

PLAY TIME

Jane McGowan checks out a range of games that are perfect for the garden – or while you are out on tour

Crazy Golf Set

Suitable for children aged over five years, this colourful, wooden set from Little Lulubel is a fun introduction to crazy golf. It could be used at home (in the garden or lounge), at the park or on a Club site playing field. The set comprises two clubs, two 'holes', a seesaw, slope, tunnel, ramp and balls – all of which can be stored in the net bag. You can design a different course each time to keep the fun fresh. The packed set measures 67cm x 15cm x 9cm and is easy to pack and store.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £30

Contact: littlelulubel.com, 07793 822708



Professor Puzzle Outdoor Boredom Busting Box

After weeks of trying to keep the kids entertained, why not let Professor Puzzle take the strain with this fantastic collection of outdoor games. The box is filled with kit that allows you to enjoy up to 40 different challenges. Younger children can have a go at 'beanbag balance' or an obstacle course, while older ones could try their hand at juggling or disc throwing. There are even some games suitable for rainy days – such as 'memory match'. Instructions are included, and once the fun is over everything can be stashed back in the box for safekeeping.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £25

Contact: professorpuzzle.com, available from waterstones.com



Regatta Classic Games Folding Camping Table

When storage is at a premium, there is nothing better than a product that has multiple uses. This clever camping table that doubles as a games board is a prime example. Featuring a fibreboard top illustrated with grids for snakes and ladders, chess, draughts and noughts and crosses, it even comes with a die. Once the game (or meal) is over, the steel legs fold for easy storage. The table weighs just 3kg and measures 70cm x 50cm x 60cm when standing. It would be a great addition to your touring or picnicking kit – and there are some good deals to be found online too.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £50

Contact: regatta.com



Hoppin' Mad Racing Game

I am old enough to remember when 'space hoppers' were considered to be the coolest toys on the market, so I was delighted to discover this hopper set from Big Game Hunters, which is suitable for the whole family. Containing three vibrantly-coloured bouncers, the aim of the game is simple: win the race. Easier said than done as you try to hang on to your spherical mount! An inflator, instructions and a whistle to get the fun under way are also included in the pack. Great fun for picnics or parties and sure to get the heart pumping.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £29.99

Contact: biggamehunters.co.uk, 01865 392439



Personalised Family Rounders Set

Based on the outskirts of the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire, Bespoke & Oak sells wonderful wooden gifts such as this family rounders set. The pack comprises a bat, four base stakes and a traditional ball, all presented in a handy carry bag. The beautifully-crafted bat and bases can be personalised with up to 25 letters – you could choose family members' names, favourite holiday destinations, key dates etc – making them perfect gifts. Other outdoor items on sale include a stacking tower game and children's cricket set.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £57

Contact: available from notonthehighstreet.com, bespokeandoak.co.uk



Mölkky

Mölkky is a wooden skittle game that originated in Finland and is played competitively across the world. Twelve numbered pins are placed in a diamond shape and players takes it in turns to throw the Mölkky (a slightly larger stick) in an attempt to knock them down. In essence, if you knock down one pin you score the number of points displayed on it; knock over more than one and you score just one point for each! After each throw, the skittles are stood up in the places where they fell – the first player to reach 50 is the winner. Again, this can be played in the garden or any outdoor space. Accompanied by an attractive rope-handled wooden crate for storage, this is a lovely product offering a nice twist on our traditional game.

AT A GLANCE

RRP: £43.99

Contact: available from Masters Traditional Games, mastersofgames.com, 01727 855058

