

TimeOut

## The best toy stores in NYC

Find the latest playthings—dolls, trucks, games and more—at the very best toy stores in NYC for kids

By Hannah Doolin Posted: Thursday November 13 2014



*Photograph: Jessica Lin*  
FAO Schwarz

Next time you're hunting for that perfect gift—whether for [Christmas](#) or your little one's [birthday party](#)—head to one of these fantastic toy stores in NYC. Peddling everything from puppets to high-tech gadgets to plush toys, these kidcentric shops make it easy to find a winning present. You may even find some top picks from these stores in our [holiday gift guide for kids!](#)

## Toy stores in NYC



### [Acorn Toy Shop](#)

Acorn stocks more educational and community-minded toys than you can shake an artisan-made rattle at. Play tents in bright colors replace the old-fashioned pillow-and-blanket fort, and a wooden animal menagerie has all the variety of Noah's Ark without the pesky religious literalism.

[Read more](#)  
Boerum Hill



### [Annie's Blue Ribbon General Store](#)

Critics' pick: At this Kelly green, 1,100-square-foot spot with a backyard for events, whimsical housewares, novelties and whatever owner Ann Cantrell deems "best in show" crowd the shelves. Its rotating lineup is heavy on items for little ones, so spoil your nieces and nephews with adorable stuffed animals, puzzles, DIY craft kits and more.

[Read more](#) Boerum Hill



[Area Kids](#) The shop mostly stocks clothing from local designers (Egg & Avocado, Appaman), but you'll also find imaginative and unusual toys from France and Germany.

[Read more](#)  
Park Slope



### [Boomerang Toys](#)

Owner Karen Barwick equips her stores with the latest Bruder trucks and Playmobil sets. Her lucky sons even help test potential merchandise.

[Read more](#)  
Tribeca



### [The Children's General Store](#)

This small toy shop on the Upper East Side is packed with classic playthings like puzzles and arts-and-crafts kits and also offers complimentary gift wrapping.

[Read more](#)  
Upper East



### [Dinosaur Hill](#)

The Hill carries original and creative toys for all kids, from newborns to tweens. Best of all is the store's striking collection of European-made marionettes—especially those from Prague.

[Read more](#)  
East Village



### [Disney Store](#)

The House of Mouse has opened its largest store ever in Times Square, where you'll find tons of Disney goodies, a theater and an interactive princess castle.

[Read more](#) Queens



### **E.A.T. Gifts**

At the nonedible arm of the Eli Zabar empire, parents can stock up on whimsical paper goods and kid-friendly baubles including everything from stickers and erasers to cupcake-shaped lip glosses and silly straw sunglasses.

[Read more](#)

Upper East Side



### **FAO Schwarz**

Although it's now owned by Toys "R" Us, this three-story emporium is still the ultimate NYC toy box. Children will marvel at the giant stuffed animals and LEGO figures, and there are lots of opportunities to create custom playthings at the Madame Alexander Doll Factory, Styled by Me Barbie area and Muppet Whatnot Workshop. [Read more](#) Midtown East



### **Kidding Around**

Grab costume dress-up sets, Folkmanis goodies, kiddie furniture, electronic toys and more at this local favorite.

[Read more](#)

Flatiron



### [Mary Arnold Toys](#)

The specialty toy shop carries unusual, hard-to-find playthings, like a flat-car racing set. Also head here if you're looking for Madame Alexander dolls, Jellycat animals, Legos and other kid (and grown-up) classics.

[Read more](#)  
Lenox Hil



### [Norman & Jules](#)

This two-year old toy shop provides Park Slope parents with beautifully designed and eco-friendly toys, decor, books, crafts and baby gear. Earlier this spring, the husband-and-wife team also added a backyard playspace behind their store.

[Read more](#) Park Slope



### [Space Kiddets](#)

The great vintage toys and gear at this Flatiron shop really make us wax nostalgic, and will probably make you do so too. Check out Elvis-print shirts and the huge selection of Astro Boy products.

[Read more](#)  
Flatiron



### [A Time for Children](#)

You don't have to feel guilty about splurging at this combined clothing and toy store: 100% of its profits benefit the Children's Aid Society. Sizes run from infant to eight years, and brands include Petit Bateau and Pluto.

[Read more](#)  
Upper West Side



### [Torly Kid](#)

Owner Carol Adams has transformed her successful store Babylicious into Torly Kid—a one-stop shop for both tots and tweens. Best-selling lines like Tooby Doo, Lunchbox and Appaman are now stocked in bigger sizes as well as small. The store also has an extensive collection of party favors.

[Read more](#) Tribeca



### [Toy Space](#)

Owner-mom Louise Simon's superpopular Slope spot stocks everything from überhip European toys and games to classic stuff (Rubik's Cube or Etch A Sketch, anyone?). It's also one of the few shops in the city to boast a kid birthday registry.

[Read more](#)

Park Slope



### [Toy Tokyo](#)

This Asian toys and tchotchkes mecca houses dizzying displays of memorabilia—half of which is from Japan. Snatch up quirky bubblegum-pink Gloomy Bear stuffed animals, Godzilla figurines, kaiju models and more.

[Read more](#)  
East Village



### [Toys "R" Us](#)

With a 60-foot indoor Ferris wheel and a 20-foot-high animatronic T. rex, this store has become just as much a part of the delirious Times Square spectacle as the iconic neon and LED lights outside. Other attractions include a Willy Wonka candy shop, a make-your-own robot lab and a Babies "R" Us department.

[Read more](#) Midtown West



### [West Side Kids](#)

This family-run institution has been selling toys, games and books to uptown children for more than two decades.

[Read more](#)  
Upper West Side