

# Big Apple Parent

## Fun & GAMES

### Virtual Pets

Color kids wanting a pet of their own get the chance to raise a pet electronically with the Nintendo DS Petz Video Game Series. The games allow players to create their own furry pet and care for it as it grows. They also who is an animal lover will enjoy raising entire families of dogs, cats, ferrets, and monkeys. Kids also get to decide how they will care for their pet, and select looks and personalities. Pets grow in three stages (baby, child, and adult). ESRB: Ages 6-14. [applepetz.usa.com](http://applepetz.usa.com)

### Autismatronic Pets

If your child has been asking for a pet, but you're not quite ready for the added responsibility, you might consider a WowWee Alive Cub. These cute, cuddly critters feature dynamic facial expressions and sounds that mimic real baby animals, lifelike squeals or chirps, and the critters come to life by blinking their eyes, growling, and purring. Each sub-measures about the size of a house cat and enables kids to experience the realism of caring for an animal. The kits also come with adoption papers and informative facts about each animal. Available in four species: Lion Cub, White Tiger Cub, Polar Bear Cub, and Panda Cub. \$39. Ages 3 and up. [www.wowwee.com](http://www.wowwee.com)

### Presidential Escape

With public figures weighing in heavily in our children's minds this month, *The Great White House Breakout* (Ferguson Young Readers Series, \$14.99) is a fun and informative addition to your child's library. Written by Hester Thomas, sister of White House Press Corps, and illustrated by cartoonist Chip Bok, the read-aloud story invites the reader to join the adventures of first girl Sam. While no more a President, Sam enjoys a lot of great benefits like playing in the Oval Office, but it's a hassle for her to be constantly followed by the Secret Service. Along with her buddies, Sam escapes the White House and returns to the city, giving a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital. Ages 4 and up.

### Can You Kazoo?

Music kids will jump at the chance to make music (or just noise!) with First Act's Band in a Bucket. The set includes seven handcrafted instruments sized just right for little hands: a wooden kazoo, two hand-painted egg shakers, pro-style tambourine, spirit bell, jingle tap, traditional castanet, and harmonica. The collection comes with a 34-page instruction book so kids can learn the proper way to play each instrument. Storage box included. \$24.99. [www.firstact.com](http://www.firstact.com)

### Can You Kazoo?

Musical kids will jump at the chance to make music (or just noise!) with First act's Band in a Bucket. The set includes seven handcrafted instruments sized just right for little hands; a wooden kazoo, two hand-painted egg shakers, pro-style tambourine, spirit bell, jingle tap, traditional castanet, and harmonica. The collections comes with a 34-page instruction book so kids can learn the proper way to play each instrument. Storage box included. \$24.99. [www.firstact.com](http://www.firstact.com)