

Smell Like One, Too

Kids' Birthday Gifts Don't Mean a Trip to The Box Stores

Seattle birthday gifts galore: Creative, safe, and fun toys, puzzles, games, and more.

By [Brian Olson](#)

Shopping for b-day presents for kids is hard enough already without being corraled down box-store aisles to find the same gift everyone else has bought. And, what are they made of? How are they made? Fortunately, a few mindful Seattle retailers have our backs with plenty of creative, safe, and fun birthday gift options. From story-based robotics fun to musical toys, puzzles, and more, here's a breakdown of local birthday bash presents for younger kiddos.



Build a family of Robots!

Image: [Clover Toys](#)

It's never too soon for PNW kids to better know those chirping, feathery, winged things flying about their lives, whether endemic or not. From herring gulls to doves, turn the page and press the button to hear calls and songs. Enjoy and sing along to the included song *Once I Saw A Little Bird*. Then hit your fave Seattle park or shoreline to do some birdwatching.

Either as a birthday gift or party activity for kids aged eight and up, the Get Stacked Paint & Puzzle Grizzly Bear Kit is a sure-fire hit. It challenges spacial skills and the esthetic eye with painting and puzzle-solving fun. Kids paint wooden 3D puzzle pieces and then put them together in a foresty frame. Or, choose from Lion, Tiger, and Mountain-themed [Paint & Puzzle options from Seattle's Clover Toys](#).

Parents of any superhero know the importance of having a place for everything, especially when it's cleanup time after a day of saving Emerald City's Space Needle from villains. And, your little superhero will love having things at the ready should a villain need further reckoning. The Superhero Musical Jewelry box lets kids store magic bracelets, rings, masks, and more, accessing or putting them away to the sweet music within.

Perfect for any kiddo's second birthday and up, little ones get a workout while they learn their colors with Sensory Popstretch Tubes. And their arms get a workout bending and attaching tubes to each other to make different configurations. From daisy chains to long ssssnakey shapes, and more, creative minds get a workout, too. With both arms required to twist and bend, the tubes also improve bilateral coordination and help with sensory development.

Every kid needs Beatrice Potter's stories and illustrations on their bookshelf, and birthday time is perfect for adding one or all. Chose from Peter Rabbit to Squirrel Nutkin, Two Bad Mice to Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle. The best thing? Parents and guardians will cherish this birthday gift as soon as the party is over and it's wind-down time.

A great hands-on gift or birthday party activity, Sensory Stickers keep little hands moving and eyes working as kids select from 100 pieces of puffy, glittery, and shaker

stickers to decorate school folders or create their own little worlds on the fridge.

Dazzle little birthday eyes with this set of two, gravity-fed Liquid Timers that flip back and forth to let colored liquid flow downward as colorful shapes spin. Great for ages 3+, Liquid Timers are a great way to de-stress or calm kids and help with ADHD and autism.

Sure, it's a lot of stimulus for the birthday kid, and everyone in the room, but kiddo will get such a big leg workout pulling bear friend around to xylophone chime that the subsequent naptime payoff is too big to not. Great for toddlers still mastering walking, the bear plays different notes when pulled left or right to promote the lateral explosivity only the xylophone can inspire.

Seattle kids don't get to see these in the wild too often, so a bright and friendly rainbow version of the swampster is perfect for branching out. Pull the wooden gator as it makes a click-clack sound as it advances on its prey, uh, we mean, play-friend.

Little engineers aged 5 to 7 will love building motorized robotic animals with Kids First: Robot Safari. An accompanied 32-page adventure book follows the adventures of Remus, a robotic teddy bear. Remus takes kids on an imaginative safari in which they encounter eight different animals: a polar bear, a unicorn, and more, and then are tasked with making a robotic version of each to see how they use their battery-powered functions. Already have Remus? Here are loads of [Kids First](#) adventurers.

Early toddlers learn to push before they pull, and what's more fun to push around than a momma and baby T-Rex? Little hands grasp the dinos' thick edges for easy control. And look! Baby Rex nests between mom's protective legs when the allosaur is about. (It's a great toy whether those two lived in the same period or not.)

Finally, a parachute toy that won't get stuck in the backyard tree in memory of birthdays gone by. With just one string running from chute to parachuter, instead of eight to untangle every dive, the Aeromax 2000 boasts (not just a killer name but also) a 20-inch shoot diameter. And, per parents in the know, it's the world's worst option

for potential powerline decor. It might get hung up, but will likely blow down. Just wad up the chute and toss it in the air.

A big hit at first birthdays on up to toddling twos, the Musical Stroller Toy attaches to strollers, car seats, or baby carriers where little eyes, hands, and ears explore shapes, colors, and sounds for fun and cognitive development. The Music Toy is offered in partnership with The Brett Boyer Foundation, a nonprofit that raises awareness for CHD and Down Syndrome.

Fun toy, de-stresser, and creative outlet in one, any birthday kid will dig this Fidget Toy. Snap them apart and attach them to each other to make your own creations, or just zone out on how long the colorful toys spin. OSM Fidget Toys are great for ages 3 and up and are available for pickup at Clover Toys in Ballard.

Indoor games make great birthday presents especially during Seattle's rainy season, and this one is three puzzles in one. Kids chose from a puzzle to assemble as they spin and try to win by finishing theirs before the rainforest downpour!

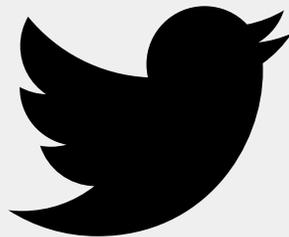
Ideal for post-Seattle Aquarium birthday gatherings, this jigsaw puzzle challenges motor skills and encourages older kids to work together for more party fun. Or, with plenty of time and coffee-table space, the tricky 144-piece puzzle is great for kids aged 3 and up.

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