

The Gift of Improved Reading and Spelling Skills

Read through your holiday shopping list. Is there anyone on it whose reading and spelling skills could use some polishing?

If so, helping them polish those reading skills may be the most valuable gift you can give them.

"Reading is the prerequisite for everything else, not only in school but also in life itself," said Robert W. Sweet Jr., president of the National Right to Read Foundation.

Here are some appropriate gift ideas:

- Books are a suitable gift for all ages, but make sure you match the reading level to the reader's ability. Although reading skills are increasingly important, many children are reading far below their grade level, and a surprising number of adults read at grade school levels or lower.
- A magazine subscription which focuses on an area of interest is always a welcome gift.
- An encyclopedia, dictionary or thesaurus is a useful



tool for students.

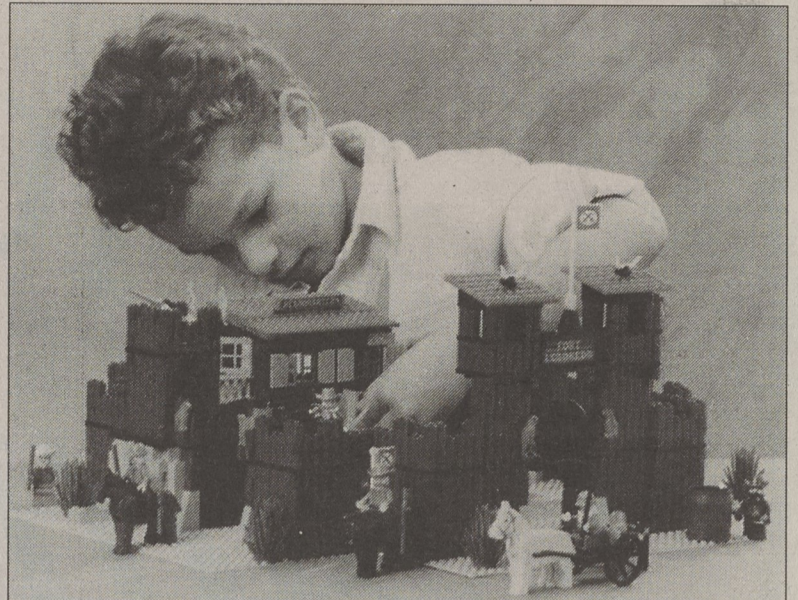
- A journal can encourage children and teens to write more.
- Some games improve reading in an entertaining way. In The Phonics Game, for example, a single player or the whole family can improve their reading, spelling and grammar skills while having hours of fun.

The game is simple enough for preschoolers to tackle with the help of a parent, yet educated adults are often amazed at what they can learn in a short time. It has been used to help adults to read and spell better and has even been used successfully to teach illiterate adults to read.

Phonics is a system where beginners sound out words as a part of learning to read. The Phonics Game has been so successful because it takes the stress out of learning to read, which is common in the "whole-word" method commonly being used in schools.

The game breaks words down into only 44 sounds which are quickly and easily learned. With these sounds, and a few simple rules, you can read almost any word in the English language.

The multimedia program has been used in seminars for more than 20 years. The amazing 18-hour Phonics Game features an entertaining video which leads to fun card games, cassette tapes and a playbook. For more information, call 1-800-947-READ.



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Photograph courtesy of News USA

Go West, Young Builder

(NU)—Playtime is limited only by the imagination with the new LEGO Wild West and Time Cruisers series. The Wild West play theme includes Fort Legoredo, above. The Time Cruisers collection includes the Flying Time Vessel. Other play themes include

the new Explorians Space and Dark Forest Castle collections. The new sets offer more special pieces and dynamic features that kids love, such as models with collapsible sections and holographic decorations.

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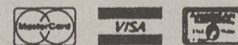
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