

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



16 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY INFANTS



One of the greatest things about buying gifts for an infant is he or she might be more excited about the shiny and bright-colored wrapping paper than the actual present. Keep that in mind when you're shopping for your special little one. Bigger doesn't always mean better, and most of the time practical trumps whimsical when it comes to infants. Here are 10 ideas to help shop for the youngest on your list.

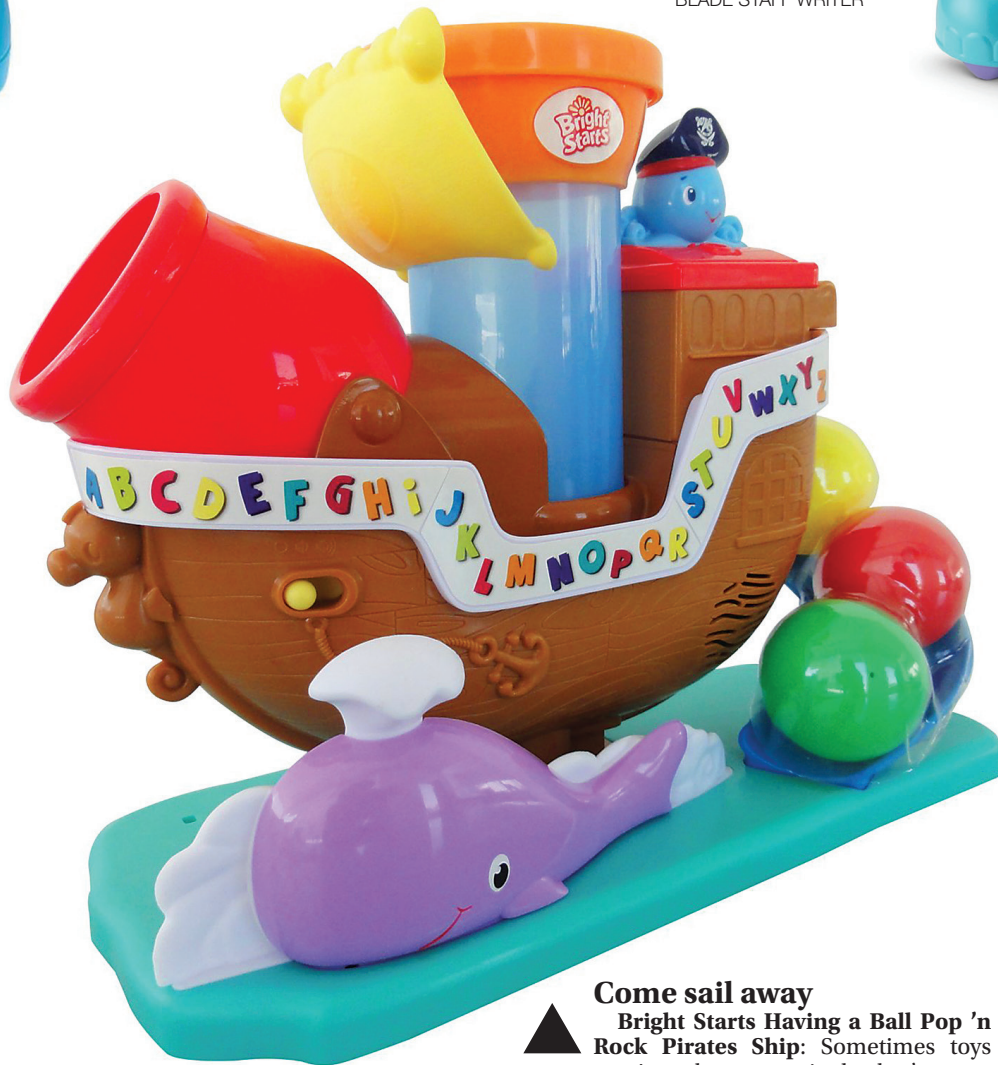
— BOB CUNNINGHAM
BLADE STAFF WRITER



Tabletop fun
The LeapFrog Learn & Groove Musical Table is a bilingual, interactive tool that guides babies through number and letter learning, and there are lots of gadgets and gizmos to spin and pull on. **Babies "R" Us, \$34.99.**



Keeping warm
Stride Rite crib socks come in all kinds of different designs and colors. The socks are sold in three packs and can be the perfect complements for your infant's cute outfits. **Stride Rite Bootery, Dillard's, \$12.50.**



Come sail away
Bright Starts Having a Ball Pop 'n Rock Pirates Ship: Sometimes toys are just that, toys. And what's more fun than whales and pirate ships? **Kohl's, Walmart, Target, Amazon.com, \$19.99.**

Motor skills
The Fisher Price 3-in-1 Bounce, Stride & Ride Elephant helps develop the motor skills needed for taking those eventual first steps. **Toys "R" Us, Walmart, \$44.99.**



Suit up
This Santa Footed Microfleece Sleeper is the perfect outfit for Santa's little helper. **Crazy 8, \$16.95.**



Activity gym
Infants are curious about the world around them from Day 1. The Baby Einstein Caterpillar and Friends Activity Gym helps them with their exploration in a safe environment. **Walmart, Toys "R" Us, Target, Amazon.com, ebay.com, \$45.99.**



First ornament
Keepsake Ornaments by Koala Kids are a neat way to celebrate a baby's first holiday season. It's a gift that can be used again and again, marking 2014 as the year your bundle of joy entered this world. **Babies "R" Us, \$7.99.**



Clothes make the baby
Jumpers might be your best bet when it comes to personalizing your gift. **Carter's** has just about any color or zoo animal you can imagine, ensuring there's an outfit that fits your infant's blossoming style. Plus, you can buy larger sizes for later on because babies are always growing. **Meijer, Kohl's, Walmart, Costco, JCPenney, Sears, Target, Macy's, Babies "R" Us, and other stores. Prices vary.**



Gift cards
You might think gift cards are a lazy way out. If you do, think again. Babies are expensive, and gift cards to a store like **Target** is a thoughtful gift any time of the year, but especially during the holidays. Prices vary.

Prices and availability subject to change.



Joyful learning
It's never too early to start learning, and the **VTech Alphabet Cube** is here to help get the ball rolling. Each side has music, letters, lights, activities, and games to make learning fun. **Babies "R" Us, Amazon.com, \$38.99.** For 3 months and up.



We Make Babies Smile Every Holiday!





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