

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004

It's a boy thing

Not all boys are cut from the same cloth but, for the most part, if you're looking to buy the perfect gift for the boy on your list this season, try action-packed toys.

"You can take a group of boys with various personalities and you'll notice that they all end up playing with the same things when they're together," said Richard Kellogg, a St. Louis-based consumer consultant. "Boys like things that move fast, jump high and are filled with noises and colors. Those are the constants."

With that in mind, here's a look at such toys (available at most major department and toy stores):

■ Kids must employ critical thinking and strategy skills to race aliens across two game boards in *Cogno: The Alien Adventure Game* (DoubleStar, \$29.95). And, players can pick up some lessons about the universe along the way.