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Toys for 7 year olds 2019

Your 7-year-old is super-curious and buzzing with ideas and questions. They want to play with toys that are fun and engaging and challenging – or sometimes just downright stupid. They are also ready for things that take a while to build or collect, and nature-based toys that require patience and observation while they change over time. Here is our choice of the best toys for 7 year olds, as tested by children and rated by their parents

1. Power Treads, £24.99 Age: 5+ What it is: A 22-piece track that comes with a customizable all-surface vehicle (ASV) and a Power Tractor, which 'runs' across the floor as soon as your ASVs board. Requires 2 AAA batteries (not included). Why we love it: We like how interchangeable the track pieces are – and how the ASV means you can even include furniture in your course essay. But the star features unreservedly the walking Power Trekker, nicknamed the alien dog by our child tester Josh. It's so exciting and cool, he said. I'll play with this over and over again. A worthy addition to our Top 100 Xmas Toys 2020 list.

Available from: Smyths Toys, Argos and Amazon

2. Schleich Large Farm House, £79.99 Schleich Large Farm House Age: 3 + What It Is: A 34cm x 14cm x 57cm farmhouse playset that features a farmhouse with a kitchen and bedroom, and a detachable stable with a hay loft, fences and a winch. Come with 2 people figures and 7 animal figures and accessories, including hay bales, a bed, flower boxes, a wheelbarrow, a dog bowl and a carrot. Requires some self-assembly. Why we love it: This is a large and beautiful plaything, designed with a lot of attention to detail. Our child tester Stanley loved the hay winch and the little mouse best. We love the detachable roof and the cracking windows and the hatch in the hayloft floor for taking the hay to the animals. And we are under the impression that the farmer figure has movable arms so he can hold and 'push' his wheelbarrow. Don't be fooled by the 3+ age description: this is definitely an older child's toy – with lots of small accessories that a toddler would probably just lose or struggle to pick up. Available from: Argos, Schleich and Amazon

3. Beep the balloon dog, £59.99 age: 5+ What it is: A 40cm tall interactive toy that looks like a balloon but actually barks, begs, sits, lies, does tricks and plays ball like the real hairy thing. He has over 60 sounds and movements. Comes with a ball, a pager toy, a fake pin to 'deflate' him, a toy pump to 'reflate' him and instructions. Needs 4 AA batteries (not included). Why we love it: It's such a fun toy, this one. Our childtester Sienna just loved how cheeky Squeakee is. He even does a wee and a big fart, which is really funny, she says. My favorite thing is if you pop it with the little pin He's bursting! We also really like how he rolls on his back when you rub his belly - and how excited he gets when you keep tickling his belly. A shoo-in for our Top 100 Xmas Toys 2020 list. Available on: Character, Character, and Argos

4. LEGO City Ocean Exploration Ship Floating Toy Boat, £124.99 Age: 7+ What it is: A 745-piece set which builds into a large ship (18cm x 63cm) that actually floats on water. Comes with 8 minifigures, a shark, a shark cage, a crane, a helicopter, a research submarine, a pirate wreck with hidden treasures and accessories. Why we love it: it's a good, fun build with easy-to-follow color-coded instructions - it took our child tester a few hours. And then, when you're done, you have the thrill of setting your ship afloat in your bathtub (it's way too big for the sink). We also love all the extra bits, like the shark cage and the rotating crane – and that the mini crew is a nice mix of men and women. Expensive, but we think this is a keeper. Available from: Lego, John Lewis and Smyths Toys

5. Kidizoom Studio, £59.99 Age: 5 + What it is: A child-friendly digital video camera with a 6cm colour LCD screen, flip-up lens, mini tripod/handle and wristband. Records in HD video (720p resolution) and you swap in 20 different backgrounds, including a TV studio with green screen. Requires 1 rechargeable LiPo battery (included). Why we love it: it's compact, affordable and our children's star Arabella especially loved how realistic and funny the background options are - the dinosaur theme was one of her absolute favourites. It takes great shots and there are some good games you play on it, too. We selected this for our Top 100 Xmas Toys 2020 list. Available from: Amazon, Smyths Toys and John Lewis

6. LOL Surprise! OMG Remix 4-in-1 Plane Playset, £90 Age: 6+ What is it: A 60cm-long airplane playset with light and sounds that turns into a car, recording studio and mixing booth. Comes with 50 surprises, including rolling suitcases and a booze cart, and accessories such as mini neck cushions, tickets, passports and microphones. Requires 6 x AG13 batteries (included). Why we love it: Our children's star was impressed by the party lighting and the recording studio. Secretly we think that the 'car' looks more like a golf cart than a car, but we do like all the little details in this play, such as the window slides, the swivelling front seats and the pull-down tables. It doesn't come with dolls, so if you don't have one yet and want to fill the chairs, you'll have to buy a few separately. Available from: Smyths Toys, Argos, Amazon and Very

7. Playmobil Mission Rocket with Launch Site, £49.99 Age: 6 + What It Is: A space-themed playset with a 72cm tall rocket and a launch pad with lights and sounds. Comes with 3 figures (1 astronaut and 2 engineers) and accessories including a laptop, electric drill, a phone and tools. Requires 2 AA batteries (not included). Why we love it: The mother of our children's testers Rebecca was blown away this plaything, which both her boys still play with every day. It's sturdy, well made - and great! she says. There's so much creativity, so many scenarios a child can create. We love the countdown countdown and the luminous blasters, and the 2 pods around the launch ears that run for technical inspections. We chose playset as one of our Top 100 Xmas Toys 2020. Available from: Amazon, Smyths Toys and Playmobil

8. Stunned, £21.99 Age: 6+ What it is: A fast board game in which you have 60 seconds to remember the position of 12 randomly placed symbol tiles - which can then move through the board through the game. Running time: 20 to 40 minutes. For 2 to 4 players. Why we love it: it's a colorful family-friendly game. Our child tester Thomas enjoyed trying to remember where the different numbers and photos were and said he even liked the idea of losing a life when he got a wrong exciting (hmm, wouldn't be the same in our house!). Be warned: it's not as easy as it sounds and your kids can beat you well in this game! Available from: Amazon and The Entertainer

9. DesignaFriend Billie Doll, £25 Age: 3+ What it is: Billie is a 45 cm tall fashion doll with long pink hair styled in a high ponytail, a soft body and poseable limbs. Comes with a blue dress, pink pumps, a silver bum bag and a charm bracelet. Why we love it: she's beautiful and big to hold and cuddle, and comes beautifully wrapped in a tissue paper and a gift box. Our child tester Annabelle used the gift box for Billie's bed and brought her to sleep in it carefully every night. Billie is so beautiful, she said. I love her pink hair. I wish I had pink hair. She's a kid like me. I love her name and her shoes. I like her knickers too! Available from: Argos

10. Dr Zigs My First Giant Bubble Kit, £19.99. Age: 3 + What is it: An eco-friendly bubble kit with enough concentrated mixture to make up 1,000 giant bubbles. Comes with a 25cm bubble wall, cotton rope and a book with instructions and tips. Why we love it: It takes a bit while to master the bubbles (and dilute the mixture correctly), but the results are really squeak-makingly spectacular. Our child testers said the bubbles are incredible - super cool and exciting! We like that the mixture is biodegradable and that part of the proceeds from the sale go to a charity that buys fans for an intensive care unit in Wales. Available from: Dr Zigs, Amazon and Conscious Craft

11. MyFirst Drone, £34.99 Age: 4+ What it is: A 5cm-tall drone that doesn't have a remote control: you just swing it in the air and let it fly and float. Equipped with 5 anti-crash sensors and a polymer cage casing. Suitable for indoor or outdoor use. Comes in blue or pink, with USB charging cable (flight time: about 7 minutes). Why we love it: All our children's testers fell in love with this little drone, hunting there and look at it. It makes a very exciting whirring noise. And the caged design means there are no worries that small fingers will be hurt by the propellers. Be warned that it takes a while to recharge, so once your flight time is up, there's a bit of waiting before you re-launch it. Available from: Curnys and Maplin

12. Lego Lego Potter The Knight Bus, £34.99 Age: 7+ What it is: A 403-piece LEGO set that builds in a 16cm x 16cm x 6cm 3-storey Knight Bus with a hinged side panel opening, removable roof, a movable sliding bed and a swinging chandelier. Includes 3 mini-figures, the Shrunken Head and Harry's Hogwarts tribe, with a wand, letter, chocolate bar and a drink bottle. Why we love it: It's a good build: not ridiculously challenging, but challenging enough to make any 7-year-old proud. And, once built, it's amazing - as our child testers all said - to open the side and peer in on all the little details. The Shrunken head is bait! Available from: Lego, Argos and Smyths Toys

13. Cobra Paw, £14.99 Age: 6+ What it is: A ninja-themed game where you roll the dice and the 'Clawfuku' stone that matches the pattern on the dice before anyone else can snatch it. The 1st person to collect 6 stones wins. Running time: 5 to 15 minutes. For 2 to 6 players. Why we like it: It's fast and fun - and our children's testers got the hang of it right away. We love the nice big dice, although it would be better if the game came in a smaller box without all the plasticky dividers. A really good game for involving the whole family (as long as the adults are not too competitive...) Available from: John Lewis and Amazon

14. My Fairy Garden, £11.99 Age: 4+ What is it: A 29cm wide bowl in which you create your own fairy garden with accessories that include a magical miniature cottage, a fairy figurine, a mouse figurine, a little clothes line, an oyster line, grass seed, fairy mushrooms, fairy flowers, instruction booklet - and, of course, a sprinkling of feasts! Why we love it: We love the little pegs and clothes for the clothesline, and the square of carpet for the little house. And we love the oyster shell water feature. You need a little soil or compost to plant the grass seed and set up the cottage. Available from: Amazon and Smyths Toys

15. Harry Potter Canoe Coding Kit, £99.99 Age: 6+ What it is: A kit that takes you step by step by building a wand and encoding it to respond to your movements and do 'togie' when connected to your tablet or computer. Comes with wall parts, PCB with coding LED, button, batteries, instruction book, stickers, a poster and access to the Kano app. Requires 2 x AAA batteries (included) and Bluetooth connection (works with most Windows, Mac and Android tablets and computers). Why we love it: There are 77 coding challenges to master, including letting feathers fly and (our children's tester's favorite) to grow pumpkins - and they vary in difficulty from the simple to the much We love how you see the Javascript. Very cool - and very well thought out. Available from: Canoe and Amazon

16. Hot Wheels Action Sky Crash Tower, £54.99 Age: 5 + What it is: An 83cm x 50cm x 70cm tower with a looped track you can race multiple cars up and down on Same time. Features a motorized booster that makes the cars jump high and crash into the air. Comes with 1 Hot Wheels vehicle (others sold separately). Requires some self-assembly and 4 x D batteries (not included). Why we love it: It's beautiful and sturdy - and huge (although luckily the base folds when not in use). Our kid tester got hugely excited watching the cars cross each other - they go really fast with the booster - and, of course, the crashes are amazing! It's easy to assemble, although placing all (super sticky) stickers are a bit of a faff, and it only comes with 1 car. Available from: Smyths Toys, Argos and Amazon

17. K'Nex 10-in 1 Building Set, £10 Age: 5+ What is it: A 130-piece set of rods and connectors that break together and sleuth together to create 10 different models, including a quad copter, a tow truck and a frog. Comes with an instruction sheet. Why we love it: The instructions are great (and picture-led) and the way the bit slot together makes construction really easy for kids to manage on their own. Our child tester was dead happy with his tow truck, and has plans for the dragonfly next. It's a great value buy, too! Available from: Amazon and Argos

Images: Product websites We have more top tested and reviewed toys here... Here...

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