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little PLAYER[®]

VIDEO GAME MAGAZINE FOR KIDS

DIGITAL EDITION



**Mario, Metroid, and
Zelda Compete for
Game of the Year!
See Who Wins Inside!**



**We Look Back at the
Best Games of 2017!**

**Our Editors Pick the Hottest
Gaming Gifts of the Season!**



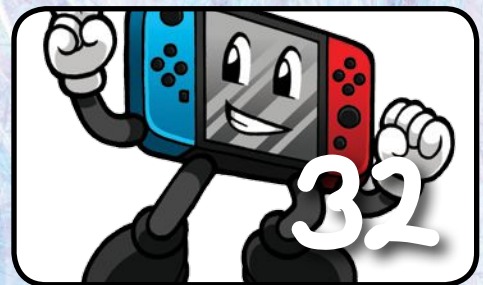
November/December 2017
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HOLIDAY 2017 BUYER'S GUIDE

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Our Mission Statement

Little Player Magazine's mission is to provide a safe, fun and advertising-free reading experience that parents can feel good about giving to their kids. We also want to inspire and teach kids to make good gaming choices and play what is appropriate for their age group. We only cover and review games that are rated EC, E, and E10+ to ensure that young children are not exposed to content meant for teens or mature audiences.



2017 was an Epic Year for Kid-Friendly Video Gaming!

As we near the holidays, we reflect on the best games of the year. 2017 was a really strong year in gaming because of the launch of the Nintendo Switch. The Switch revolutionized the way we game as a family in so many ways. In fact, most of the best kid-friendly titles we played this year are exclusively on the Switch!

Super Mario Odyssey really is an amazing surprise for the holidays! It reminds me of when I played the Mario games on Super Nintendo as a teenager. When Super Mario World debuted, I was in awe of the graphics, the different worlds to explore, and how fun the game was. I felt those same emotions when playing Super Mario Odyssey. I was laughing, dancing around, and having a really good time playing, like when I was younger.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, our buyer's guide will help you to add to your wish list the hottest games and systems of the year. Let us also not forget to be thankful for what we have and give to those in need this season.

Nintendo dominated the kid-friendly gaming market in 2017, and we are looking forward to seeing what they come up with in 2018! Thank you for being a part of our Little Player family, have a great holiday!

Shelly Alessi

Publisher / Managing Editor

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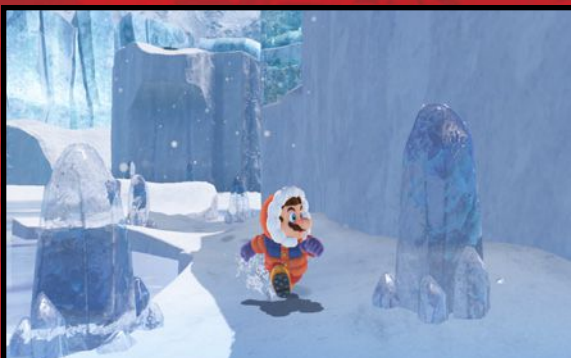
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TOP 5 GAMES of 2017

Nintendo Switch



Super Mario Odyssey

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 10/27/2017



It may sound cliché, but Super Mario Odyssey is truly a game that comes along once in a lifetime. Yes, it's that good. From the moment the opening credits start, you just know it's going to be amazing. This is how we would classify the iconic plumber's latest adventure... incredibly awesome! Whether you're scavenging the desert for that one last moon piece, taking control of an enemy with the flick of your cap, or just taking in the beautiful music that matches up perfectly with the area you're in, you know you're playing something special. Super Mario Odyssey is an absolute joy to behold for players, young and old. There is no other way to put it. This game belongs in everyone's Switch collection!



Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 3/3/2017



Breath of the Wild's open world is simply fantastic to explore. The great thing about it is that you can play it at your own pace and in whatever order you want. Run to the final boss right away or take your time to hunt all the shrines. The choices are endless. No two people play through this game the same way.



Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 4/28/2017



Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is a fantastic racer with tons of mischief built in. Based off of the Wii U version that was released on Nintendo's previous console, this version packs in all the dlc and a few extra bonus modes. The controls are tight and the visuals pop. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is a must have title!



Splatoon 2

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 7/21/2017



Splatoon 2 is a great, family-friendly take on the FPS (first person shooter) genre. The game is filled with wacky characters and colorful graphics from start to finish. Not only can you play on your own but up to eight players can join in the action at one time! If you're looking for nonstop action, this title delivers!



Snipperclips

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: SFB Games
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 3/3/2017



Snipperclips is one of our favorite games for the Nintendo Switch. This game teaches teamwork as well as patience in a series of challenges beyond any other game you have played. You can also play mini games against a friend or team up with someone to play against others.

TOP 5 GAMES of 2017

Microsoft Xbox One



Forza Motorsport 7

Publisher: Microsoft Studios
Developer: Turn 10 Studios
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 10/3/2017



The Forza Motorsport series has always looked amazing and given the player the ability to modify and change their garage of cars in infinite ways, and Forza Motorsport 7 is no different. The latest offering in the series packs in over 700 cars and dynamic changing weather conditions that change every time you race. That means no two races will be the same. You will see expanding puddles on the track and rain clouds move in to start a downpour. It's something that truly needs to be seen to be believed. Forza Motorsport 7 has something for everyone; from the players that just want to pick up the controller and race a few laps to the hardcore who want to shave milliseconds off their lap times. Forza Motorsport 7 is in a league of it's own!



Sonic Mania

Publisher: Sega
Developer: Headcannon, PagodaWest Games
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 8/15/2017



If you are a fan of the old style Sonic games from the Sega Genesis days, then this is a must have game. Every aspect of this game brings back the memories of the old school 16-bit gaming from the 90's. New level additions and enemies spruce up the excitement.



The LEGO NINJAGO Movie Video Game

Publisher: Warner Bros.
Developer: Traveler's Tales
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 9/22/2017



You can't go wrong with a Lego Video Game these days and Lego Ninjago doesn't disappoint. You don't have to be a Ninjago fan to appreciate the fun and challenge of this game that depicts the scenes from the movie. Even if you missed the movie, this game is loads of fun!



RIME

Publisher: Grey Box / Six Foot
Developer: Tequila Works
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 5/26/2017



Simply put, Rime is lovely. With its beautifully hand-drawn graphics, it's nearly impossible not to get sucked in. The music compliments the visuals perfectly. On your journey you'll be presented with various puzzles to solve, none of which are too hard. It is a game like no other and should not be missed.



Wonder Boy: The Dragon's Trap

Publisher: DotEMu
Developer: Lizardcube
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 4/18/2017



With amazing HD graphics and beautiful sound, Wonder Boy is an epic adventure for all ages. Play as different characters and find amazing weapons on your journey to defeat the enemies and save the kingdom. This game is a nice release from the typical console games of today.

TOP 5 GAMES of 2017

Sony PS4



Sonic Mania

Publisher: Sega

Developer: Headcannon, PagodaWest Games

Players: Single-player, Multiplayer

Release Date: 8/15/2017



Sonic Mania is a blast from the past when sprite games reigned supreme. For those that don't know, Sonic was Sega's answer to Nintendo's Mario. Sonic Mania brings back our blue hedgehog friend to glory in this amazing 2D side-scrolling adventure. Classic zones have been re-done, along with new mini-bosses as you work your way towards the final encounter with Dr. Eggman.

The game runs at a solid 60fps and the sprites are vibrant. Sonic isn't alone in his quest. He has a companion with him as he zooms through each level collecting rings. This is important because Sonic's health is based on the rings you've collected throughout the stage. Lose all your golden rings and its game over. Sonic Mania is a blast!



Wipeout: Omega Collection

Publisher: Sony Interactive Entertainment
Developer: Clever Beans and EPOS Game Studios
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 6/6/2017



Wipeout: Omega Collection is a futuristic racer like no other! This reboot of the PS1 original is loaded with amazing HD visuals and awesome electronic music. Hover over dozens of incredible tracks and blast your opponents with high tech weaponry. If you love racing games, be sure to check this one out!



Puyo Puyo Tetris

Publisher: Sega
Developer: Sega
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 4/25/2017



Puyo Puyo Tetris is a challenging 2-in-1 puzzle game. It's a mixture of the classic game Tetris, and the more modern game Puyo Puyo. In Tetris the object of the game is to clear rows of blocks before they reach the top and in Puyo Puyo it's all about stringing together colored bubbles. It's challenging and fun!



Crash Bandicoot N-Sane Trilogy

Publisher: Activision
Developer: Vicarious Visions
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 6/30/2017



Crash Bandicoot N-Sane Trilogy is a HD release of the classic games that graced the original Playstation. Games included in this remaster are Crash Bandicoot, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back, and Crash Bandicoot: Warped. The game looks beautiful compared to the originals yet still has solid game play.



Everybody's Golf

Publisher: Sony Interactive Entertainment
Developer: Clap Hanz
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 8/29/2017



Everybody's Golf is an arcade golf game with simplistic controls that anyone can pick up and enjoy, but will take hours to master. You create your own golfer and take to the courses entering tournaments and taking on challengers for various rewards. The game looks beautiful and is tons of fun to play.

TOP 5 GAMES of 2017

Nintendo 3DS

1



Metroid: Samus Returns

Publisher: Nintendo

Developer: Mercury Stream Entertainment

Players: Single-player

Release Date: 9/15/2017



Metroid: Samus Returns is easily the strongest title on the 3DS this year! Not only does it reboot the classic Metroid II from GameBoy with better graphics and sound, the game play has been enhanced with new moves, new puzzles, and furious boss battles. It also happens to be one of the best looking 3DS games on the market, with really great 3D effects. Another notable feature of the game is the amazing musical score. There is so much depth to the game play that you can get immersed in it for hours without even realizing it. This stellar game will keep you busy with an intergalactic adventure for days on end. If you love action and adventure on the go, Metroid: Samus Returns is truly a portable phenomenon!



Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga + Bowser's Minions

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: ALPHADREAM
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 10/6/2017



Work together as Mario and Luigi to move around the kingdom and fight battles against the enemies. Controlling both characters makes the adventure challenging and rewarding at the same time. This addition to the Mario series captures everything we love about the famous brothers.



Poochy & Yoshi's Woolly World

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Good-Feel
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 2/3/2017



Poochy & Yoshi's Woolly World is the 3DS version of the Wii U game, but with more Poochy. Just like the previous Woolly World, the graphics are cute, fun, and fuzzy. The game play is awesome too! There is so much to adore and now you can enjoy it on the go. If you love platformer games, add this to your list!



Mario Sports Superstars

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Namco Bandai / CAMELOT
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 3/24/2017



Play five different sports with all your favorite Mario Characters. Use your amiibo cards to get unlockable features to gain advantages in the game. You can play locally with a friend or online against the world. You can collect trophies in tournament mode and keep track of your stats.



Hey! Pikmin

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Arzest
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 7/28/2017



Pikmin on the go, such a great idea. This game brings all of the fun of the console version to the 3DS. Captain Olimar is back on this hand-held version to save the Pikmin and escape a whole new world. Using the two screens in this version makes for exciting and new ways to play!

TOP 5 GAMES of 2017

Mobile (iOS & Android)



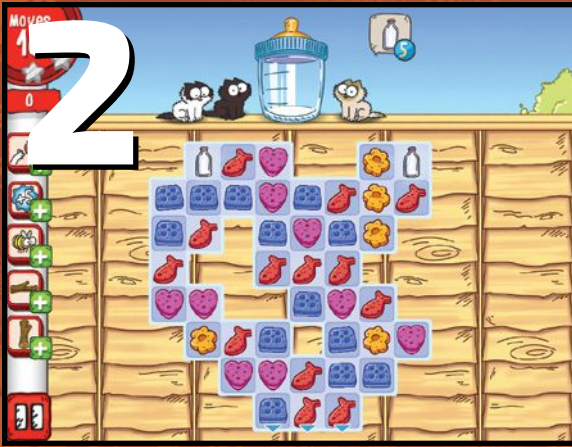
Super Mario Run (Android)

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 3/22/2017



Super Mario Run is Mario's first attempt at mobile gaming released on both Android and IOS. It is a blast to play, easy to pick (it can literally be played with one hand), and with its newest update which includes 9 new courses, makes it even more enticing to jump back into. The many game modes offered has something for everyone. They include World Tour, Toad Rally, and Kingdom Builder. All your favorite characters make an appearance such as Mario, Luigi, Daisy, Princess Peach, Yoshi, and Toad!

The game really plays well on mobile devices. The way Nintendo designed its layout your hand never obstructs your view of the screen making your time spent with Super Mario Run fun. Once you get used to the controls, you will be bouncing and jumping around the Mushroom Kingdom with ease.



Simon's Cat: Crunch Time

Publisher: Strawdog Publishing
Developer: Strawdog Publishing
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 6/27/2017



Simon's Cat: Crunch Time is a fun 3-match game for all ages. The graphics are bright and cute, and the cats have funny expressions. The game has challenges such as tournaments and daily quests. If you love matching games, check this one out!



Transformers: Forged to Fight

Publisher: Kabam
Developer: Kabam
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 4/5/2017



Transformers: Forged to Fight is a simplistic mobile fighter dedicated to the fans of the series. The developer included versions of each character from different eras and it is a really easy game to pick up and play. The controls are very simplistic too. Just tap and swipe and you'll be having fun in no time!



Realm Defense

Publisher: Babeltime Inc.
Developer: Babeltime Inc.
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 1/27/2017



Realm Defense is a tower defense game for mobile devices. The game is easy to learn and fun for those who like a challenge. The graphics and gameplay are solid. If you like strategy games this is a must play!



Yellow by Bart Bonte

Publisher: Bart Bonte
Developer: Bart Bonte
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 5/4/2017



Whether you're a passenger on a long road trip, riding on public transportation, or just plain bored, Yellow is an amazingly fun and simplistic puzzle game that you can play anywhere and at anytime. Each of the 50 levels has a clever puzzle to solve, and the color scheme of black and yellow is a nice touch.

BLAST. FROM. THE. PAST!

SUPER NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Systems: Super NES
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 8/23/1991
ESRB Rating: E
Content Descriptors:
N/A



Now you're playing with 16-bit Super Power!

By Todd Friedman

With the recent success of the Super Nintendo: Classic Edition, we look back at the original system that came out in 1991. The Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) was the sequel to the successful 8-bit version, the NES. The Super Nintendo was 16-bit and made the gaming and graphics of home consoles more exciting. With incredible game titles at launch, this new system is still considered one of the best Nintendo systems created. Games like Super Mario World, Pilot Wings, and F-Zero made the SNES a must have system from day one. With a new sleek controller with 4 buttons and 2 triggers, the controls of the games were more advanced, and the gamers had more control of characters. The console wars began with the SNES as they were competing with the 16-Bit Sega Genesis. Most would agree the SNES won the battle.



Pilot Wings



F-Zero



Super Mario World



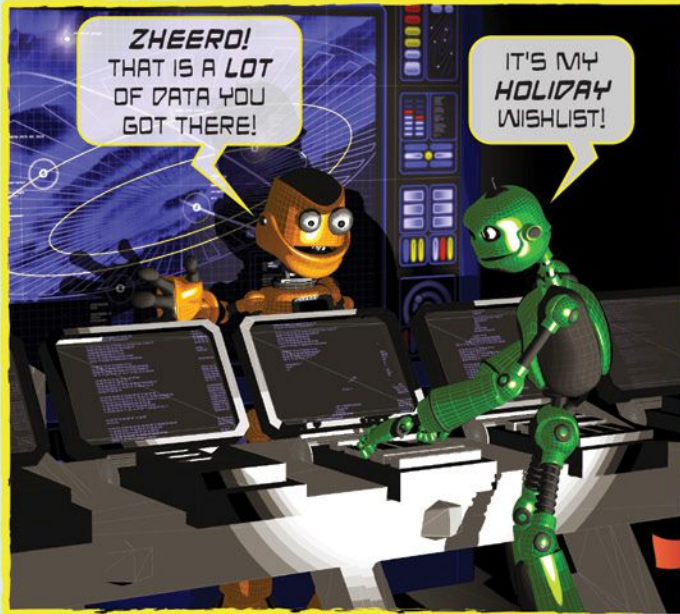
SimCity



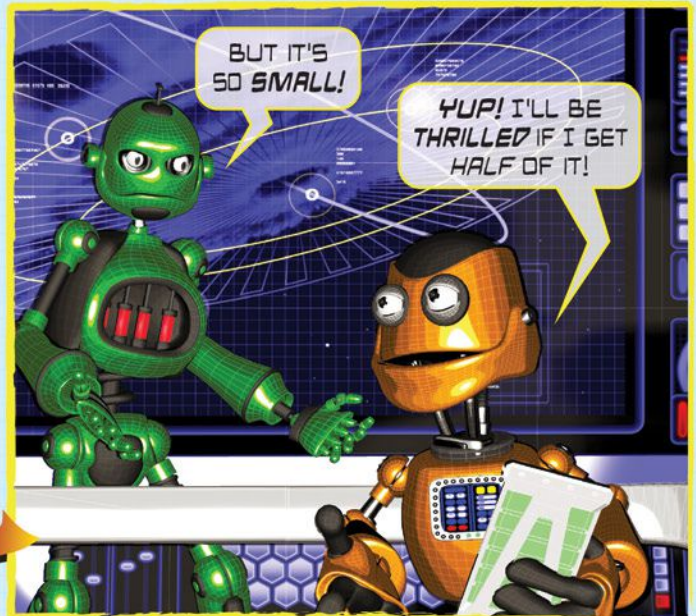
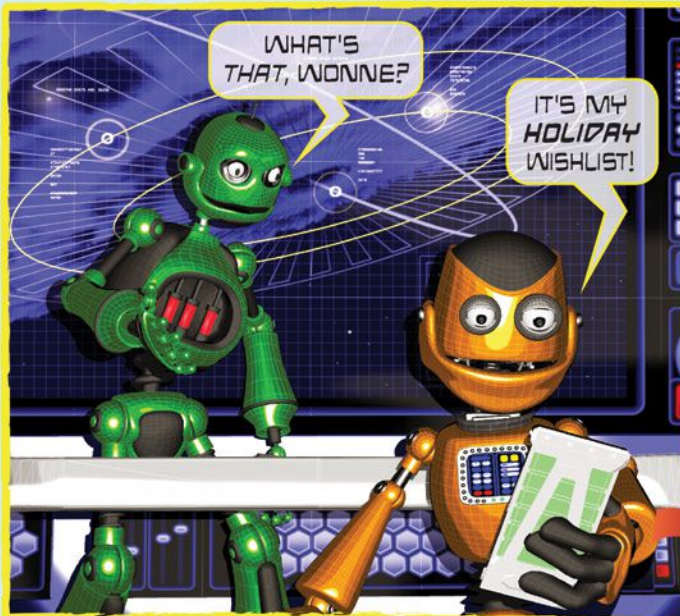
Gradius III

THE BINARY TWINS™

STARRING
WONNE + ZHEERO



ZHEERO MAKES HUGE WISHLISTS FOR HIS BIRTHDAYS AND HOLIDAYS. HE'S OFTEN DISAPPOINTED.



WONNE FOCUSES HIS WISHLISTS ON A FEW GOOD GIFTS. HE'S MORE CONTENT.

**THIS ISSUE'S TOPIC:
DON'T BE GREEDY!**

IT'S EASY TO WANT IT ALL, BUT BEING GREEDY IS UNFAIR TO OTHERS. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED ON BIRTHDAYS OR HOLIDAYS. KEEP YOUR WISHLIST SIMPLE.

**DON'T BE A "ZHEERO," BE A HERO!
THAT'S HOW THE GAME OF LIFE IS WON!**

little Editors' Choice 2017



Isabella



Brody



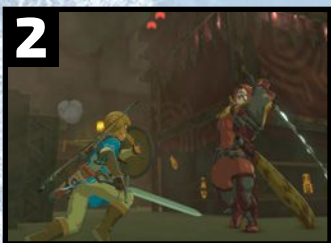
Super Mario Odyssey - Switch

A breath-taking, colorful experience, Super Mario Odyssey was at the height of my expectations this year and lived up to its promise. The entire game is a magnificent rollercoaster of fun, joy, and brilliance in one humble package.

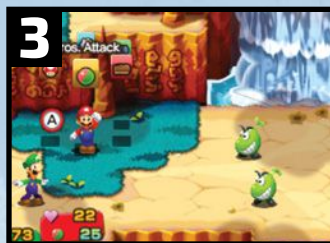


Pokemon Sun Ultra - 3DS

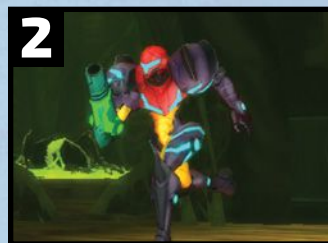
The original came out late last year but I played it more than any other game in 2017! Plus it's getting the Ultra update on Nov. 17! It has a great balance between being easy to figure out but also challenging. I think it is the best Pokemon game to date!



Zelda: Breath of the Wild
Switch



Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga+Bowser's Minions - 3DS



Metroid: Samus Returns
3DS



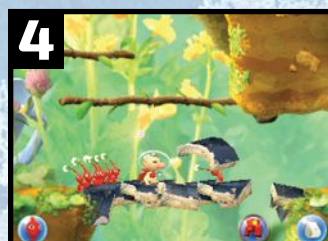
Cuphead
Xbox One



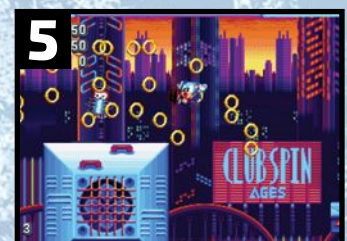
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Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
Switch



Hey! Pikmin
3DS



Sonic Mania
Xbox One

little Editors' Choice 2017



Hannah



Aiden



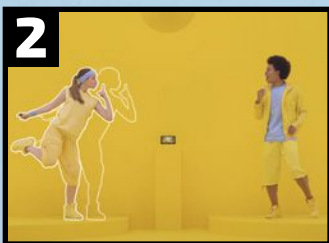
1 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe - Switch

This is my favorite game because I really love racing games. There are new maps in the deluxe version. There are better controls in this new version. The best part of all is there are tons of characters to choose from.

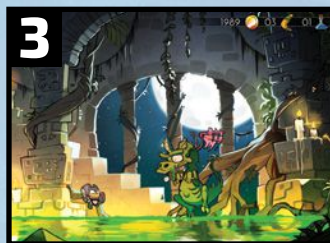


1 Super Mario Odyssey - Switch

This is my favorite game because there are many places to explore. I like when Mario can throw his cap and become the character he throws it at. I had so much fun with this game and you will too!



2 1-2 Switch
Switch



3 Wonderboy: The Dragon's
Trap - Switch



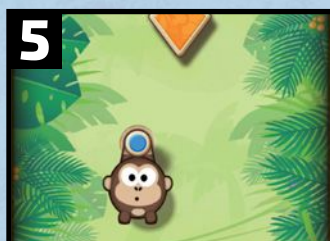
2 Zelda: Breath of the Wild
Switch



3 Madden 18
PS4



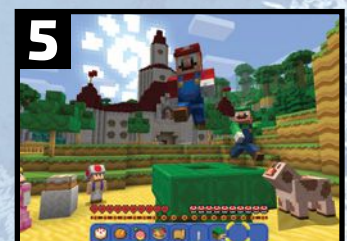
4 Snipperclips
Switch



5 Sling Kong
Mobile



4 Splatoon 2
Switch

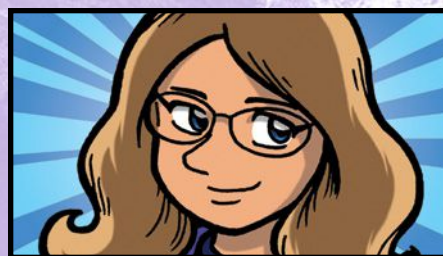


5 Minecraft: Switch Edition
Switch

BIG Editors' Choice 2017



Martin



Shelly



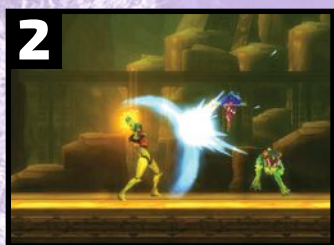
1 Super Mario Odyssey - Switch

Super Mario's latest adventure on the Switch is absolute perfection! I haven't had this much fun with a game in a long time! From the graphics to the sound to the perfect controls, everything about Super Mario Odyssey is a joy to experience!

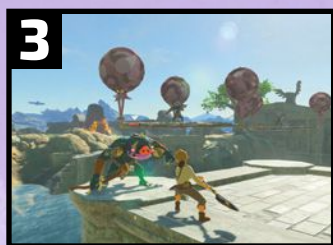


1 Super Mario Odyssey - Switch

This game is my top pick for the year because it made me feel like a kid again. I laughed at the cuteness, and was in awe at the beauty of the graphics. This game is truly a gem!



2 Metroid: Samus Returns
3DS



3 Zelda: Breath of the Wild
Switch



2 Poochy & Yoshi's Woolly World - 3DS



3 Puyo Puyo Tetris
Switch



4 Snipperclips
Switch



5 Super Cat Bros./Tales
Mobile



4 Realm Defense
Mobile



5 Super Cat Bros./Tales
Mobile

BIG Editors' Choice 2017



Jason



Tim



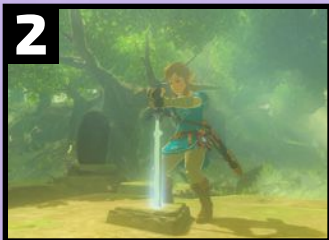
1 Super Mario Odyssey - Switch

Nintendo has outdone themselves with this game. They took everything that makes Mario great and gave him a giant sandbox to play in. Literally anyone of any skill level or age can jump in and play and that's simply awesome.



1 The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild - Switch

This was probably the most engrossing game I have ever played. I absolutely loved the new direction of the series and the freedom to choose how I wanted to play. An instant classic!



2 Zelda: Breath of the Wild
Switch



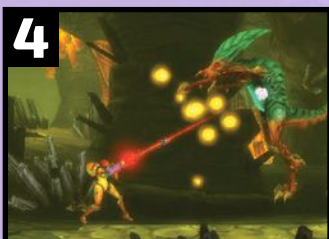
3 Crash Bandicoot: N. Sane
Trilogy - PS4



2 Super Mario Odyssey
Switch



3 Mario + Rabbids: Battle
Kingdom - Switch



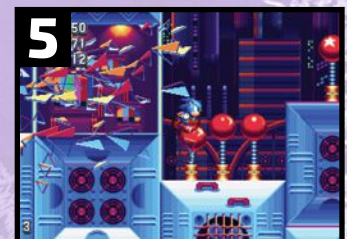
4 Metroid: Samus Returns
3DS



5 Puyo Puyo Tetris
Switch



4 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
Switch



5 Sonic Mania
PS4

BIG Editors' Choice 2017



Todd



Nathan



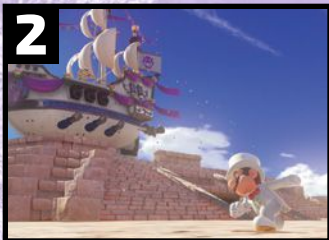
The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild - Switch

This open world version of Zelda is absolutely amazing! Every moment of this game keeps you on your toes. The graphics are extraordinary. The storyline is one of the best in Zelda history. This game is perfection.



The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild - Switch

This game is a masterpiece and I loved every part of it! From the new cooking feature to the boss fights to the dozens of shrines, it managed to feel like a whole new game while still having a Legend of Zelda "feel" throughout.



Super Mario Odyssey
Switch



Crash Bandicoot: N. Sane Trilogy - PS4



Cuphead
Xbox One



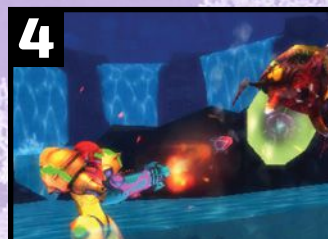
Super Mario Odyssey
Switch



Sonic Mania
PS4



Snipperclips
Switch



Metroid: Samus Returns
3DS



Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga+Bowser's Minions - 3DS

SPECIAL CONTEST!

You could win a copy of Metroid: Samus Returns!

(3DS console not included)



We want your Reviews!

Get your very own game review printed in the pages of Little Player Magazine!



Here's how you do it... Write a small review (60 words or less) about your favorite EC, E, or E10+ rated game and be sure to give us the number score and what system you play it on. Make sure to ask a parent first. A winner will be randomly selected from submissions and their review will be printed in the next issue. Good luck everyone!

Send your reviews to:
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P.O. Box 512, Wheeling IL 60090

We have a Winner!



Matthew P. who is 12 years old submitted their review for Splatoon 2 and won a copy of Super Mario Odyssey!

little REVIEW

Matthew P. (12yo)

9.0

My favorite game right now is Splatoon 2. I play it on the Switch. It's a fun and colorful game. The story is awesome with great bosses. The multiplayer is great with amazing stages. I give this game a high score so I recommend you buy it!

Hottest Gifts of 2017



Nintendo Switch Console \$299.99

The Nintendo Switch is absolutely the console to get this Holiday! Featuring innovative hardware for gaming at home or on the go, this system has more choices for Little Players than any other platform available. It's also a blast for parents too!

Super NES Classic Edition \$79.99

The Super NES Classic Edition brings 21 of the hottest 16-bit titles to your HDTV screen. It has two controllers and features the never before seen Starfox 2! This little gem is sure to please the retro gaming enthusiast in the family.



Xbox One X \$499.99

The Xbox One X is declared to be the most powerful video game console ever made! Capable of 4K Gaming, 4K Movies and even supporting HDR, the graphics are the best there is. It will even make some of your older Xbox One games look better with an available patch for the graphics.



Hottest Gifts of 2017



New Nintendo 2DS XL \$149.99

If you want all the features of a 3DS XL without the 3D, we highly recommend this awesome new system from Nintendo. 3D gaming is not advised for younger eyes so this is an excellent choice.

New Nintendo 3DS XL Super NES Edition \$199.99

This 3DS system features the awesome retro styling of the Super NES console you've heard so much about. As a bonus it comes with the original Super Mario Kart!



Super Mario Odyssey \$59.99

Super Mario is back for what many are calling the game of the year! Packed with fun-filled action for all ages, this is the game you will not want to miss this Holiday season!



Metroid: Samus Returns \$39.99

Want to have an intergalactic and epic adventure on the go? Join Samus on her quest to save the galaxy in this amazing and highly regarded entry for the Nintendo 3DS!



The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild \$59.99

If you haven't played it yet and love action, adventure and great storytelling... This is the one game that will deliver it all and much more!

Hottest Gifts of 2017



Sonic Mania
\$19.99

Sonic is back in this retro-styled reboot and the action is faster than ever! Run through the levels collecting rings and defeat Dr. Eggman once and for all!



Forza Motorsport 7
\$59.99

The hottest game exclusively on Xbox One is full of incredible racing excitement and thrills. Pick from over 700 cars and even modify your ride along the way! Start your engines!



HORI PS4 Wired Mini Gamepad
\$29.99

HORI has a great solution for Little Players with a PS4 that can't quite handle the standard controller. This mini Gamepad is perfect for smaller hands and is easy on the budget!



Gaming Gift Cards
\$20 - \$100

Nothing thrills a gamer like getting new games and downloadables. These gift cards are a perfect way to enable younger players to purchase digital content without using a grown up's credit card. You can easily find them at most retailers that carry other gift cards.

Hottest Gifts of 2017



Super Mario Odyssey Cappy Hat
\$19.99

Throw on this nifty red Cappy in real life and the Mario in you will take control! Made to be one size fits all. Loads of fun selfies await!

Super Mario Level Up Board Game
\$19.99

Taking a break from the screen, yet you still want to play with Mario and the gang? Check out this cool new board game featuring the characters you love!



Pikachu “Stealing Coin” Piggy Bank
\$24.99

Place a coin on the yellow disc and Pikachu will grab it and keep it safe for you. Not only is this totally cute, it will help you save for your favorite games!



Poke Plushies
\$11.99 each

Who doesn't want to capture a Pokemon in real life? Now you can! These cute and adorable plushies are available in over 20 popular Pokemon characters!

BIG & little Reviews

Meet the Crew

BIG Players

SHELLY ALESSI



Shelly is very excited because Super Mario Odyssey has finally arrived! She has waited all year for this game, and it's everything she hoped for and more! Staying inside on a cold day playing games is her idea of fun!

JASON KAPLAN



Jason wishes he had more free time, so he could play Super Mario Odyssey, Metroid: Samus Returns, and the new Pokemon titles more in depth. Nintendo has it going on this holiday season!

NATHAN ALESSI



Between college and work, Nathan spends his time trying to 100% Zelda: BotW and master the challenges of Cuphead on Xbox One. Super Mario Odyssey is also one of his new favorite games of the year!

MARTIN ALESSI



Martin is overjoyed that Super Mario Odyssey is getting the love it deserves. He has always been a huge fan of Nintendo video games and is excited that 2017 was such a fantastic year for the Big N!

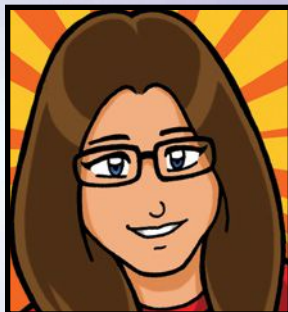
little Players

ISABELLA OCAMPO



Isabella has really been having loads of fun with Super Mario Odyssey, yet Zelda:BotW still holds a special place in her heart. She'll be keeping busy with so many great games for the holiday season!

HANNAH FRIEDMAN



Hannah is currently in ballet and is looking forward to the holidays. She is working really hard in school and loves her teachers. Hannah has been playing Township on the iOS and 1-2 Switch with her friends.

BRODY PATTERSON



Brody has settled into middle school just fine and just missed getting straight A's. He has been having fun playing Cuphead with his father and was actually the first in the family to beat one of the boss enemies.

AIDEN FRIEDMAN



Aiden is active in Fantasy Football and Basketball for his school. He is finishing up his fall soccer season as goalie and is undefeated. Aiden is loving Super Mario Odyssey and is currently playing Madden 18.

BIG & little Reviews

Super Mario Odyssey



Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Nintendo
Systems: Switch
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 10/27/2017
ESRB Rating: E10+
Content Descriptors:
Cartoon Violence, Comic Mischief



10

PERFECT SCORE!

BIG REVIEW

10

MARTIN

I personally have never given any game a perfect score before. It's just that incredible! The visuals and sound are obviously amazing, but what makes this game so special is the flawless controls and game play that is easy to grasp, yet full of depth. Kids or anyone for that matter, will be having a blast within minutes of pressing start until the very end. SMO is pure, nonstop fun!

little REVIEW

10

ISABELLA

This game was an incredible "odyssey" through one of the greatest works of Nintendo! The Kingdoms imagined were vast, broad and colorful, ranging from various landscapes and environments to explore. Nearly everything can be interacted with. The level design is ingenious and brilliantly bizarre, and anticipation to see the next one globetrotting adventure is an adventure on its own!

BIG REVIEW

10

SHELLY

Having highly anticipated this game all year, it is more awesome than I expected. Adding the character Cappy to an already popular franchise has made the game more fun and engaging. You use the cap for your moves and to control objects and living things. The controls are easy to learn, and the graphics are stunning, a perfect 10!

little REVIEW

10

AIDEN

I love this game because Mario can use his cap to transform into many things. The object of the game is to collect moons, so you can upgrade the Odyssey ship to travel to different locations. The controls feel so smooth when I play the game. I recommend this game to players who like Mario adventure games.

BIG & little Reviews

Pokken Tournament DX



Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Bandai Namco
Systems: Switch
Players: Single-player, Multiplayer
Release Date: 9/22/2017
ESRB Rating: E10+
Content Descriptors:
Fantasy Violence



7.7

Average
Score

BIG REVIEW

8.0

JASON

I'm not a huge fan of fighting games but I enjoyed this one. I really liked how it eases you into the controls and the flow of the game. By the time you get a feel for it all the modes are available. You can easily spend tons of time getting all the unlockable content. Plus, there's online play too. Matchmaking is easy, and I didn't have any issues with lag.

little REVIEW

8.0

HANNAH

This is a game where you can battle with different Pokémon. You can name and customize your human character and then pick a Pokémon. There is a tutorial and training area where you can practice. There is a lot of reading, but it has info you need to know too. You can battle with friends or people around the world.

BIG REVIEW

7.9

NATHAN

Pokkén Tournament DX is a fun and detailed fighting game set in the Pokémon universe. The visuals are absolutely amazing, but the gameplay is rather complex for what I believe should've been simplified. Learning combo moves is a must, and if you only play by button-mashing, you'll lose in record time.

little REVIEW

7.0

AIDEN

This game is interesting because it is a street fighter version with Pokémon characters. There are a lot of controls to make the battles happen. I like how fast the game can move. The graphics are good for this type of genre. You can customize your trainer as well as the Pokémon to battle. This is a must have for Pokémon fans.

BIG & little Reviews

Metroid: Samus Returns



Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: Mercury Stream Entertainment
Systems: 3DS
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 9/15/2017
ESRB Rating: E10+
Content Descriptors: Animated Blood, Fantasy Violence, Mild Suggestive Themes



9.2

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

9.8

MARTIN

I love the Metroid series and this reboot has gone beyond all my expectations! The game play is action packed and filled with puzzles and mysteries. It is one of the best looking 3DS game to date. The music is moody and atmospheric, and I found myself pausing just to listen to it. By far, this is the best portable game I have ever played!

little REVIEW

8.0

ISABELLA

Metroid: Samus Returns is a breath-taking new installment, gritty and dystopian in every sense. You are dropped nearly immediately into a dark, dirty world filled with challenging enemies. You are brought down to your barest, weakest wits in order to conquer this alien new terrain, forcing younger players to test their wills, not much different from the original NES games.

BIG REVIEW

9.5

JASON

This is a new take on the 1991 Metroid II and also the series in general. Samus has new moves such as the ability to shoot anywhere and even a melee counter attack. The graphics are great, the controls are spot on, the music is wonderful, and most of the time the difficulty is just challenging enough without being frustrating.

little REVIEW

9.5

BRODY

I found the old school style of Metroid: Samus Returns to be fun and really, really challenging. It's like my dad says it was for him with the original Metroid when he was younger. It does get the best of you but not so much that it makes you want to quit. You just want to try harder.

BIG & little Reviews

Mario & Luigi Superstar Saga+Bowser's Minions



Publisher: Nintendo
Developer: ALPHADREAM
Systems: 3DS
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 10/6/2017
ESRB Rating: E
Content Descriptors: Mild Cartoon Violence, Mild Suggestive Themes



8.5

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

8.0

SHELLY

This game is fun to play because you must control both Mario and Luigi on their adventures. Learning to move them together was tricky at first, but you get the hang of it. The Bros. attacks are really fun and powerful enough to help you defeat enemies. The game controls really well and the graphics are good.

little REVIEW

9.0

ISABELLA

This incredible reimagining of the first title in the Mario & Luigi series is beautifully choreographed and built, with vivid worlds and enemies. The fighting is addictive and smooth with an “easy to learn, difficult to master” stance that guides you through the progressive toughness of the journey.

BIG REVIEW

9.4

NATHAN

As a fan of the Superstar Saga series, playing this addition to the series felt refreshing and nostalgic. The control schemes remain simplistic and the timing on certain attacks was surprisingly easy. I had a lot of fun playing through this title and would recommend it to fans of the previous Superstar Saga games.

little REVIEW

7.5

AIDEN

I like this game because it is puzzle/adventure type of game. When you fight the enemy, you can level up Mario and Luigi. The graphics are really good even in the 2D Mode. When you go around the worlds you can talk to civilians to get advice. I recommend this game to gamers who like handheld Mario games.

BIG & little Reviews

Simon's Cat Crunch Time



Publisher: Strawdog Publishing
Developer: Strawdog Publishing
Systems: Android, iOS
Players: Single-player
Release Date: 6/27/2017
ESRB Rating: E10+
Content Descriptors: Infrequent / Mild Cartoon or Fantasy Violence



7.4

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

SHELLY

8.5

This game is a classic 3 match game, but with some cool differences. You must match cat treats to feed the cats, give milk to kittens, and defeat menacing enemies. The game is easy to learn, and the graphics are fun. You also get bonus items which help to make clearing the cat treats easier as the levels progress.

little REVIEW

HANNAH

7.0

This game involves matching the same cat treats to feed hungry cats. There are TONS of levels with all of them different. You need to finish the level before you run out of moves. It is very easy at first, then gets more challenging as you move in the game. I would recommend this for everybody who loves match games.

little REVIEW

ISABELLA

7.0

This charming little game follows a sketchy, cutesy comic-book style throughout all of it. The art style may be one of its only merits, however, as it functions as a crossover between the common mobile formula into one polished and renowned package without being too original. Nevertheless, it's a fun play for downtime.

little REVIEW

BRODY

7.0

Simon's Cat Crunch Time is your typical connect the pieces type game. It can be a fun time waster but I feel like it is too much like so many other games out there already. It also starts out way too easy then jumps to being way too hard and frustrating. Try it if you want something new to play but there are other options just as good.

BIG & *little* Reviews



Nintendo Switch

Launch Date: March 3, 2017

Current Price: \$299.99

The Nintendo Switch may be in its early stages, but it's really the only system that offers tons of kid-friendly content. If that isn't enough to sway you, it is the only hybrid console available that can be played at home and on the go.

9.3

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

9.8

MARTIN

The Switch is hands down, the absolute best system out there for younger players! It's been out for less than a year and the highly acclaimed game library surpasses anything PS4 or XO can offer for kids. The portable feature is really cool but battery life may be an issue. Nintendo Switch totally rocked 2017!

little REVIEW

9.0

ISABELLA

The Switch is truly a fresh breath of air from Nintendo. It's interface and controls are polished, smooth and crisp, allowing a savory experience for any age of player. There are very little complications to be had with the device. Problems only may arise with the motion control functionality that keeps it from a perfect score.

BIG REVIEW

9.5

TIM

If you're looking for the most kid-friendly, family-orientated content, the Nintendo Switch is the best choice without question. Since launching in March, there has been a steady flow of games released perfect for any little player! Not only is it the best home-console for kids, but it also doubles as a portable system. Just undock it, place it in a case, and take it with you. It's that easy.

little REVIEW

9.0

AIDEN

What makes this system the best is how you can use the little Joy-cons to play the game. Another good thing about the system is how it is portable, and you can play anywhere. I like how you can play the game from portable to TV instantly. The charge is very fast on this system. I recommend buying this console.

BIG & little Reviews



Xbox One X/S

Latest Launch Date: November 7, 2017

Current Price: \$299.99 - \$499.99

Microsoft went with a different strategy this generation. The Xbox One S experience is centered around being a home-media device along with a gaming machine. With the release of the new Xbox One X, it is also the most powerful system ever created capable of native 4K gaming.

7.5

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

TIM

6.0

While I love booting up my Xbox One for its exclusive content, there is almost no E-rated software available for kids. It's almost all teen and mature content. The XO does shine in one particular category however, home theater integration. It offers the best online service for streaming digital content. It's fast and reliable. If that is something you enjoy, the Xbox One might be a good choice.

little REVIEW

ISABELLA

7.5

The XBOX One, graphically and game-play wise, triumphs over its predecessors, able to display astonishing game playful and incredibly, precise details. However, this is not it's saving grace as it only offers a specific array of games, little to none being family friendly. Its functions are far too complicated for a family device.

BIG REVIEW

TODD

8.5

The Xbox One is a very powerful machine. With 4K entering the mix, Microsoft is sure to keep up with the technology and to ensure a console that has intense graphics and long playable storylines. There is much debate on Xbox One vs. PS4, but with Microsoft, you are sure to get your money's worth.

little REVIEW

BRODY

8.0

I like the Xbox One and think it's a good system. I miss the Kinect features and like using it for watching TV or Movies. On the downside, there are not a lot of kids games and sometimes you have to wait a long time for the game to install or download updates. Overall the system is powerful and does a lot of cool things.

BIG & little Reviews



PlayStation 4/Pro

Latest Launch Date: November 10, 2016

Current Price: \$299.99 - \$399.99

Sony's PS4 is a solid choice with a user base of over 60 million! You won't find a lot of kid-friendly software available, but it does offer 4K gaming and upscaling if you go with the Pro version of the console.

6.8

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

6.0

JASON

Sony hasn't done the best job this year showing love to all the Little Players out there. There's a ton of sports and racing games and not too much else. Hopefully their release of the Mini Wired PS4 controller will be a start for more games for kids. In any case the PS4 has a large hill to climb to catch the 3DS and the Switch.

little REVIEW

6.5

HANNAH

I don't have a lot of things I love about the PS4. It's not that different from other modern console systems. You can change your home screen, but it plays creepy music at the home screen. The graphics, sound and color options are interesting on some games. It's not my most favorite system to play but its better than some older ones.

BIG REVIEW

6.5

TIM

While the PS4 is a little better in terms of kid-friendly content than the Xbox One, those releases are far and few between. There were a couple amazing games released this year geared towards younger players, but just like Microsoft's console, I can't recommend it for gaming for younger players. The PS4's target audience seems to be teens and adults.

little REVIEW

8.5

AIDEN

The PlayStation 4 is great because the graphics are awesome when I am playing a game. Two of my favorite games on the PS4 are Rocket League and Madden '17. The controller fits in my hand nicely and I like the feel of it. You can change your background in settings which is a cool feature.

BIG & little Reviews



New Nintendo 3DS XL

Latest Launch Date: July 28, 2017

Current Price: \$149.99 - \$199.99

Nintendo 3DS has been around for quite awhile but they manage to keep it fresh with system variants and plenty of quality games to play. Since the 3D feature is an issue for younger players, be sure to check out the New Nintendo 2DS XL which plays the entire 3DS library in 2D.

8.7

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

MARTIN

9.5

While the 3DS has been around for quite some time, its library of games keeps getting better and better. With many variations and the new 2DS XL to choose from, there is something for everybody. iOS and Android devices may be more powerful, but the 3DS is still my top choice for portable gaming due to its great games.

little REVIEW

ISABELLA

7.8

Though a beloved statue, the 3DS pales in comparison to the technology of today, as its gritty graphics have not aged well. However, it is flexible and convenient for use, and very durable when put up against the fragile Switch. It is better suited for casual play, as it is daunted by smoother graphics, often lagging when too much is on the screen at once.

BIG REVIEW

TODD

8.5

The 3DS is definitely a groundbreaking portable gaming device. You are able to play games in 3D without glasses. However, it does get to be a headache sometimes playing games in 3D. Most times I'm playing the games in 2D. I would not recommend children using the 3D option, the best bet is to purchase the 2DS XL to play the games.

little REVIEW

BRODY

9.0

The Nintendo 3DS is awesome just for being mobile yet still able to play a ton of great games. The 3D feature is something I rarely use as it is hard on my eyes. I also love that you can stream TV and movies to it! The 3DS is more powerful than you think and my favorite way to play games on the go.

BIG & little Reviews



Apple iOS

Launch Date: June 29, 2007

Current Device Price: \$429.99 - \$1079.99

Apple iOS is considered the premium platform for mobile gaming. Running on powerful hardware such as the iPhone and iPad means gaming on the go has very few limits these days. There are hundreds of thousands of games to choose from in the App store.

7.9

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

7.5

MARTIN

Apple has a powerful platform for mobile gaming yet it is not without its issues. There are thousands of quality games to choose from and many are exclusives or available first on iOS. The price of the devices may be a challenge for some families. Also, it seems as though the paid content is a bit more expensive than on Android.

little REVIEW

8.5

HANNAH

What I love about iOS mobile games is everything. Almost every game has an option to connect to social media so you can play with your friends. You can do so much on a cell phone or tablet. You can play a game anywhere, it is 100% portable. Although the screen can be small, even on a tablet, it still is a lot of fun.

BIG REVIEW

7.5

TIM

Gaming on iOS is usually a very pleasurable experience thanks to Apple's strict quality control. The biggest issue I have with iOS, is that all their devices are pricey. They make no kid-friendly priced tablets or devices. That forces mom and dad to offer up their iPhone or iPad in order to play any of its content.

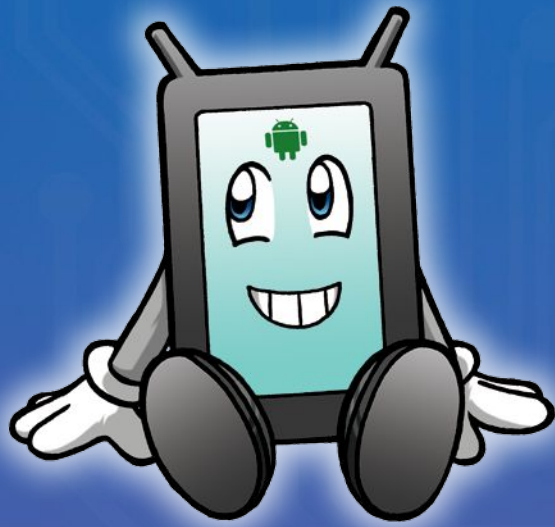
little REVIEW

8.0

BRODY

Despite the devices being more expensive, iOS is a really good platform for gaming! There is a huge variety of truly excellent games and they are not too pricey. The only issue I can think of is the games eat up your battery life and then you can't make or receive calls from your parents in an emergency.

BIG & little Reviews



Android

Launch Date: September 23, 2008
Current Device Price: \$49 - \$799.99

Android gaming has come into its own as of late. While the devices are generally not as powerful as iOS, they are definitely more affordable. The other great feature is that many of the games for Android are free to play which lets you enjoy more games on your devices.

7.9

Average Score

BIG REVIEW

JASON

8.0

The good news is that hundreds of games are going up on the Google Play Store every day and typically Android devices are less expensive. Too many of these games aren't very good though. I am excited because phones and tablets are getting more powerful, so we'll be seeing even better games on Android in the future!

little REVIEW

ISABELLA

7.5

Android is a good alternative to the pricier Apple iOS. Most devices are able to run just slightly below the level of an iPhone. They function in mostly the same way, however, having access to the internet and requiring a credit card to buy games. You also need an constant internet connection to run many games. Good as a device, not much as a gaming system.

BIG REVIEW

TODD

8.0

Android gaming is still the wave of the future. Most games on an Android device are getting more similar to console style play at an affordable price. Sometimes playing on the go is more convenient and a way to pass the time when in a line or at a store. You will see more big developers such as EA Sports and Nintendo doing more mobile gaming.

little REVIEW

AIDEN

8.0

I like playing mobile games on an Android device because there are plenty of free games you can download. Even though it is small, the controls are easy to use for any age. A couple of my favorites on Android are Paper.io and Pokémon Go. The best part of mobile games is the amount of games you can have on one device.

Game of the Year!

Super Mario Odyssey



There were a ton of great video games for kids released this year! If we had to pick just one that you simply must play, it would certainly have to be Super Mario Odyssey for the Nintendo Switch! This game is the very definition of fun and no matter what your age, you're sure to have a blast! The Legend of Zelda: Breath of Wild came in a close second but Super Mario Odyssey's more approachable game play and overall fun factor kept our Big and Little Editors coming back for more!

System of the Year!

Nintendo Switch



The Nintendo Switch released in March and its excellent library dominated the charts month after month! The unique and innovative hardware combined with the strongest launch year we've seen in ages makes it the best choice for players young and old. Not only did we get a phenomenal home console, the Switch lets you play console quality games on the go. If 2017 was any indication as to the level of quality games we can continue to expect, then it's obvious why the Switch is our top pick for kid-friendly gaming.

TAKE A BREAK!



**BUILD YOUR BODY!
BUILD YOUR MIND!**

WHETHER YOU'RE LIGHTING THE HOLIDAY WHEEL OR JOINING IN ON ANOTHER HOLIDAY TRADITION SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IS A GREAT WAY TO RELAX, HAVE FUN, AND MAKE SOME GREAT MEMORIES! SO PUT DOWN THE GAME AND BE A PART OF THE PARTY!



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