



MY FIRST  
FIVE YEARS

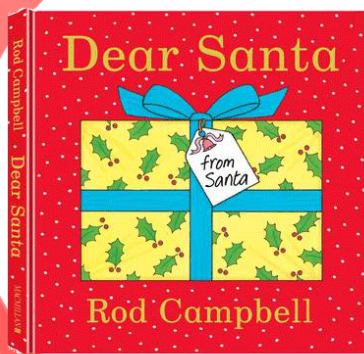
# Christmas Gift Guide

2023



# Gift Ideas for Babies





**£5.99**

## Dear Santa - Waterstones

This festive lift-the-flap book has the same warmth and familiarity as its sister book Dear Zoo, but with a Christmassy twist, making it the perfect stocking filler for your baby that will not only be enjoyed this Christmas, but for many years to come.



**£7.95+**

## Personalised Bauble - Etsy

Is there a better feeling than being reunited with all of your festive treasures at the start of the season? A Christmas ornament bought for a baby makes a wonderful gift that can be treasured now, enjoyed year after year, and even passed on through generations. If you're feeling crafty, you might even make your own.



**£8.99**

## My First Five Years - Baby - Waterstones

What would our gift guide be without a shameless plug?! This book would make an ideal gift for any parent of a baby, with tons of activity ideas and supportive information about their child's learning and development, and you can make a saving when you buy directly from our publisher!



## Teether - Soren's House

The Liewood mouse teether is wonderfully versatile. It's easy for a young baby to hold and has different textures and shapes for their mouth to explore. It's easy to spot at the bottom of your bag while out and about, simple to clean and sterilise, and small enough to take with you wherever you go.



## Floor Mirror - Soren's House

A floor mirror is a fantastic toy! Your baby will love to look at themselves and you through this new perspective and it can help to encourage them to spend time on their tummies. They're also a great item to put next to your baby's face when you change their nappy, so that they're less likely to get upset and wriggle around!



## Sensory Nesting Balls - KIDLY

These start off as a great grab and chew toy for your baby and then can be enjoyed as a ball to roll, catch and throw. You can also thread them with scarves and ribbons for a sensory experience and they are nice and squidgy, so can pack neatly inside one another.

## Sensory Blocks - Soren's House



**£21.95**

These sensory blocks are a great gift in the early years and your baby will continue to enjoy these for many years to come. At first, they'll love to simply watch and listen as you play them in front of them., then as they grow, they will learn to move and manipulate the blocks themselves, exploring their textures, sound, pitch and rhythm. What's great about this set is that it's perfect for small hands to hold and explore, so suits younger children.

## Bunny Soother - Jelly Cat



**£22.00**

Some babies really enjoy a comforter, and this is a lovely version. When buying a comforter for your baby, it's always worth bearing in mind that you may need to buy it again at some point if they grow attached to it and it gets damaged or lost, so choosing a well-known and accessible brand is a good idea. If the baby has not yet arrived, the comforter can snuggle up with the parents in the lead-up to the birth, so that it smells of them. and when the baby arrives, they can seek comfort from the familiar scent.

## Woodland Friends - Rosa & Bo



**£22.00**

Children love nesting toys, and these are made especially for babies but will last them for years to come. They will enjoy the characters, colours and bobbing motion as they watch them wobble. As they grow, they will begin to explore pulling them apart, putting them together and exploring the characters on their own. A great first puzzle.



## Christmas Romper - LoveBeeBaby

Handmade clothing like this makes a great Christmas gift and can be passed down from generation to generation. Lovebeebaby is a great small business, and all their wonderful clothing is handcrafted here in the UK. They wash well and fit beautifully.



## Personalised Book - Wonderbly

A personalised book is a thoughtful present your child can treasure for a lifetime. These can be customised to match your baby's skin tone and hair colour, and feature other personal touches. This particular story is a great way to teach your baby about their body parts, as well as about some familiar day-to-day routines through a fun and comforting game of peek-a-boo.



## Bath Toys - Soren's House

Bath toys are always well received! What we particularly love about these bath toys is that they double up as a teething toy and they don't harbour any water, so won't go mouldy! They can be sterilised and are strong and versatile. An investment, but well worth it.



**£30.75**

## Bear - Natural Baby Shower

Maileg make the most magical and whimsical soft toys, and the characters are always charming and distinct. This little bear will become a cuddly friend and firm favourite as they grow. It would also make a terrific addition to any nursery room.



**£31.00+**

## Robe - My 1st Years

This snuggly robe is a lovely way to warm up a baby after bath time during these cold winter months, and this super cute penguin robe can be personalised too, making it a great Christmas gift.



**£33.95**

## Ball Tower - Soren's House

This is a great present for young babies to look at and watch while they do tummy time or lie on their back. As they begin to develop their gross and fine motor skills, they will also learn to reach out and grab the balls and eventually use the tower all by themselves.

## Fabric Book - Soren's House

**£34.00**

This soft activity book is a great helping hand for when you are out and about. It contains different textures, sounds and a mirror, so will be sure to keep your baby interested, intrigued and hold their attention while on the go. Perfect for when you're trying to enjoy a warm coffee for a change.

## Stacking Pebbles - Soren's House



**£38.99**

The pebbles' curved edges make them perfect for small hands, while also providing a challenging construction edge, helping your baby to explore them while they're small and construct with them as they grow.

## Baby Gym - KIDLY

**£39.00**

A plain baby gym is a great addition to any home with a newborn. This one might look plain, but that's why we like it! You can add your own things to this one, such as ribbons, material and lights, to make it a wonderful sensory experience for your baby. You can also buy some dangly toys and instruments to add to them, meaning you can change its purpose whenever the mood takes you.





**£39.95**

## Rocker - Rokit

This is a portable sleep aid that will gently rock your baby while they are in their pram. It easily attaches to any pram or stroller, making it the perfect gift for any parent who spends a bit of time out and about with their baby. It might even mean they can potentially enjoy a meal with their hands free!



**£78.70**

## Meal Subscription - Cook

A subscription box makes a thoughtful and useful gift for any parent. We know how hectic life can be with a newborn baby and often parents don't have enough time to look after themselves. So, why not treat them to a week's worth of delicious, tasty meals? A handy gift, especially over the new year period when parents really do not want to make any more food!



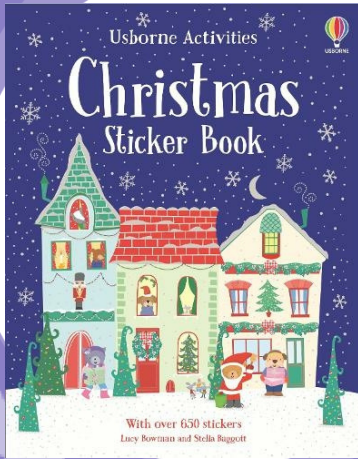
**£91.20+**

## National Trust Membership

We think that experiences are some of the best gifts you can give any child, and what better experience for a baby than time spent outdoors? National Trust has more than 500 destinations in the UK, and membership allows the family free access and car-parking. So, on those days when you have no idea what to do, you can visit one of their stunning locations with your baby, sharing with them the wonderful wildlife on offer at their amazing spots!



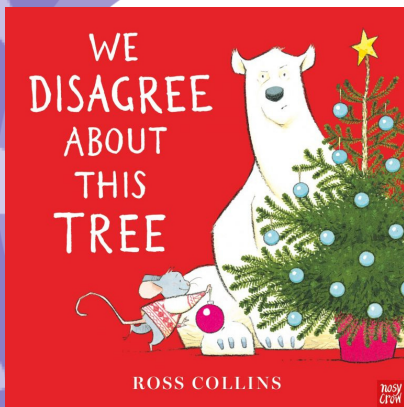
# Gift Ideas for Toddlers



£7.99

## Sticker Book - WHSmith

Sticker books are the one item that seem to engage toddlers for sustained periods, making them a perfect companion when travelling, or while out and about. Stickers are also an excellent fine motor workout, and the pinching action they use to remove and place the stickers is the same action they will eventually use to write. Just don't expect your child to stick them in the places you want them to just yet!



£7.99

## We Disagree About The Tree - Nosy Crow

This beautiful rhyming story tells the tale of how Bear and Mouse disagree about how best to decorate their Christmas tree. It is witty, magically illustrated and jam-packed full of interesting words and phrases that will be sure to get your toddler talking! A book always makes a great present, and we love this festive one.



£9.95+

## Personalised Mug - Etsy

A personalised Christmas mug will be a treasured gift for years to come and one your child will remember using with fondness. Encouraging your child to drink water from a mug while young is also a great gross and fine motor workout, as well as a skilled coordination exercise. Starting off with small amounts of water, they will soon be able to drink all their drinks from a cup. They will also love the feeling of independence and autonomy they get from having their own special mug.

£10.00+



## Costa Gift Card

Ok – stick with me on this one. Many toddlers love to copy and mimic our behaviours. So, taking them to a Costa Coffee shop with their gift card is a great way to teach them about purchasing things. They can treat you to a coffee and get themselves a babyccino (spoiler – they're free) and you can have a lovely little date together. If you have a local coffee shop, why not ask them if they have gift cards you can buy?



£11.00+

## Matching Hats - Etsy

We love a traditional present here at My First Five Years and a hat is one of the few items that might fit them for the duration of the winter months. We particularly love these ones because they're homemade here in the UK. You can even get adult ones, so the whole family can match.



£14.99

## Magformers - John Lewis

This super little construction set is made especially for small hands. They feature a magnet, so they always stick together and can be used to make a multitude of shapes. They're also handy to play with on the go. This small set is a great introduction to Magformers, and if your toddler loves them, you can ask for additional kits for their birthday!

**£15.45**



## Bee's Wax Crayons - Soren's House

The most thoughtful and interesting crayon set we've ever seen. If your toddler isn't keen on making marks yet, using crayons that are themed to their interest might encourage them. This seller is a small business based in the UK and has many different designs to suit your toddler.

## Finger Paint - Boots

Paint that doesn't ruin clothing, I hear you cry. Yes, we've found it! It is expensive, but for good reason and a little goes a long way. It's non-toxic, and washes from skin and most fabrics. A wonderful gift!

**£15.99**



## Bucket and Spade - Soren's House

Ok, while you might not think a bucket and spade make that much of a gift, let me tell you this is an excellent addition to any toddler's playthings. This bucket and spade cleverly collapses, meaning you can easily put it into a backpack for the day. You can pull it out on walks, pop it in the bath, get digging in the garden or go on treasure hunts with it. It's FAB!

**£18.99**





**£24.95**

## Stacking Stones - Soren's House

These irresistible stacking stones are not just a toy, but a work of art. You won't want to tidy them away at the end of the day and we bet you find yourself getting creative with them too. Made in a range of sizes and shapes, they will really challenge your toddler to think creatively and critically in order to stack and create with them, making them an excellent gift that provides hours of fun.



**£29.00**

## Easel - Ikea

If you're looking for more of a show-stopping gift, this easel is inexpensive and will last your toddler for years to come. What we particularly love about this easel is that it's low enough for your toddler to reach and they will be able to practise some large-scale mark-making using their whole shoulder and elbow movements.



**£29.99**

## Wooden Frame - Amazon

We think this is just **INGENIOUS!** This picture frame holds up to 50 A4 pictures and can be opened from the front, so once it is on your wall, you don't need to keep lifting those horrid metal clips to frame your toddler's artwork. This is the perfect gift for any child who loves to create, and they'll feel so proud about their creations being displayed on the wall for all to see. You can even purchase A3 versions from the same company.



**£32.00**

## Miniland Doll - Kid Collective

Miniland dolls are made by a company that wants to encourage a more inclusive and tolerant world, and their dolls come in a broad range of ethnicities. They are all made from soft vinyl, are smaller than most dolls (making them perfect for younger children), and are all anatomically correct. They also have the cutest accessories, so if your toddler falls in love with them, you can add to them in years to come.



**£34.00**

## Family Experiences - Red Letter Days

From steam train trips to alpaca walking, this is a great gift the whole family can enjoy. With 223 locations across the UK, you can choose what your toddler would enjoy most and spend quality time together out and about.



**£50.00+**

## Personalised Picture - Etsy

These stunning prints are created based on your photographs and would make the loveliest addition to your toddler's bedroom, while also being something they could treasure for many years to come. Made here in the UK, they also do lots of other personalised gifts – check them out!

**£72.90+**



## Zoo Membership

We think a membership to your nearest zoo makes a wonderful bigger gift. A membership reduces the pressure to see every animal each time you go, and you have a go-to day out, which is great on days when you can't think of anything else to do. As well as all the wonderful animals to see, they often also have lots more to do, meaning your experience will change each time you visit. It's the perfect toddler gift.



**£89.00**

## 3 in 1 Waterproof - Muddy Puddles

Those with a toddler will know just how muddy and messy they like to be, but this amazing three-in-one scampsuit weatherproofs even the most adventurous child! This amazing design is made from recycled



**£149.95**

## Wobbel Board - Babipur

Wobbel is a high-strength wooden curved board that your toddler will love to explore. They'll experiment with rocking on, standing on, sitting on and lying on the board, as well as rocking about. This is thought to be great for the development of large muscles, as well as balance and coordination. Toddlers will also use this as a bridge to walk over, or for their cars or balls to run over. What is amazing about a wobble board is they're built to last and can even be enjoyed by an adult.



# Gift Ideas for Children



£4.39



## Loop Scissors - Amazon

These amazing scissors are a great present for any child who is just starting to learn how to cut with scissors. Scissors are notoriously difficult to control and lots of the hand's muscles need to develop before your child can cut into paper and then open back up closed scissors. When your child uses this looped set, they will be able to practise their cutting with ease, while also developing the muscles in their palms, thumb and fingers.

£6.49



## The Jolly Christmas Postman - WH Smith

A little bit of nostalgia here. Janet and Allan Ahlberg books are still enjoyed by children to this day, even though they were written in the 1980s. The Jolly Christmas Postman is one of our absolute favourites. This book follows the Jolly Postman on Christmas Eve as he ensures he delivers various Christmas greetings to some well-known characters. The best bit about this book is that you and your child can open each of the bits of post and the end delivery is magical! A great festive gift.

£13.99



## Personalised Baking Kit -Etsy

Baking is a brilliant activity to enjoy with your child and we think this personalised baking set is perfect for a thoughtful Christmas gift. Made for little hands, they will be able to practise lots of gross and fine motor skills as they stir, roll, pat, pinch, brush and serve their creations! We love this one by small business BeeCreativeByLucy.



£15.99

## Ocean Puzzle - Jaques of London

A puzzle makes a great gift for any age. We like this multi-purpose puzzle by Jaques of London that you can use as a memory puzzle, balance and stack, use as sea creatures in pretend play and even begin to learn some of the names of the animals, all in a little storage tray as well.



£16.95

## Bottle - Kleen Kanteen

We've tried a lot of children's cups in our time and while we always favour an open cup, when you're travelling that isn't always practical. This stainless steel sippy cup is our favourite drinks bottle for children. Its clever design keeps cold drinks cool for ages and the lid comes apart so you can give it a good rinse. Also, when you feel the lid is looking a little worse for wear, or you want to move them onto a sports cap, you can buy a new lid, making it better for the environment!



£19.19

## Washable Markers - Yes Bebe

Children love to use felt tip pens – they make vibrant and responsive marks with much less effort than a pencil or crayon – but we know parents often avoid them because they can be messy. Well, we think we've found the perfect set! These are a great size for small hands and wash away from skin, clothing, furniture and painted walls (the dream).

## Lace-A-Shape - Soren's House

£19.95

Threading activities are brilliant for developing the muscles in your child's hand and this is a lovely version. It's great for encouraging your child to thread, make a pattern and develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and some early mathematical concepts.

## MAKEDO Tool Set - Soren's House

£20.99

This set is best for those who are five and over, as it contains a cutting knife, but the rest would make a brilliant present for any child who likes to construct or who is very imaginative. This Makedo Explore set contains simple tools to use with cardboard to make some amazing projects. This is great for the environment, as it encourages your child to use recycling in their play, and will also encourage creative and critical-thinking.

## Torch - Smallable

£28.00

If Christmas Eve boxes are your thing, why not add a torch, wellies and a book about the world at night to your box this year and go for a night-time walk this Christmas Eve? This torch is perfect for little hands and is tough and durable. A torch is a great addition to any child's playthings as it evokes curiosity and creativity, as well as learning and understanding about scientific and mathematical concepts.



**£30.00**

## **Storage Trolley - Hobbycraft**

Ok, while on the surface this might not look like every child's dream come true, stick with us. We think if you bought a trolley like this and filled it full of paper, recycling, scissors, glue, pens and so on, and made it into a creation station, it would make the most wonderful and relatively inexpensive gift. It would provide hours of fun as well as promoting gross and fine motor skills, creativity and critical-thinking! It'll be so much fun, we bet you can't resist getting stuck in to create with them.



**£32.00**

## **Personalised Jacket - Not On The High St**

A jacket is a great gift ahead of the winter months, and this one is great for keeping warm both inside and outdoors. We love this personalised varsity jacket made and hand-printed in the UK. You can even get them in adult sizes if twinning is your thing, and it comes in a variety of colour options.



**£39.00**

## **Car Transporter - Soren's House**

A brilliant gift for any vehicle enthusiast! The transporter moves from two layers into one, so that all of the cars can come off the ramp. It contains four cars, which can be used for racing and are compatible with most train tracks. Super for supporting fine motor skills, dexterity and coordination.



£44.99

## Personalised Game - Photobox

A memory game of matching pairs is one of the first games your child will likely learn how to play. With its simple rules and visual clues, you can start off with two sets of pairs, increasing it to three, four, and so on. We LOVE this version because you can personalise it with your own pictures, so you can include family photos, and pictures of your home and local area, which is brilliant for promoting cognition and speech and language. This will be treasured and played with for many years to come.



£44.99

## Magna Tiles - Smyths Toys

This 48-piece magnetic block set will keep them busy for hours! We love this set, and your child will enjoy playing with it for years to come. These flat magnetic tiles will teach your child about science and maths through play as they learn about how to construct 3D shapes, tunnels and turrets while thinking about weight distribution, height, size and much more. A large number of pieces makes it a great gift for siblings of different ages, while joining the pieces supports the development of cognition and motor skills. What a winner!



£45.00

## Den Kit - Ordnance Survey

Perfect for your little adventurer, this kit contains everything you need for a day outside! It contains a tarpaulin, groundsheet, mallet, mug, tent pegs, rope and even face paint for camouflage. Your child will develop a love of the outdoors and make fond memories with this kit, which will also encourage them to think creatively and critically about creating their own den, in whatever space they find. We also love that it contains no single-use plastic, and the packaging is 100% recyclable, making it good for the environment too.



**£87.95**

## **Mini Micro Eco Scooter**

The scooter is a wonderful motor toy for your child, and we love this version because not only has it got light-up wheels that use induction energy from the scooting motion, but it also has extra strong breaks, adjustable handlebars, a grippy footplate and is made from discarded fishing nets! It is a great way to get around your local area while also encouraging your child to strengthen large gross motor muscles and improve coordination and control.



**£109.95**

## **Play Kitchen - Soren's House**

A kitchen is a great larger play item (if you have the room) and this one is so reasonably priced, gender-neutral and contains lots of storage space. Children best role-play things that they see, so a kitchen is usually a great addition if they're interested in pretend play. Just don't leave it until Christmas Eve to put together after a couple of festive tipples (speaking from experience!).



**£209.95**

## **Doll's House - Soren's House**

A doll's house can provide hours of fun and we love this version as it comes with so many pieces of interesting furniture. Playing with a doll's house is a great way to promote your child's social skills and improve emotional intelligence as they recreate situations, as well as involving speech, language, motor skills, creativity and memory! So, if it's something your child would engage with, it can be quite magical when you think about it.