

## Toy shopping? Ideas for children 4 and older

*Each toy idea is an experiment.*

*“We test them in our play lab with children for real-time feedback,” says Tony Favorito, director of product design for Fisher-Price. “Is the handle too big? Do they know which button to push? Did they laugh at the joke?” Their responses help the toymakers but what about parents? With all of the great toys coming out every year choosing the right toy can be a mighty task. To help narrow the search, here are some of the season’s hottest Elmos and gizmos, dolls, building sets and board games. Some were tested and others were suggested but as Santa Claus once told our toy-testing tykes he and his elves will be checking out the list to find out whether they say, “Ho... ho... ho” or “No... no... no!” Here look at toys for preschoolers in the first years of school.*

### AGES 4-UP

**Lunar Rover (\$49.99, 5-up) from Geo Smart** allows young engineers to transform triangles and squares into a moving lunar rover. Luka, Adam and Will, all 9, said it was easy to build and they liked that you could make a lunar rover or anything else you wanted. Their teacher also said it was great fun. Five stars!

**Jungle Hide & Seek (\$21.99, 6-up) from Smart Games** has 80 challenges for children and adults. Our testers, Ryan, Ethan and Brayden didn’t like it but they’re all 10. Their teacher said it’s very unique and colorful but takes time to figure out and might be better as a family game.

**Penguins Pool Party from Smart Games (\$14.99, 6-up)** was a big hit with Marissa and her teacher, who said, it reminded her of a game she played as a kid. “I loved this toy. It really makes the kids think,” she said. Five stars!