

Tips on Toys

Classic Toys Remain Family Favorites

(NAPSA)—Familiar favorites—the classic toys of yesteryear—are among the big sellers this holiday season, surveys show: many of the favorite playthings of years gone by are as popular as ever with today's youngsters. What's more, those familiar action characters and board games today's parents once played with have been updated and made even more fun for 21st-century youngsters.

"This year, parents are making their gift choices with toys and games they recognize as perennial favorites," says Sean McGowan, president of Playdate Inc., which tracks the toy and video game industries. Playdate polls retailers to predict what will be the best-selling products each holiday season.

Here are some sample "classics" of the toy world, updated for today's generation, that may be on many holiday shopping lists:

- Power Rangers Deluxe Isis Command Megazord (\$59.99, ages 4+). For its tenth anniversary, Power Rangers toys prove their lasting appeal with the introduction of the Isis Command Megazord, which comes with a Red Power Ranger. The Megazord has action, voice, sounds and lights to excite youngsters. Kids can control the Megazord's missile-firing action, apply a fearless grip with special antler claws, release an armadillo assault from the secret compartment and use the giraffe crane to defend against aliens. (Bandai America Inc., www.bandai.com).

- UNO (\$10.99-\$14.99, all ages). The classic card game UNO



UNO, The Magic 8 Ball and other classic games remain popular holiday gifts.

represents America's #1 brand of family games. New versions feature some favorite characters, including SpongeBob SquarePants, Spider-Man and the Simpsons. For the youngest in the family, there's My First UNO, starring Dora the Explorer. Rounding out the family fun are UNO decks featuring New York City landmarks and great scenes from U.S. National Parks. All come in highly detailed collector's tins. (Sababa Toys, Inc., www.sababatoys.com).

- Magic 8 Ball (\$10.99, ages 7+). Remember shaking a Magic 8 Ball, looking for answers to fun questions? Now this classic novelty has been rejuvenated with four new versions. You can now get wisdom and wisecracks from SpongeBob SquarePants and the Simpsons. For expectant parents, there's a new Baby Ball, helping to answer questions about names, room colors and more. Anyone looking for fun advice on fashion and fitness can consult the Beauty Ball (Sababa Toys, Inc.)

For more ideas about popular toys and games for holiday shopping, visit www.playdateinc.com.