



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS . . .

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If it's November, it's time to talk toys.

Teachable toys, tech toys. Big toys, little toys. Toys that jump and toys that tickle your funny bone.

Most of all, it's about toys that offer hours of fun.

"I love toys," 5-year-old Alyssa Cassagrande of Ocean Township says. "When I get a good toy, I play with it forever."

Alyssa's already started her wish list, and while some old favorites like Barbie are on it, what she wants ... really, really, wants ... is Butterscotch My Furreal Friends Pony from Hasbro.

"It's just like a real horse," she says excitedly. "My parents won't buy me a real horse, but this one doesn't even make a mess."

Horses are all well and good, but for 23-month-old Alex Roarke of Keyport nothing beats a good tiger ... er Tigger.

"I jump," he says, jumping around with a bouncing, jumping Turbo Tail Tigger.

To help with this year's shopping adventure, we've rounded up some of our favorite holiday toys of 2006. While they range from adventure to crafty, with a little horse play thrown in for good measure, they share a common trait: hours of fun for everyone.

Build A City from K's Kids. 12 months and up. \$69.99. Designed for infants, the soft block building set allows little ones to create a city or roadway, navigating the area with the two characters and vehicles.