

Not Your Mother's Baby Doll: Technology Puts a Twist on Classic Toys



(StatePoint) As more technologies enter the market that are durable, affordable and designed specifically for kids, playtime has been revolutionized. New twists to classic playroom staples are helping foster independent play, motor skills, imagination and language development.

Luckily, kids are totally on board, with 72 million reporting they want smart toys, according to recent research conducted by Interpret.

Robots may be the wave of the future, but toys hitting shelves now are already taking their inspiration from technological advances and trends. Here are a few toys to consider:

Interactive Dolls

These are not the baby dolls you may remember from your own childhood. The old standard has evolved into new high-tech, interactive dolls that engage children and can help them reach their developmental milestones.

For example, the more little ones talk to the Baby Amaze Learn to Talk & Read Baby Doll by VTech, the more words and phrases the doll will learn and repeat. Parents and children can also read from the three included books featuring more than 70 words to help expand basic vocabulary. This baby doll encourages

nurturing role play by asking for her pacifier, bottle and more. When kids press the buttons and put the bottle or pacifier in her mouth, they will be able to explore fun interactive activities such as talking, reading, caring and music.

For reactions and interactive play, hide and uncover the eyes of the Peek & Learn Doll, which helps children learn body parts, counting and nurturing concepts. The doll also plays a variety of familiar melodies and includes a baby bottle.

High-Tech Pretend

Technology advancements have already brought parents baby gear like onesies with built-in sensors and baby monitors with smartphone capabilities. Now kids caring for their baby dolls can mimic this trend with new tech features in accompanying gear.

Check out VTech's Baby Amaze 3-in-1 Care & Learn Stroller, which has a smart sensor that recognizes when it's being moved and plays sing-along songs about letters, colors, places and animals.

Transform the stroller into a high chair to hear baby care reminders that introduce nurturing concepts and healthy habits while children pretend to feed the doll. Turn the book's pages

on the tray to learn about different foods and nutrition. Convert the high chair into a bassinet and the doll will fall asleep while listening to classic nursery rhymes and lullabies. It includes piano keys that introduce numbers and counting, and plays piano sounds in music mode. More information can be found at vtechkids.com/babyamaze.

For parents who want more from their child's playtime, consider taking tech features into account at the toy store. You can maximize learning and fun at the same time.

Interested in this spot?

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Make Your Home Smell Great this Fall

(StatePoint) When updating your home each season, most of the emphasis is placed on delighting your sense of sight. Why not spend some time on your home's fragrance?

To refresh your home this fall, consider these tips:

Start Fresh

With the cooling weather and new beginnings, autumn is an excellent time of year to do a deep clean, just as many do in spring.

Clean your refrigerator, pantries and any other areas that contain food, discarding expired items and wiping down surfaces.

Reduce mold in humid areas of your home with ventilation and dehumidifiers.

Shampoo rugs and take this opportunity to launder seldom-washed linens, like window treatments, dust ruffles and bedspreads.

Dust surfaces, such as your bookshelf, coffee table and knick-knacks.

Add Scents

Add inviting, festive fall fragrances to your home with classic jar and tumbler candles that evoke the fall experience from the comfort of home – whether it's a walk among falling leaves, an afternoon picking berries or a sip of warm cider.

For each room, pick a scent and add candles in a variety of sizes to add a festive feel to the room with both sight and scent. For example, five new fall 2015 fragrances from Yankee Candle are perfect for bringing the outside in, such as Autumn in the Park, which evokes the scent of fresh peeled apple, fallen leaves, lemon zest and a hint of pumpkin, or Sugar & Spice, a swirl of cinnamon, buttery vanilla and sugar crystals. For seasonal decorating inspiration, including festive fall ideas for fragrance and home décor, visit www.YankeeCandle.com.



Set to Bake

You can use fragrance to entice your family's taste buds too. In fall, it's time to reunite with your oven and slow cooker. Use in-season ingredients and traditional fall herbs and spices to fill your home with delicious and delightful flavors and aromas.

Apple cinnamon crisp and pumpkin pie make for delightful desserts when the weather cools; and warm, inviting stews, soups and chili using autumn's hearty harvest should include vegetables like squash, fennel and beets and spices like cumin and cardamom.

Out with the old, in with the new: when it comes to scents and flavors, take time to refresh your home in fall with all the best that the season has to offer.

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Located: From Vermillion, SD at the corner of SD Hwys 50 & 19 (Holmes Welding corner): West 5 1/2-miles on Timber Road or from Meckling, SD 4 miles South and 1 1/2-miles West or just East of the Bergen Lutheran Church. Sale site will be at Parcel 2.
PARCEL 1: Legal: Iverson Tract 3, SE1/4 NE1/4 SW1/ NE1/4 in Sec 15-92-53, Clay County, SD--South side of road--39.27 taxable acres. Taxes are \$1,245.50. Soil types include Hg and Ho with productivity ratings of 76% and 88%.

PARCEL 2: Legal: Iverson Tract 4, NW1/4 NW1/4 in Sec 14-92-53, Clay County, SD. 38.02 taxable acres. Taxes are \$1,148.30. Soil types include Ow and Ho with productivity ratings of 81% to 88%.

The Clay County FSA Office shows both parcels 100% tillable with a CCC corn yield of 139bu and bean yield of 35 bu. Both parcels of land are excellent! A great opportunity for investors and farmers to purchase a smaller tract of quality land. Call for a free, property information packet including maps.

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