

Virtual pets, \$240 castle and rocking horse top toys list

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[CBC News](#)

A train set that talks and sings and a \$240 play castle are among the top toys of the year, according to the Canadian Toy Testing Council.

The non-profit group has rated toys for 50 years and released its list Monday as well as recommendations for books in its 2006 Toy Report.

- INDEPTH: [Rating the Toys](#)

"We did find this year that there's more of a harmony now with toys that have technology," said Leigh Poirier, the council's executive director.

"We're always looking for a great design of a toy, how it functions ... safety [and] durability."



The Energizer Toy of the Year is the Leapster L-Max learning game system. It's a hand-held computer system with a touch screen which can be hooked to a television.

The top 10 toys for children, rated equally, are:

- Classic rock and bounce pony by Radio Flyer – a rocking horse with a soft cover that can be removed

and washed.

- Baby gymnastics playwall by Fisher-Price – a three-section wall that comes apart for storage.
- Learning connections train by Leap Frog – a six-car train set that talks and sings about numbers and colours.
- Balloon Lagoon by Cranium – a board game requiring players to fish for letters.
- Lego Duplo dragon tower – a 65- and 167-piece construction set.
- Zoo Tycoon 2 Microsoft – a computer game that lets children create their own zoos.
- Knights Empire castle by Playmobil – A 450-piece set that includes a working drawbridge and catapult.
- Things ... humour in a box by Outset Media – players answer questions posed by a 300-card set.
- Books in a Cup by Klutz Inc. – activity books with puzzles, games and stickers that can be nestled in a car's cupholder.
- Tamagotchi Connection version 2 by Bandai – virtual pets children can feed and play with.



*Rock and bounce pony by Radio Flyer.
(courtesy Children's Choice Awards)*

Books by Canadian authors recommended by the council include: *Animals* by Melanie Watt, *The Boy Who Loved Bananas* by George Elliott, *Any Pet Will Do* by Nancy Shouse and *The Mona Lisa Caper* written by Rick Jacobson.

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