

Best of Toy Fair 2017

[Julie Kertes](#), Cozi's family product expert, just got back from the annual Toy Industry Association's Toy Fair. She picked out the best and most innovative new toys for our Cozi families. See what she has to say about the latest trends in toys.

As I made my way through miles of toys at the [Toy Industry Association's North American International Toy Fair](#), my inner eight-year-old jumped for joy. The annual trade show in New York gives retail buyers and media a sneak peek into the latest and most innovative trends in toys and games.

Much like last year, coding and robotics toys continue to dominate in the realm of play. Virtual reality toys are on the rise, integrating smart phones to enhance the experience with endless, visually compelling content. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math), has now become STREAM, incorporating the buzzwords robotics and arts, and many toy companies are invested in developing lines devoted to science, art, and technology-focused toys.

The great news is that classic toys such as blocks and dolls are still a big part of play, even in this age of advanced technology. Many families feel the need to unplug, and those who are looking for alternative options to constant screen-time will be happy to know that there are still hundreds of play options that will continue to fuel creativity and imagination.

Below you'll find my list of standout toys and games that are sure to be on this year's birthday and holiday wish lists:

Power it Up

Kids can draw complex circuits using a non-toxic conductive silver ink pen and multiple components with Circuit Scribe (\$9.99 to \$99.99, www.circuitscribe.com, ages 8+). No wires are used and creative doodling is encouraged. This game is a terrific introduction to electronics.

<http://www.cozi.com/blog/best-toys-of-2017/>

