

MATCHTECH

NETWORKERS

BARCLAYMEADE

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Resourcing Solutions

 GATTACA

STEM **PLAY** book

Inspiring
the
next generation

STEM inspired toys - our review



Which STEM toys are the best?

At Gattaca, we're proud to work across a range of vital STEM sectors, placing thousands of talented engineers and technologists each year into extraordinary companies that inspire us and help shape the modern world.

However, we're also aware of the current skills shortage. There are more than 173,000 vacancies in the UK that require STEM training, which costs employers an estimated £1.5bn a year. That's why it's so important to inspire the next generation and build a pipeline of future talent who will go on to save the planet as tomorrow's software developers, virologists and solar engineers.

But, to inspire children to consider careers in STEM, we need to show them how exciting and interesting science, technology, engineering and maths can be. What better way to do this than with toys? In fact, there are many similarities between children and STEM professionals: They ask 'why?', they like to solve problems, they have great imaginations, they create something from nothing, they build, knock things over, learn and build them again differently.

If you work in a STEM sector then you are already inspirational. But, many children don't have parents that work in STEM fields to help encourage them to pursue an engineering or technology career.

Therefore, this **STEM PLAY** book aims to help to continue inspiring your children and their friends, as well as nieces, nephews, and any other children in your life.



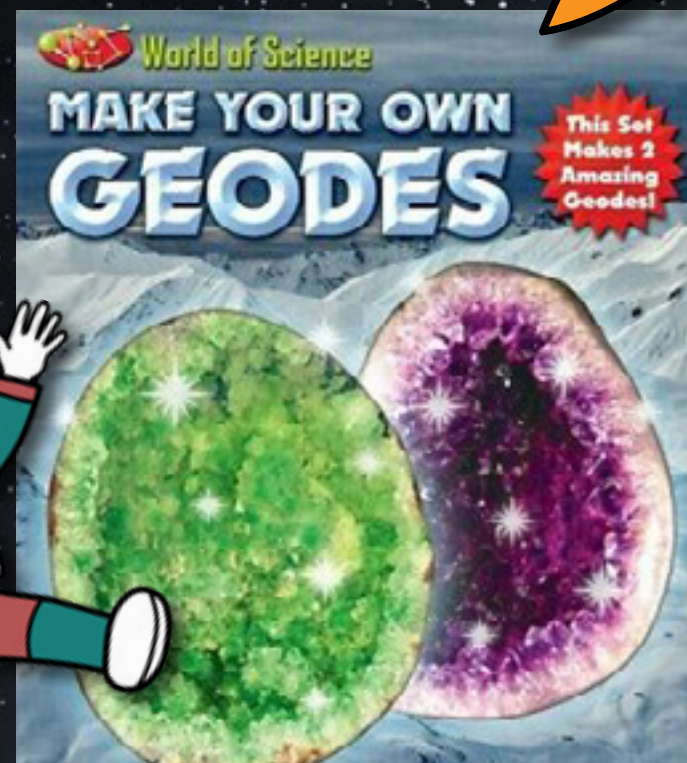
The toys

We sent more than 200 STEM toys to our employees' children, aged 0-15 years, globally, and asked them for their honest reviews.

- Baby Loves Board Books
- Buzz Wire Game
- Glowing Jelly Fish Bath Light
- Fruit and Veg Clock
- Steering Wheel and Keys
- Solar Power 6 in 1 Robot Kits
- Smart Watch Toy
- Make Your Own Geode
- Building Brick Marble Run
- Volcano Kit
- Push and Go Car
- Gold Panning
- Wooden Hammer Bench
- Perfume Kits
- Balloon Powered Planes
- Exploding science kit
- Make Your Own Bouncy Balls
- Solar Powered Robot
- Excavation Dinosaur

All the gifts aim to subtly teach children about gravity, electricity, construction, solar energy, science, coding, maths, forces, nature, colours, shapes or technology.

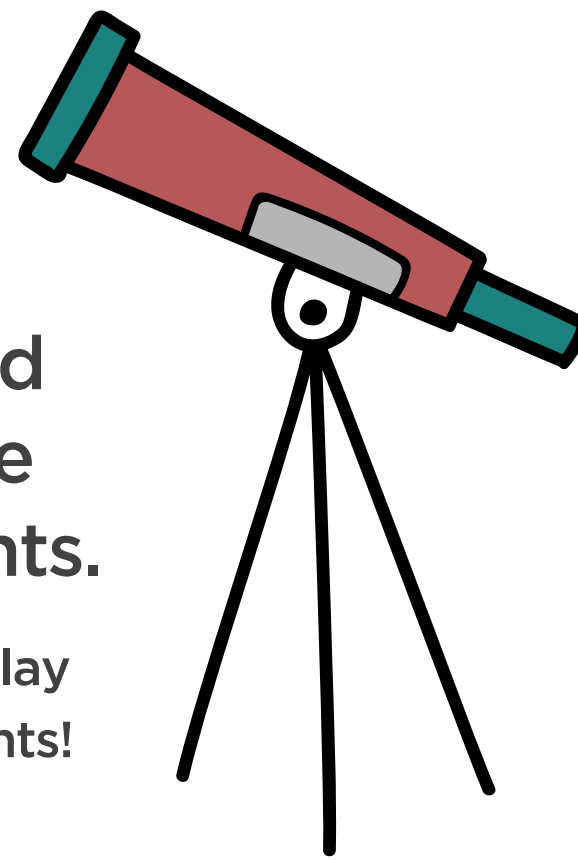
...plus, they're great fun!



The review process

With each toy, we sent a review card for the children and their parents to fill out, which asked them to rate a range of different categories out of five and add their comments.

We wanted to find out how much the children learnt, whether the toy was fun to play with, and how much it distracted the child, because surely that deserves some points! Then ultimately would they recommend it to others and whether the parents and children would recommend it to others:



GATTACA
-MY-
REVIEW CARD

PLEASE COMPLETE THE CARD BY COLOURING IN THE NUMBER OF STARS YOU GIVE EACH CATEGORY AND WRITE A LITTLE REVIEW OR ASK A GROWN UP TO FILL IT IN FOR YOU.

MY NAME IS: I AM YEARS OLD

I AM RATING THE FOLLOWING TOY:

FUN RATING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
BORING (YAWN!) SUPER FUN (EPIC!)

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
NOT A SAUSAGE LIKE YEAH, LOADS!

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS TOY?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
NOT A CHANCE! YAY! ABSOLUTELY!

SO, THIS IS WHAT I RECKON...

CALLING ALL GROWN-UPS!
BLAST OFF TO THE REVERSE OF THIS REVIEW CARD →

STEM LEARNING

GATTACA
PARENTS REVIEW

ONCE THE CARDS ARE COMPLETED PLEASE CAN WE ASK YOU TO TAKE A PHOTO OF BOTH SIDES AND EMAIL THEM TO:
INTERNALCOMMS@GATTACAPLC.COM

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS TOY TO PARENTS?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
NO ABSOLUTELY

CHILD DISTRACTION RATING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ONLY FOR A MINUTE OR SO THEY PLAYED WITH IT FOR AGES

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
I HAD TO HELP A LOT I WASN'T NEEDED AT ALL

MY REVIEW

We would love to use your review to help other children and our customers to know which STEM toys are the best to inspire the next generation. We would also like to include a photo but only if you are happy for us to. If you are happy for us to use your child's review with their name and age and/or photo either now or in the future, please give your consent(s) below and send any photos to internalcomms@gattacapl.com

I give permission for you to:

Use this review and my child's name and age online TICK BOX

Use the photo I am providing online TICK BOX

STEM LEARNING



And the results are in...

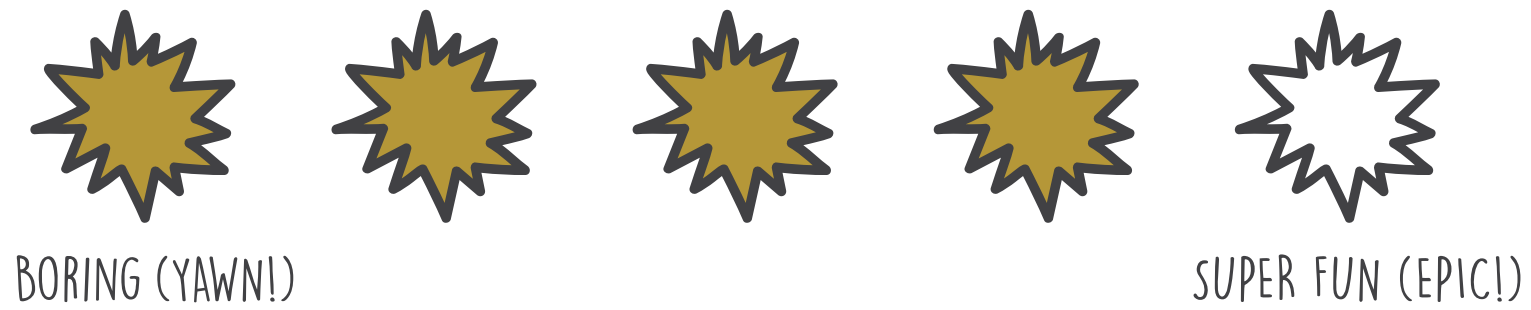


Age 0-3
Toy: Baby Book

These brilliant STEM-themed picture books make excellent gifts for any engineering or technology-loving families. Ruth Spiro's board book series includes "Baby Loves Structural Engineering", "Baby Loves Coding" and "Baby Loves Aerospace Engineering."

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



Would you recommend?



Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Lara, 8 months
Parent: Russell Day, Consultant Rail, Matchtech



Hazel, 4 Months
Richard Bennett, Team Leader, Highways & Civils, Matchtech

PARENT COMMENTS ...



"Book is great - her favourite book so far"
"The colours are bright and she can help turn the pages as they are thick"





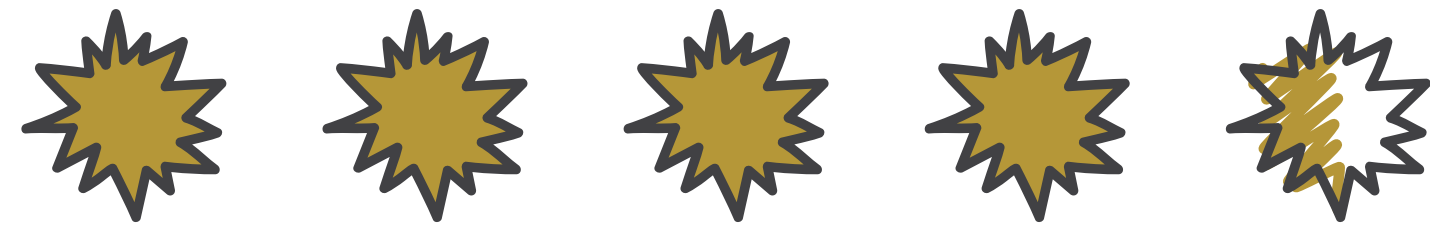
Age 6 months - 3 years

Toy: Fisher Price SMART Watch

The realistic Laugh & Learn SMART Watch is the perfect toy for families who enjoy the latest tech, helping babies and toddlers pretend to be just like the grown-ups! The Watch not only encourages baby to learn greetings and how to count, but it also enables them to develop their fine motor skills, helping to strengthen baby's dexterity and hand-eye coordination.

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



BORING (YAWN!)

SUPER FUN (EPIC!)

Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



Would you recommend?



Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Arla 2.5 years
Parent: Claire Cross, HR Director, Gattaca

PARENT COMMENTS ...

“Bold, bright colours and lights; encouraged interest in watches!”





PARENT COMMENTS ...

“Daddy got involved to help build the maze but after that the kids spent ages rolling the marbles. No instructions so imagination needed.”

CHILD COMMENTS ...

“I love playing with it and building it.”



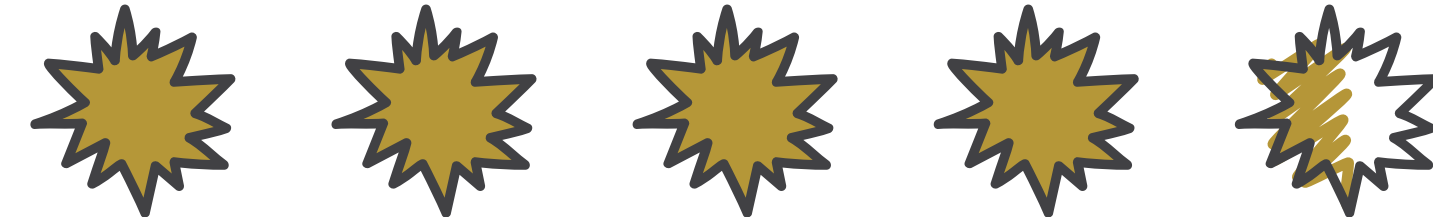
Age 3 Years +
Toy: Building Brick Marble Run

The colourful building brick marble runs provide hours of endless fun for children and their families. Each set contains 152 pieces, including a mixture of blocks, curves, spirals and straights for toddlers to explore and encourage their imaginations to run wild with.



SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-0-METER

Average review



BORING (YAWN!)

SUPER FUN (EPIC!)

Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



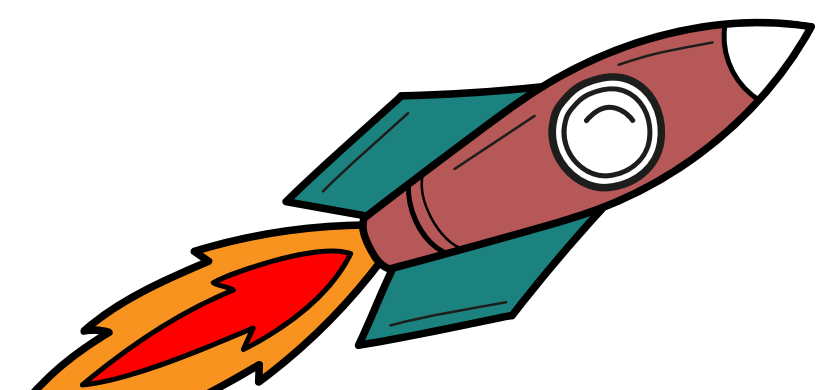
Would you recommend?



Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Michael, 5 years old,
 Parent: Mark Spickett, Head of Commercial, Gattaca

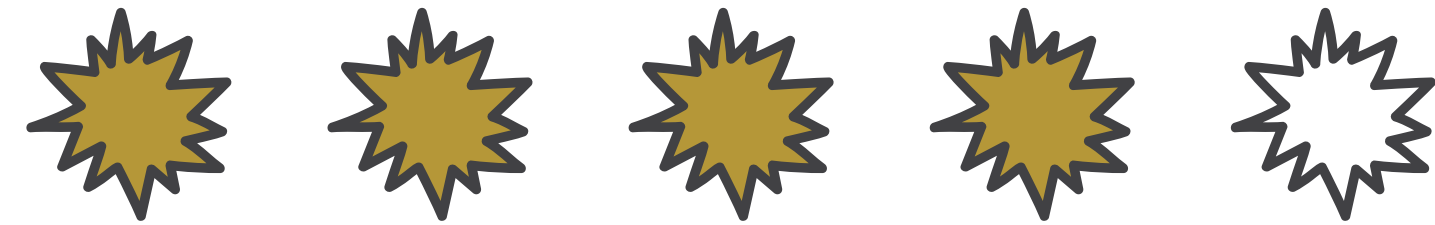


Age 4 Years + Toy: Fruit and Veg Clock

The Fruit and Veg Clock is the perfect experiment for budding little scientists! The kit gives you all the tools you need to create a working digital clock using all kinds of common fruits and vegetables from the kitchen.

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



BORING (YAWN!)

SUPER FUN (EPIC!)

Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



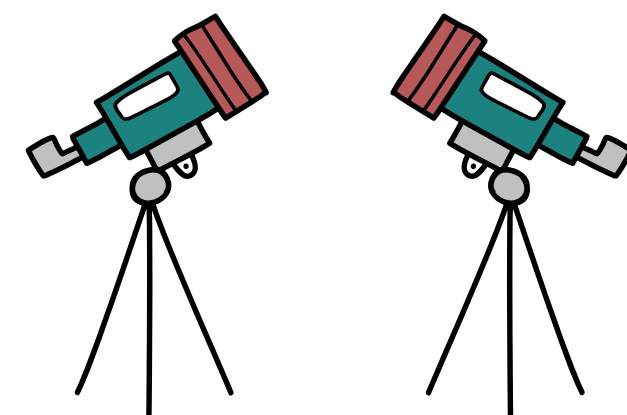
Would you recommend?



Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Violet, 4 years,
Parent: Leigh-Ann Stafford,
Senior Compliance Officer, Gattaca

PARENT COMMENTS ...

“A brilliantly fun way of introducing the concept of electricity to a young child. Easy to assemble even with poorly-worded instructions and he found it fascinating.”

CHILD COMMENTS ...

“It was really cool building it.”



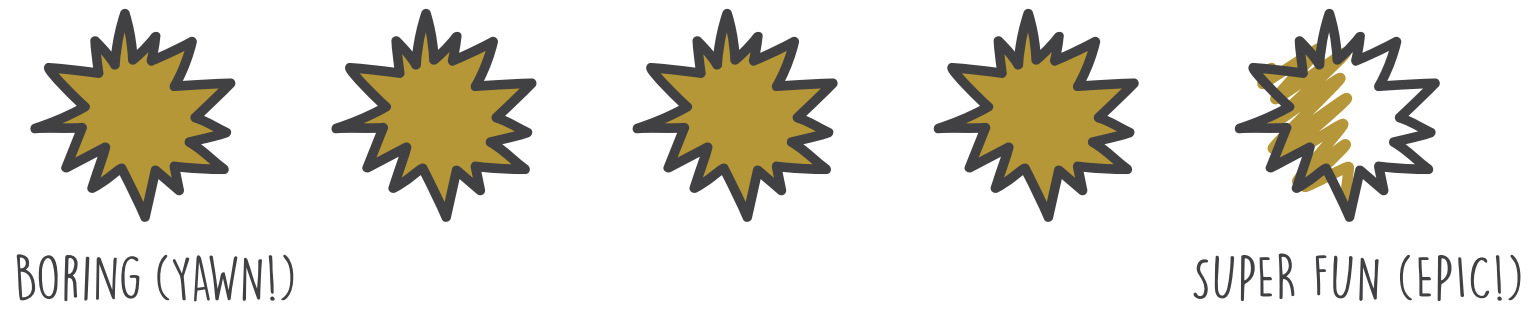


Age 6+ Toy: Make your own bouncy balls

Children learn best when they're having fun, especially when they can play a part in bringing something to life. These easy-to-make bouncy balls are exciting to create and fun to play with. All you need to do it add water!

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-0-METER

Average review



Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



Would you recommend?



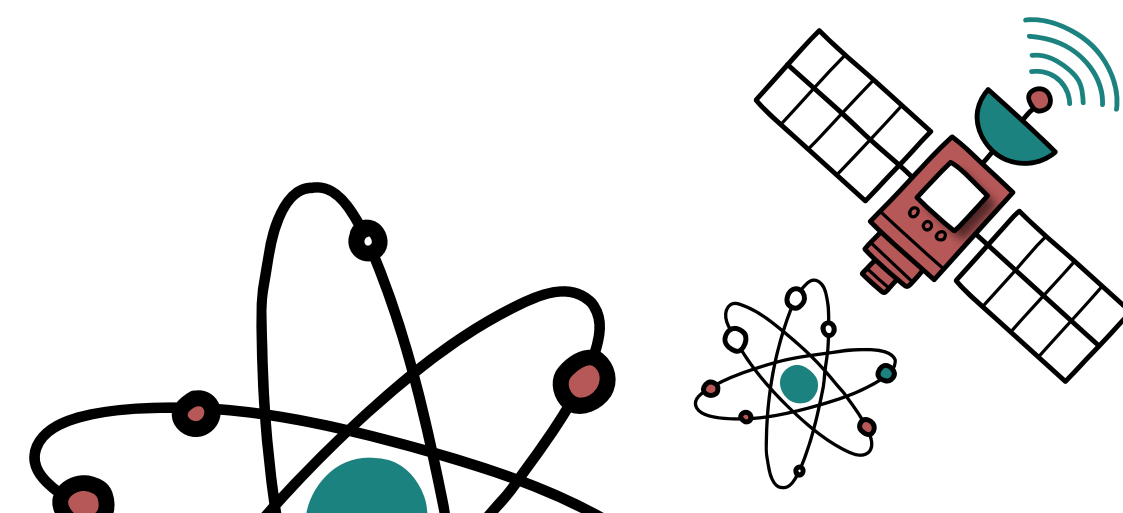
Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Willow, 6 years old,
Parent: Dan Tchupan, Head of Mobility Engineering, Matchtech



PARENT COMMENTS ...

“This was a really cool present for them to play with; we both really enjoyed it.”

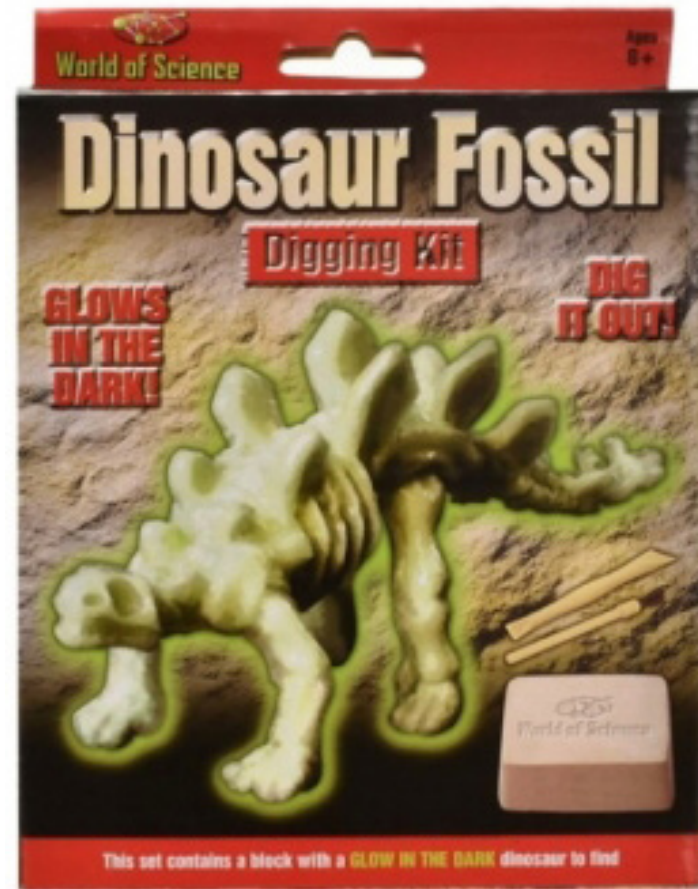
“A really fun activity – my child loved it! The only downside was that the ball went quite hard after a couple of weeks, but there was enough in the kit to make some more another time.”

CHILD COMMENTS ...

“I really liked the bouncy ball because I learnt loads of science stuff.”

“It was so cool and really bouncy!”



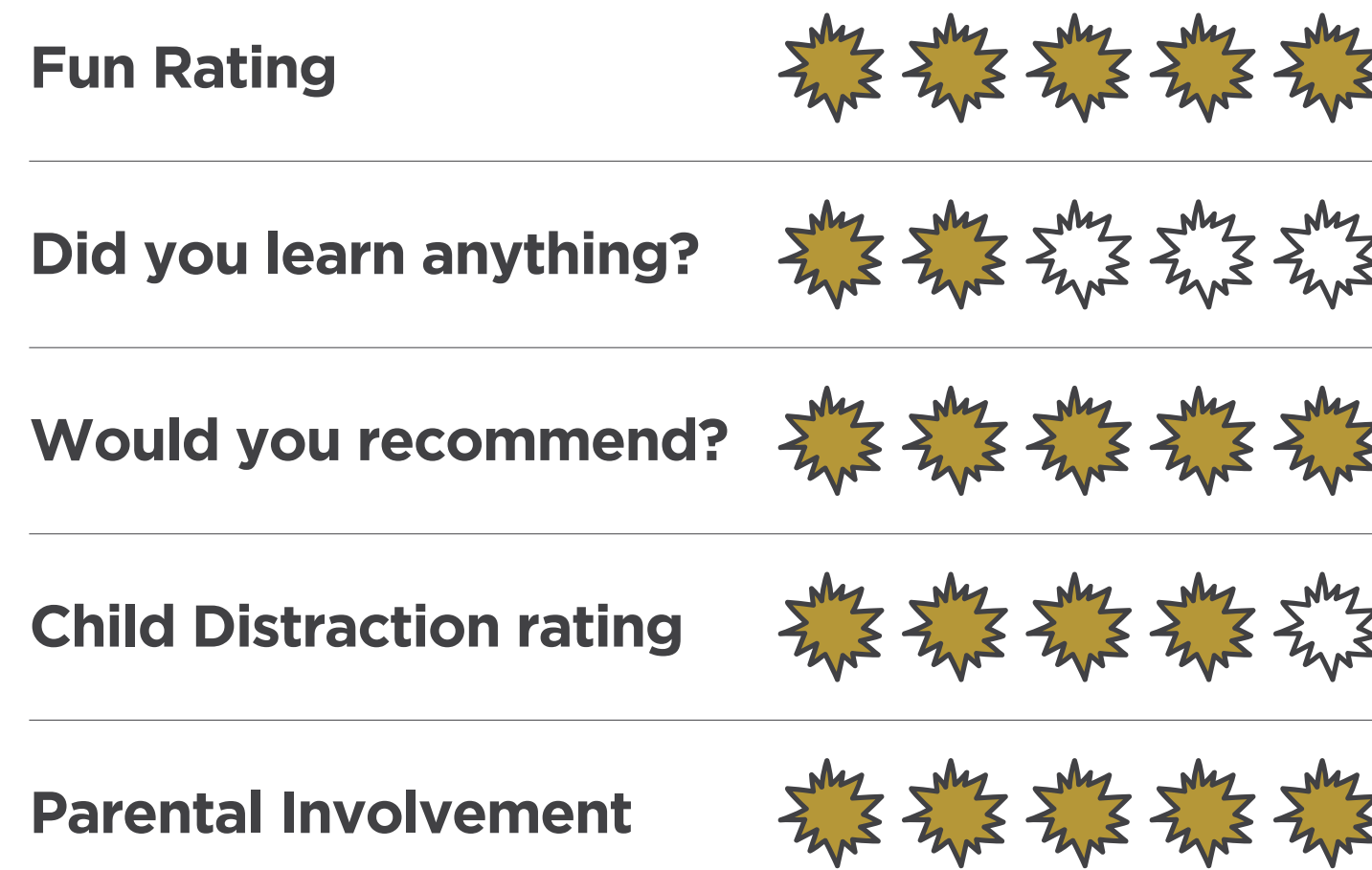
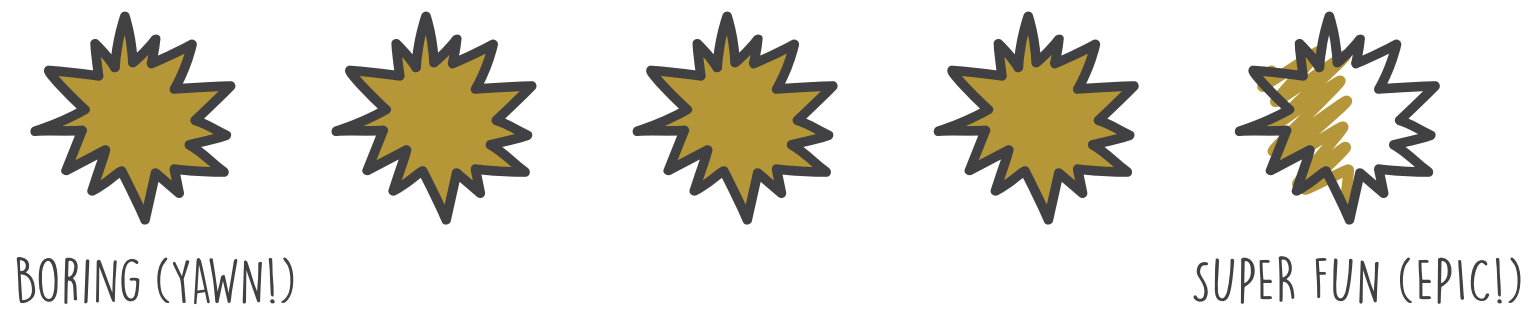


Age 6+
Toy: Excavation Dinosaur

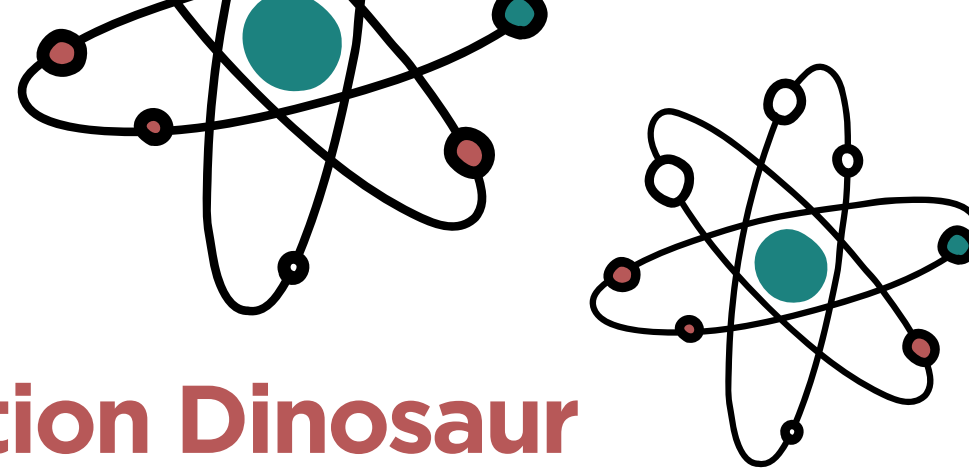
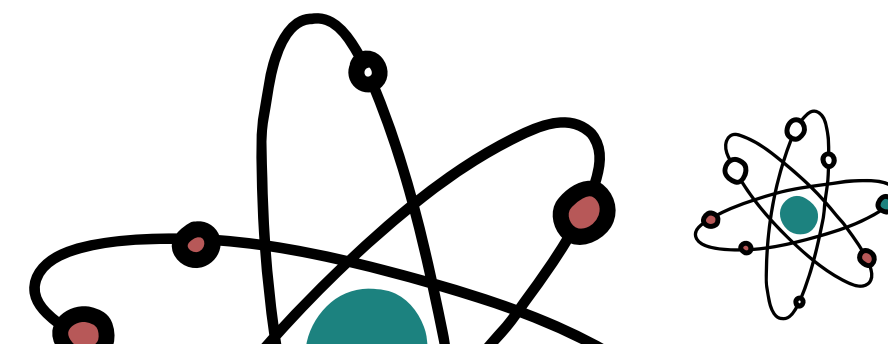
Do you have a blossoming archaeologist or palaeontologist in your family? The Excavation Dinosaur will send their imaginations running wild and will even spark a passion for exploring the outdoors. They'll be thrilled with their findings when they chip away at the stone to reveal a glow-in-the-dark dinosaur fossil.

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



Georgina, 7 years old,
 Parent: Alex Langston,
 Payroll & Accounts Supervisor, Gattaca



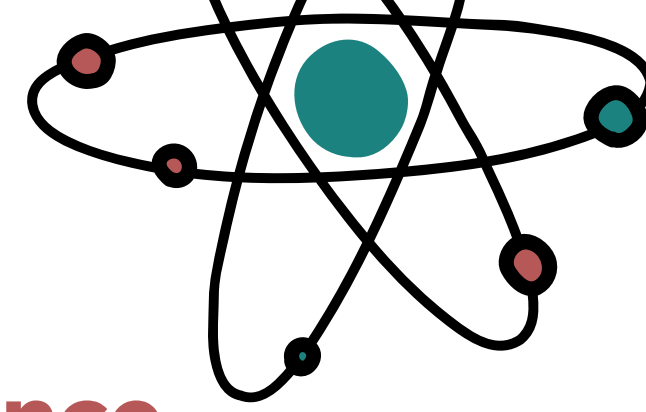
PARENT COMMENTS ...

“This was a great distraction while it lasted. We did the whole thing in one sitting!”

CHILD COMMENTS ...

“I learnt that it took time and care. It was really fun waiting to see where a bit of the dinosaur would pop up.”



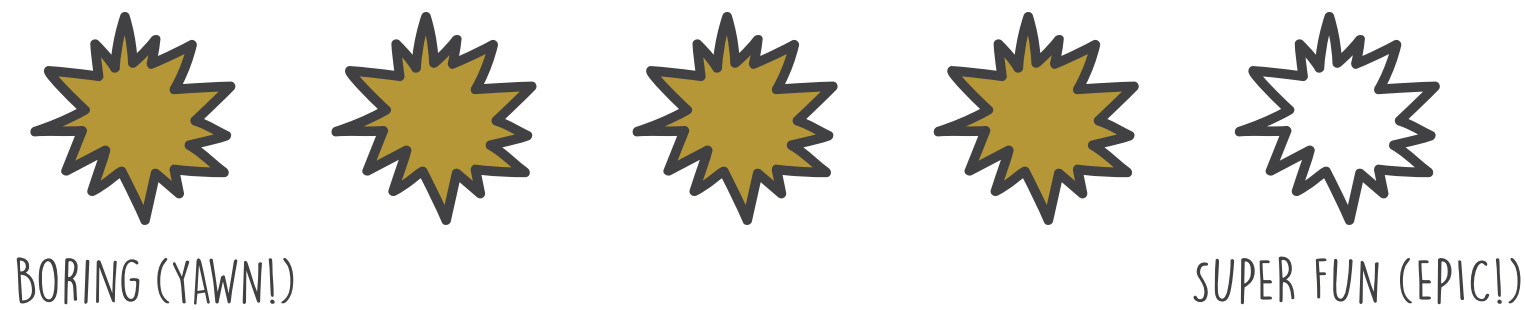


Age 8+ Toy: Exploding Science

Toys don't get much more fun than this! The Exploding Science kit is packed with exciting experiments for the whole family to enjoy. From making a volcano, launching a rocket to creating fizzing lava and exploring the world of carbon dioxide, your little scientists will be wowed at the results!

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



Would you recommend?



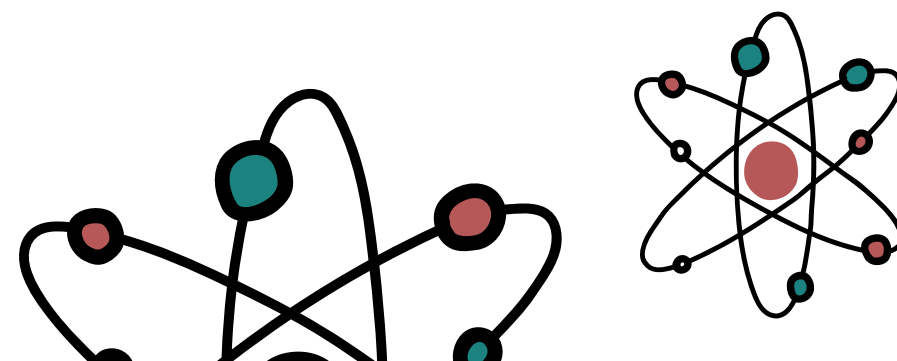
Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Rupert, 8 years,
Parent: Melisa France,
Director of Technology, Networkers



PARENT COMMENTS ...

"We only did the volcano - it was quick and easy to assemble. It kept him engaged and off the XBOX - hooray!"

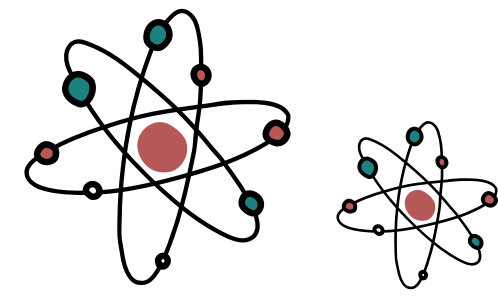
CHILD COMMENTS ...

"I was a bit late on the timing, but the explosion was sick! The vinegar smell was ultra weird."





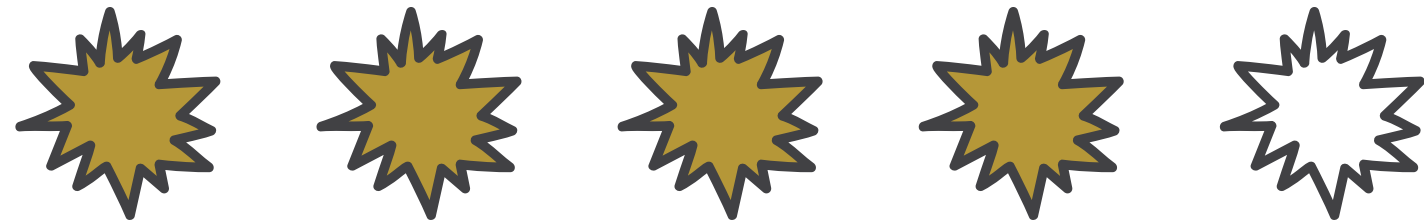
Age 8+ Toy: Solar Multikit



The Solar Multikit is the perfect way to get your children interested in environmental protection and sustainability in a fun way! The science kit comes with a working solar panel and motor, which will allow your little one to make six different and exciting gadgets!

SCIENTIFIC-FUN-RATING-O-METER

Average review



BORING (YAWN!)

SUPER FUN (EPIC!)

Fun Rating



Did you learn anything?



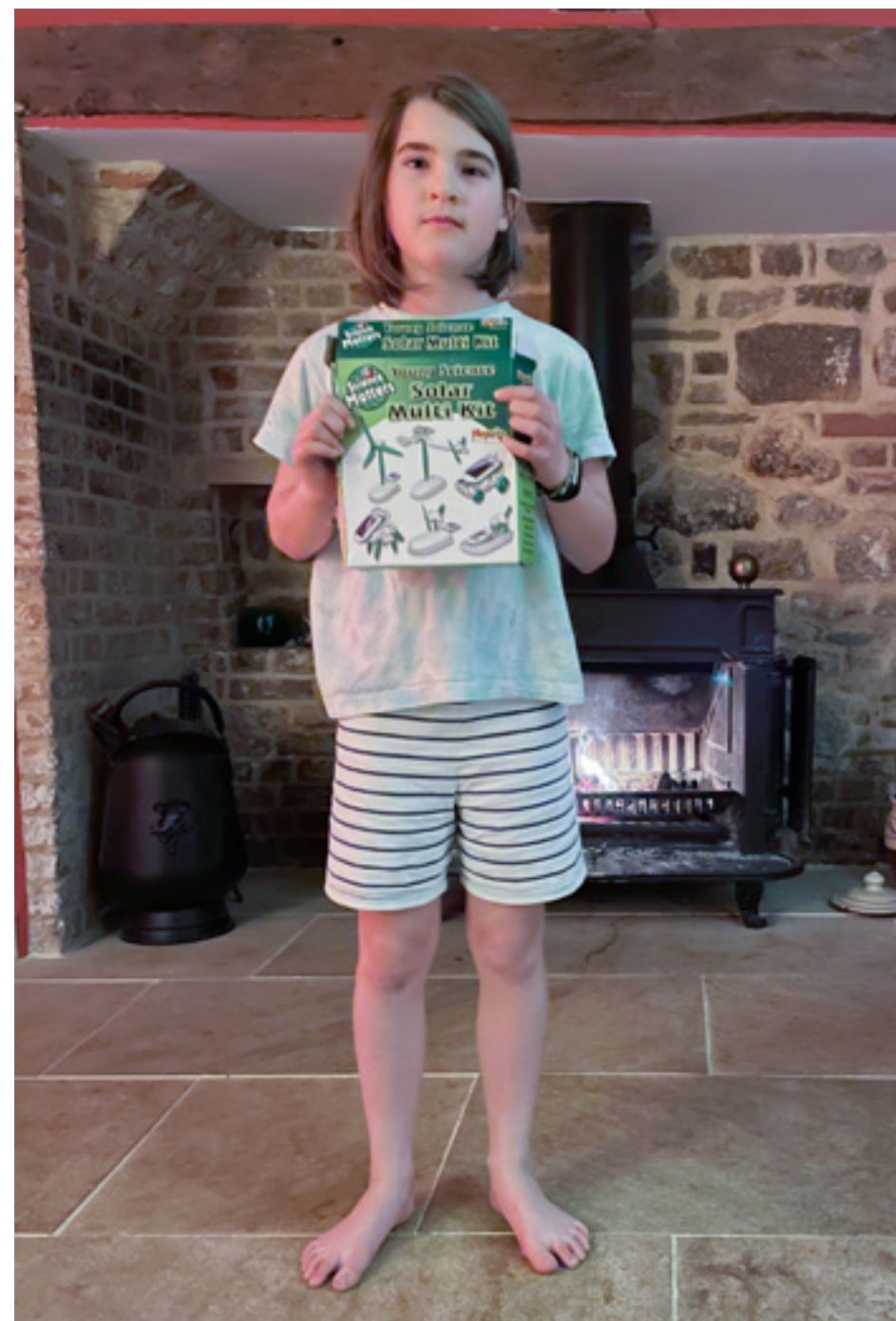
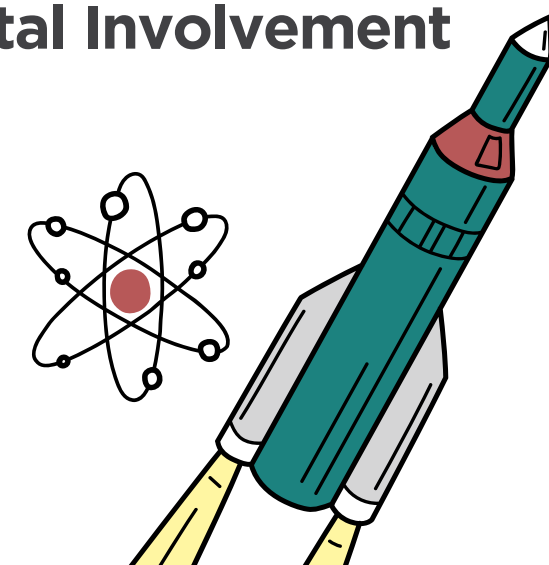
Would you recommend?



Child Distraction rating



Parental Involvement



Niloufar,
Parent: Salar Farzad, Chief Financial Officer, Gattaca

PARENT COMMENTS ...

“Very fiddly but she seems to like it.”



CHILD COMMENTS ...

“It was quite fiddly whilst me and my parents made it but still very fun to play with, especially in the sun.”





fancy getting involved?

This is an evolving Playbook that we want to continue to add to. If you have a toy you think should be included that would help inspire the next generation, please email: STEM@gattacapl.com

FURTHER RESOURCES

We also have some links to some other great STEM resources on our websites.

[STEM based activities for Future Engineers and Technologists](#)



[Four of the best STEM activities for future engineers](#)



MATCHTECH 

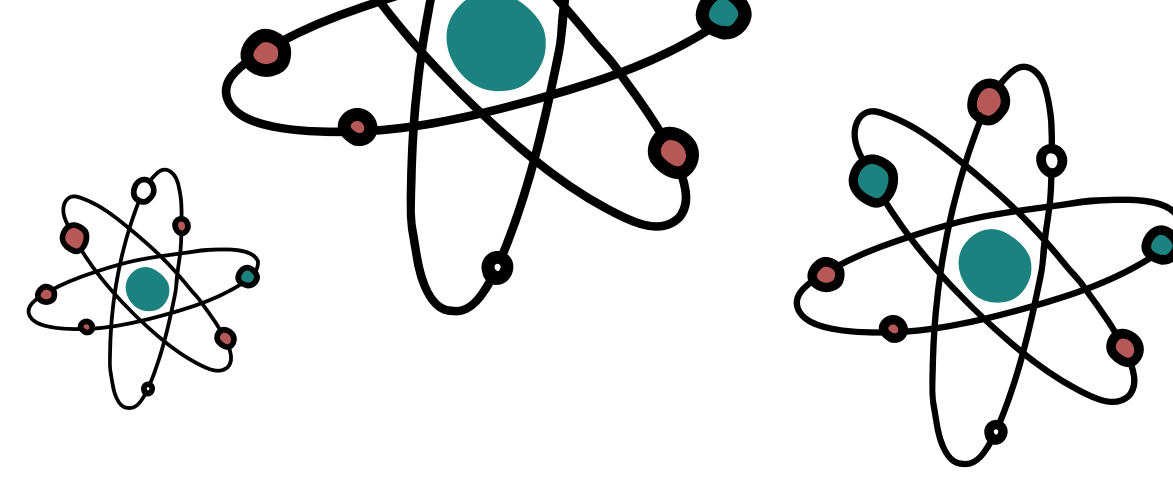
NETWORKERS 

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STEMPLAYbook



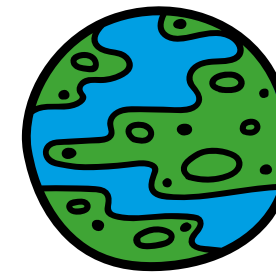
VIDEO 1 - PAPER HELICOPTERS



VIDEO 2 - MAKE YOUR OWN PADDLEBOAT



STEM PLAYbook



VIDEO 3 - LEARN CODING WITH LEGO®



VIDEO 4 - PAPER PLANE



STEM PLAYbook


Inspiring
the
next generation

STEM inspired toys - our review




STEM PLAYbook






GATTACA



GATTACA SOLUTIONS

Workforce solutions & talent consultancy



GATTACA PROJECTS

Outsourced engineering & technology services

Specialist recruitment brands

<p>IT & telecommunications</p> <p>NETWORKERS</p>	<p>Engineering & technical</p> <p>MATCHTECH</p> <p>Resourcing Solutions</p>	<p>Professional & training</p> <p>BARCLAYMEADE</p> <p>ALDERWOOD</p>
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Gattaca plc
1450 Parkway, Solent Business Park
Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7AF

T: 01489 898989
E: info@gattacapl.com
W: www.gattacapl.com

