

WHAT TO BUY THE LITTLE MAN

◀ Bullet trains may be the future of transportation, so why not introduce your son to the possibilities by taking him back to the past with this **Lionel Polar Express G-Gauge**? This detailed steam locomotive is ready to run out of the box, and features authentic train sounds — bell, whistle, etc. — and a working headlight.

Available at **JC Penney** for \$99.99.

▲ Cars, trucks, and trains. What's not to love? The "molded-in" tracks and permanent bridges in the **Step2 Deluxe Canyon Road Train and Track Table** ensures there's no hassle with re-setting the course. It also comes with a handy lid to convert to a table perfect for craft time. Available at **Toys R Us, Walmart** — prices vary.

◀ Pixar makes the best kids movies right now. So why not show your support and send some love and cash the studio's way by buying some Pixar-related merchandise? It's not like your son will cry when he opens up a present and sees **Disney Toy Story Playtime Sheriff Woody**. Available at **Kmart** for \$34.99.

▲ Among the Holiday Season must-haves is this foot-tall version of the famed but never-proved-to-exist missing link. **Fisher-Price Imaginext Big Foot the Monster** walks, talks, and by pressing buttons becomes happy, angry, sleepy, and will even exercise. Oh, and did we mention Big Foot raps? If only the famous Patterson-Gimlin film had caught that on tape. Available at **Kmart, Target, Toys R Us, and Walmart**. Price varies.

► **Grow-to-Pro Basketball**. With Ohio still mourning the free-agent loss of LeBron James from the Cleveland Cavaliers to the Miami Heat, seize the opportunity to do your part to make things right: Train your son/grandson/nephew to be the Cavaliers' next chosen one. \$49.99 at **Toys R Us**. But if baseball is more his sport, then try the **Grow-to-Pro Triple Hit Baseball**, which can toss the ball in the air or has a batting T for batting practice to perfect that home-run swing. \$34.99 at **Toys R Us**.

◀ Boys — most kids, for that matter — love to run and play outside, but winter doesn't have to mean an end to their exercise. **JumpSmart Trampoline** lets kids bounce away to their hearts' content. Even better? JumpSmart Trampoline features a music system so they can bounce to the beat or by numbers. Who knew jumping could be educational and fun? Available for \$59.99 at **Target, Toys R Us**.

◀ Imagination is a key component of playtime. Playmobil provides hours of fun that helps your son bring to miniature life what he can dream. The popular classic toys come in a variety of sets, from African safaris and ancient Egypt to medieval castles and a full **Playmobil zoo**, along with the little people, animals, and other extras that make it so much fun. Available at **Kmart, Learning Express, Target**. Prices vary.

▼ Razor scooters are still the rage. Why not let junior get a jump start on the trend with the **Razor Jr. Folding Kiddie Kick Scooter**? Its smaller proportions make this easier for preschool boys to get around. Even better? It folds up when they're finished. Available at **Kmart, Toys R Us, and Walmart**. Price varies.

◀ Men love tools, why should boys be any different? Before he cranks up his first power tool or builds his first wood cabinet, get the **Iplay Cool Tools Box** with its colorful plastic hammer, wrench, drill — which makes "realistic" drilling noises — and other accessories. It's perfect for the budding handyman/boy. Available at **Learning Express**, \$26.00

Gift ideas: Kirk Baird