

WHAT TO BUY

THE PRESCHOOL PRINCESS

GIFTS TO MAKE THE LITTLE MISS SMILE

◀ Every holiday season has at least one big-ticket item for kids. **Sing A Ma Jigs** by Mattel, a collection of cuddly, chattering, crooning animals, is projected by many to be one of this month's must-haves. The toys come in several forms and colors, as well, making Sing A Ma Jigs perfect for the budding collector. Available at Kmart, Toys R Us, Target, Walmart; price varies. ▶



▶ **Baby Alive.** Dolls continue to get more lifelike and Baby Alive is no exception: it talks, bounces, eats and drinks, and goes potty. The ultra-PC dolls are available in Caucasian, African-American, and Hispanic varieties, with numerous accessories sold separately. Available at Kmart, Toys R Us, Target, and Walmart.



◀ **Hello Kitty pillow, comforter, night-light-clock radio.** Hello Kitty was all the rage in Japan by the time the iconic character was introduced in the United States in the mid-1970s, and it shows no signs of waning popularity. Girls can't resist the cute white kitten with a pink bow. Consider this bedroom set a hip alternative to the Disney Princess line. Available at Target.



▶ **Disney Princess Musical Cleaning Set.** Leave it to Disney to find a way to make household chores magical to little girls. The Snow White-themed set (\$24.99) features a sponge, dustpan, duster, bucket, and, best of all, a broom that plays "Whistle While You Work." Clean time is fun time. Available at Toys R Us.



◀ **International Playthings My First Purse in Purple.** Little girls love to emulate big people; now they can emulate Mom's "shop till you drop" mall trips at home with a purse (\$12.99) of their own. This polyester and vinyl purse includes a cell phone, lipstick, mirror, makeup, car keys, and a cash card. Available at Target.

▼ **Laura Dare, American Princess line of girls' clothing.** One of the joys of girls at Christmas — as opposed to boys — is that they don't mind receiving clothes as a gift. Take them up on it with a new dress, sweater, skirt, or accessory in either the Laura Dare or American Princess line of fashionable and fun clothing for young girls. Available at Dillard's.



▶ **Toddler Girl Peace Camo Set.** Daddy's a military man. Mommy's a pacifist. What's a 4-year-old girl to do? Split the middle with Toddler Girl Peace Camo Set (\$24.99), which features pink peace signs colored onto a grey-green camouflage top, and matching purple leggings. The two-piece set also features a surplice top with pink trim, handkerchief hem, and elastic waist leggings. Available at JCPenney.



▲ **Melissa and Doug jigsaw puzzles.** No gift guide is complete without at least one educational toy on the list. Puzzles are a great source of learning for children, and you would be hard-pressed to find a better puzzle maker than Melissa and Doug. The educational toy company's well-crafted line of wooden jigsaw puzzles is available in a variety of designs, from the fantastic (fairy fantasy) to the educational (U.S. map). Available at Learning Express.

◀ **Don't know what a Yo Gabba Gabba is?** Ask a preschool girl. They'll tell you all about the kids' popular cable TV show, perhaps even burst into one of Yo Gabba Gabba's strangely hypnotic songs. Don't try to understand the phenomenon — it's not made for you — just make your daughter, or someone else's little girl very happy this Holiday Season with a Yo Gabba Gabba gift. Available at Kmart, Toys R Us, Target, and Walmart.