



Toys that should be on your gift list

About the time kids were heading back to school, the Washington Post's Kidpost started contemplating something really fun: toys. We started contacting Santa's little elves — actually, toy companies — to see what they were dreaming up for the holidays. They sent us more than 100 toys, and we sent the coolest-looking ones to 10 schools. Kids there tested them and told us which were the best.

Our testers really liked the toys that inspired them to make something, whether it was a purse or a pair of funny glasses. Kids also really liked games, the kind that require family, friends and laughter.

Check out the winners. After all, fun is the name of the game this time of year.

Kindness Kingdom

Tested by third-graders.

Marvelously Well-Mannered, \$35.

Age 5 and older.

Do you know your manners? If you answer the questions about manners correctly, you can move your piece on the board and make it to Queen Grace's Tea Party. Testers found it fun and challenging. They also liked that it took a while to play the game. "It's fun, and when it's a holiday or a sleepover, you can play it," they said.

"Marvelously Well-Mannered" Helps Children Avoid Rudeness When They Go Back To School

To help parents and their kids get ready to go back to school this fall, the ladies at Marvelously Well-Mannered, an Arlington, VA-based etiquette expert firm, have compiled the following FAQs and fun multiple choice answers, in the style of their manners game [Kindness Kingdom](#).

1. What if I forget my teacher's or classmates' names? Is it rude to ask them to remind me of their name?

- A. Yes, you never want to let others know you can't remember names. So just call them, "Hey buddy."
- B. No, it's not rude. Everyone forgets names from time to time so just smile and ask.
- C. Yes, it is rude to ask them their names so just ignore them until you remember the names.

Answer: B. It is not rude to ask someone to please remind you of their name. If you just met, you can state your name again too in case they forgot your name and say, "Hi, I am Sally and what is your name again?" If it is someone you have met a few times before, say something you remember about them and then ask them their name. For example, "I am so glad we are on the soccer team together. I am sorry, but my mind just went blank, what is your name again?" By doing so, you let them know you remember them even though you forgot their name.



2. What should I do if my locker or desk is next to someone I don't like?

- A. Turn your back and completely ignore them.
- B. Make faces at them and leave mean notes in their locker or desk until they leave.
- C. Be polite and treat them the way you would like to be treated.

Answer: C. At school, and in life, you don't and won't be friends with everyone. But you should treat everyone with respect by following the Golden Rule of treating others the way you would like to be treated. If you just don't like them you can be pleasant but not fake friendly. If you don't like them because they are very mean or bully you, talk to your teacher.

3. What should I do if I hate the school lunch they serve?

- A. Yell at the employees in the cafeteria, "I wouldn't feed this to my dog!"
- B. Take a "no thank you taste" to see if there is anything you like.
- C. Try to trade food the other kids brought in from home.

Answer: B. You should start every day off right with a good breakfast to help make it through the busy school day. Keep in mind, if you are buying your lunch at school you may not have the ability to choose what you eat. In that case, you get

what you get and you don't get upset. Take what is served, smile and "thank" the cafeteria staff for making and serving it. Lunchtime is a good time to try new foods by taking small bites; who knows you may learn you actually like it. Even if you don't like it, you are not allowed to make a fuss – it' is rude. Make sure you drink your beverage and ask for a snack when you get home. If you find you often don't like the school served lunches, ask your parent if you can bring your lunch, and then learn how to pack your own lunch.

4. How can I invite school friends to a party outside of school without hurting other people's feelings for those I can't or don't want to invite?

A. Send invitations directly to each friend you are inviting and don't talk about your party

in front of the children you aren't inviting.

B. Hand out invitations at school when you think no one is looking.

C. Have your two best friends whisper the party details to the other kids you invite.

Answer. If you are not inviting your entire class – or all the girls or all the boys in your class as the case may be, don't do the inviting when you are at school. Instead send your invitations – ideally paper invites but they can also send cute e-vites – directly to each friend you want to invite. Not everyone is allowed to, nor does everyone want to, have a large birthday party. In that case, simply follow the Golden Rule and treat the children you are not inviting the way you would want to be treated. Don't talk about the party in front of the uninvited ones and don't post about it on Facebook when you know some of your "friends" aren't invited. Such activity will only make them feel badly and makes you look bad too. If an uninvited child hears about the party and asks you how come they weren't invited, you can say you are only having a small party and unfortunately could not invite everyone. But when saying that, make sure you aren't excluding only that child. That's just not nice.

5. What should I do if another kid shows up at school in the same outfit as me?

A. Run to the school nurse and tell her you need to go home because you are "sick of wearing the same outfit as someone else."

B. Go over to the other kid and meanly say, "What makes you think you are pretty enough to wear this outfit? I look so much better than you!"

C. Walk over with a smile and say, "I love your great taste in clothes!"

Answer: C. Having a good sense of humor is a wonderful thing and this is one instance where you need one. Be confident and gracious about the situation. Soon everyone will be focusing on something else and not your outfit.

Check in with their [blog](#) and helpful website frequently. And when in a pinch, reach out to them with your own etiquette question to www.MarvelouslyWell-Mannered.com.

The Washington Post

KidsPost

Top toys to consider for your holiday wish list

KidsPost sent about 80 of this year's new toys to Washington-area classrooms for kids to test. Creative toys, pretend play and games ranked among their favorites. (All are available at major retailers unless otherwise noted.) Check out our toy test winners and consider whether they deserve a spot on your holiday wish list.



Kindness Kingdom

Tested by third-graders.

Marvelously Well-Mannered, \$35.

Age 5 and older. Available at the Purple Goose in Alexandria.

Do you know your manners? If you answer the questions about manners correctly, you can move your piece on the board and make it to Queen Grace's Tea Party. Testers found it fun and challenging. They also liked that it took a while to play the game. "It's fun, and when it's a holiday or a sleepover, you can play it," they said.

The Seattle Times



4. Kindness Kingdom Game

Gracious manners and proper etiquette earn players charms on their way to a royal tea party in this educational game. It has won several awards for its playful, princess-themed encouragement of empathy, sportsmanship, sharing, kindness and thoughtfulness. Ages 5 and up. \$35, kindnesskingdom.com, Amazon.com

The Seattle Times

KIDS

Make them jump for joy with fun and educational gifts

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Rise & Shine
Start the school year right

Kindness Kingdom

This marvelous manners game encourages empathy, develops social skills and nurtures a kindness of spirit that will help each player lead a more enjoyable and thoughtful life. \$35 KindnessKingdom.com





This is our third year hosting the Great Toy Giveaway and you can count on it being bigger and better than ever before! Ocala Style's Great Toy Giveaway, sponsored by Premier Pediatrics, will once again feature some of the season's hottest toys. Beginning December 1 and lasting for 20 days, simply watch for the giveaway prompts on our Facebook page at facebook.com/ocalastyle to enter to win. We'll do the rest. Also, in the spirit of giving, we have big plans to donate a very special box of toys to one of our deserving local children's charities just as we have in years past. If you have ideas for charities in need this year, drop us a note and let us know how to make a child's life a little more fun.

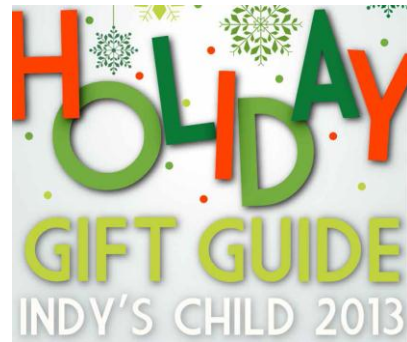


KINDNESS KINGDOM

\$35, kindnesskingdom.com

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This board game by Marvelously Well-Mannered teaches rules of etiquette as players travel through the eight neighborhoods in the kingdom.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Fairies, princesses and tea parties are all involved.



Kindness Kingdom Board Game

"A marvelous manners game for up to 4 players. Reading is required for at least one player. Princesses, fairies, flowers, tea parties, etiquette, and marvelous manners, what's not to love?"



Indiana Chronicle

2013 Holiday Gift Guide

Kindness Kingdom

SUGGESTED PRICE: \$35.00

AVAILABLE AT: kindnesskingdom.com

DESCRIPTION: This marvelous manners game encourages empathy, develops social skills and nurtures a kindness of spirit that will help each player lead a more enjoyable and thoughtful life.

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A Game That Teaches Manners!

 **Homeschool Spotlight**
Monday, October 07, 2013
A Game That Teaches Manners!
Kindness Kingdom, a marvelous manners game encourages empathy, develops social skills and nurtures a kindness of spirit. [READ MORE >>](#)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 [Go](#)

Kindness Kingdom, a marvelous manners game encourages empathy, develops social skills and nurtures a kindness of spirit.

Players are taught the importance of every day manners and the rules of etiquette as they travel through the eight neighborhoods in Kindness Kingdom. With every correct answer, they collect a charm for the bracelet they will take to the tea party. The last charm to collect is the key to the Golden Gate of the Golden Rule.

Players also learn tea party etiquette and how to handle life's little faux pas. And because many of the characters are named after the most beautiful flowers in the garden, players receive a fun introduction to flowers too.

Princesses, fairies, flowers, tea parties, etiquette & marvelous manners – what's not to love?

Check out <http://marvelouslywell-mannered.com/> too!



Make your list and check it twice, because you don't want to miss out on the hottest toys this season. Our 2013 Toy Guide contains the latest and greatest toys with something for every age. Avoid last-minute mayhem at the toy store and mind-numbing scrolling while shopping online trying to find the perfect gift. Our toy guide will put you at the top of the list with the inside scoop on the coolest and the cutest gifts to hit the shelves this year.

Kindness Kingdom

This marvelous manners game encourages empathy, develops social skills and nurtures a kindness of spirit for little girls who must travel through the eight neighborhoods of Kindness Kingdom. With every correct answer, the girls collect a charm for the bracelet they will take to the tea party, and the last key charm earns their way to the Golden Gate of the Golden Rule. **Ages 5 and up.**



Battling robots and jewelry kits are among top picks 2013 toys

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