



Stocking stuffers

Nifty ideas geared to please younger set

(AP) - Have a one-size-fits-all stocking hung up to hold some of these:

- **Bow Biters.** Cartoon beasts that appear to be chewing shoelaces on your kid's sneakers are practical as well as trendy. Plastic faces of Garfield, the Muppets and Snoopy "bite" the shoelace knots and keep them from coming loose on the go. Bow Biters also include original characters such as 'The Masher,' 'Cat Zooks,' and 'Puppy Hearts.' The maker, Brookside Enterprises, aims this product at the youth market but says adults have been using them on their sneakers, too. They cost about \$4 to \$5 a pair at toy and discount stores.

- **Toy Racers.** These battery-operated racing cars from Japan travel at speeds equivalent in scale to 300 mph.

Lightning Racers are about 5-inches long and are modeled after four-wheel-drive racing cars. They come with snap-together parts which the maker, MRC-Tamiya, says can be assembled in about an hour. The cars also can be customized, with 40 optional parts including special motors, wheels, gears, and ball bearings, all mimicking the real thing. Tamiya, Inc., a leading toy manufacturer in Japan, is offering four models to American customers — the Avante Jr., Rising Bird, Vanquish Jr. and Grasshopper II Jr. Cost is about \$10 in toy, discount and department stores.

- **Art Frames.** That color marker portrait done by the young artist in your household will get proper attention with "My Frame," a kit which

will enable him to have one-kid shows. Each kit contains a backing tray, clear plastic lens and snap-on moldings for a frame, six sheets of drawing paper, and a set of non-toxic color markers.

The creator, Berdie Stein, says she wanted a way to display her young son's pictures, and when she couldn't find anything appropriate, came up with the idea for the kit. "I wanted to create something children could put together themselves," she says. "With this toy, they can frame their own artwork, then take it apart when they create a new masterpiece the next day." The kits are about \$15 at art, toy and department stores.

- **Sweet Pets.** Sweetie Pups and Sweetie Kitties are soft toy puppies and kittens that resemble real breeds.

These toys from Hasbro have long silky hair to be groomed and petted, and each comes with brush and comb, award ribbon barrette and fabric ribbon. Small pups are available as bearded collie, bichon frise, cocker spaniel, Maltese, schnauzer, Shih Tzu, toy poodle, and Yorkshire terrier breeds, and larger ones as Afghan, collie and old English sheepdog breeds. Breeds for kittens are angora, Persian, Birman and long-hair tabby. Kittens are about \$9, small pups about \$10, and larger pups about \$16.

- **Holidays with Foreign Accents.** Videos of holiday tales in foreign languages from Gessler include "Babar et le Pere Noel," the tale of de Brunhoff's

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