

# Naughty & Nice List

## Holiday Gifts for Children, Tweens & Teens



For anyone holiday shopping for children and teens, no doubt many of the gifts on their lists include technology. However, internet-connected tech gifts arrive with hidden costs to youth: anxiety, sleep loss, social pressures, addictive algorithms, exposure to sexually-explicit content, predators, traffickers, sextortionists, and addictions. The so-called 'reward' of tech does not outweigh the risks. Our 'Naughty & Nice' List gives a much-needed guide of gifts to buy and to avoid.



**AI toys** – Many children's toys have embedded chatbots in them. These toys may seem trustworthy, however, recent news reports that AI toys have told children where to find knives, light a match, and even had sexually explicit conversations with an innocent child.



### Non-tech toys

Encourage screen-free time with new books, board games, Lego, puzzles, and more. Teens love new clothes.



### Creative outdoor play

Gifts that outdoor play – Kids love toys with wheels scooters, trikes and bikes. Outdoor play will be a highlight with water or sand tables, racquet sets, or other sports equipment.



### Apple/Android smartphones

An internet-connected device is literally handing a child under 13 the world – no guardrails, no safety net, no filters. Predators use social media and even online gaming sites to groom children. Apps are frequently mis-rated and can enable children to access harmful and sexually explicit content.



### Safe phones

If your child or tween needs a phone, consider purchasing phones from Gabb, Troomi or Bark that are not connected to the internet and designed for kid's safety. Read EIE's [Guide for Smartphones for Children and Teens](#) to learn more.



### Roblox gift cards

Roblox, a gaming platform extremely popular with children, enables predators to groom children, often contains violence and sexual content and is facing over 35 lawsuits as a result. Hindenburg Research described Roblox as an "x-rated pedophile's hellscape." Read EIE's [Online Gaming Safety Settings Guide](#) to learn more.



### Outings and adventures

Children and teens will relish time spent with their families taking a cooking class, going bowling, go karting, trying out an axe-throwing venue, or visiting a retro arcade. Some families have successfully planned a place to visit or vacation together.



### Smartwatches not designed for kids

Children can access the internet on smartwatches which means they can access any kind of harmful content, and as such, are in the same category as smartphones.



### Virtual reality headsets

A parent's worst nightmare was confirmed at a congressional hearing where two Meta whistleblowers testified that if their children have used Meta's Virtual Reality devices, they have likely been sexually exploited.



### Music

The gift of music can foster a lifelong interest. Consider buying musical instruments, sheet music or accessories, purchasing lessons, or going to a local orchestra or concert. For younger children, consider toy music sets.

