Get some obliging adults to shake it vigorously at the corners while you jump around in the middle. Endless fun!

2 days ago in reply to Rotunda 1 Like

Like Reply



Gemfyre

Oh, I forgot, it can also be used as a hammock/swing, which also requires a couple of obliging adults.

2 days ago in reply to Gemfyre

Like Reply



Nataliagill

OK, I don't know you. But after reading this post and your short bio, I love you already.

3 days ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



sage

What - no bubble wrap?

5 days ago 14 Likes

Like Reply



[Jonathan H. Liu](#), GeekDad senior editor, Etch-a-Sketch artist, book lover, board game ...

You know, I actually did start with Bubble Wrap on the list, but then bumped it in favor of dirt. It's up there, though, but bubble wrap is also more of a one-time-use item, unlike the rest of the things on the list.

5 days ago in reply to sage 15 Likes

Like Reply



Lisap

Sand - dirt's cousin - is another favorite of my two boys. And of course water, which you do mention in combination with its friend Dirt. Kids can play with water endlessly, either at the sink, in a tub, from the hose, in a creek or the high end version, in the Pool.

4 days ago in reply to Jonathan H. Liu 5 Likes

Like Reply



jon

My wife and I are taking heart knowing we've provided the top 5 toys for our children! What's fun to see is now when they confront a typical "close-ended" toy (one that is designed to be played w/in a very specific way), our kids almost immediately begin finding their own variations. While we love rocks, water, snow, bubble wrap, LEGOs, etc., as others have mentioned, we appreciate the spirit and theme of this list. We, too, think you nailed it!

4 days ago 11 Likes

Like Reply



Jamie\_mcardle

We totally stumbled onto Rock and Stick, which is surprising given that we're both geologists and had been carting rocks around with us for years. When our oldest was not quite 2, we hauled him to France for a couple of weeks, stuck him in a backpack, gave him a Rock or Stick as the nearby environment provided, and had a great time ourselves -



because he was totally entertained the whole time. (Sometimes by knocking us on our heads with either the Rock or the Stick, but nobody ever said parenting was painless.) He also improvised a Stick out of a baguette, which was darn cute.

2 days ago in reply to jon 4 Likes

Like Reply



joanne briana-gartner

Water. you forgot water. It's the ying to dirt's yang. When I want to get my kids out from underfoot I tell them to go play in the sink.

3 days ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



2khau

Yep! Water and for those of us in Hawaii - the ocean! Free and always available.

2 days ago in reply to joanne briana-gartner

Like Reply



Granny

Very good, I am happy to see that you young parents agree with me. grandma

2 days ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



Jo

Around our house, cardboard tubes are known as "der-ders". (The noise you make when you pretend they are horns.)

5 days ago 11 Likes

Like Reply



Oliviert

Here is South Africa we call them Vuvuzelas!

3 days ago in reply to Jo 7 Likes

Like Reply



terriann

Do-da-do's at my house growing up

4 days ago in reply to Jo 4 Likes

Like Reply



Amy

They are Do Da Do's at my house too

4 days ago in reply to terriann 2 Likes

Like Reply



Janet

Ta do da do's in mine

4 days ago in reply to terriann 1 Like

Like Reply



class factotum

They were called "tooters" at my house.

5 days ago in reply to Jo 4 Likes

Like Reply



Sarah

Doo doo tubes at our house.

4 days ago in reply to Jo 1 Like

Like Reply



Katie

Oh wow!!!! We call them der-ders too! Small world. :)

11 hours ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



Camisu

Dur-durs in our house also!

1 day ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



Melarossa

Same here! I fondly remember our holiday (because of the wrapping paper tubes) pastime of chasing the cat with the "der-der tube".

1 day ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



MrJette

Ahh yes, der-ders, comes from Child's Garden Of Grass as I recollect...

2 days ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



pcahn

We called them toot-tooters!

3 days ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



Camisu

We got it from the ex-husband of a friend!

1 day ago in reply to pcahn

Like Reply



Kellbot

I called them the same thing as a kid!

3 days ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



Suzanne

"Hooooo" (rhymes with Row) because of the sound that my toddler shouts through all of them.

4 days ago in reply to Jo

Like Reply



Janet

Like a Thundercat?

4 days ago in reply to Suzanne 9 Likes

Like Reply



John F. Bramfeld

This is a pretty good compendium of what I would call "Category 1" supertoys. When kids get a

little older, category two supertoys are important. This consists of two separate items. First, the aforementioned "box" filled with "broken stuff." This "broken stuff" is a function of your lifestyle, but should include at a minimum, broken dial phones, broken mechanical items, broken computer items (no big capacitors), broken appliances, broken toys. The important thing they have in common is that they are held together with removable (or destroyable) fasteners, and there are other things inside these things.

The other item they need, and this depends on your own inclination, is a tool box; yours, or better yet, theirs. With these items, things can be disassembled, destroyed, reconfigured, and on extremely rare but joyous occasions, fixed.

As an aside, I started down this road with a broken Mickey Mouse watch. Later on, I actually removed "jewels" from grownup watches. When I got older, I realized that the reason my Mickey watch wasn't working was that I was winding it backwards. So the lesson is, the item does not really need to be broken.

3 days ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



Scott Jamieson

I would have put water on the list. Dirt got in, but not water? Hmm, I suppose air and fire would want to be on the list, too. And I can't really endorse fire as a good toy.

4 days ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



Annlittlewood3

Under supervision, Fire is awesome. (Well, fire is always awesome.) Those of us who weren't fascinated with it didn't make it this far.

3 days ago in reply to Scott Jamieson 3 Likes

Like Reply



wondermama

maybe not natural fire, but what about working hard for it like with a magnifying glass. then maybe they can make glue from sap too!

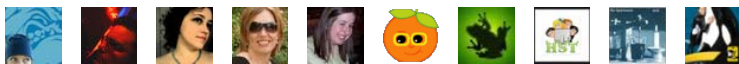
4 days ago in reply to Scott Jamieson 1 Like

Like Reply

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