

HELLO, SUMMER!



The weather is warmer, distance learning is behind us and beach days are ahead — it can only mean one thing: It's time to stock up on new summer and pool toys. "With some summer camps closed and limited family travel happening this summer, kids will be spending more time at home and in the backyard than ever before," says Westbury's Laurie Schacht, chief toy officer at the Toy Insider. "The best outdoor toys will make this summer fun and memorable while keeping kids moving and entertained." Here are this summer's must-have toys for every kid.

—Jennifer Berger

Toysmith

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE FUN THIS SEASON



FINALLY, loving your home

How to tackle home improvements you've been putting off

After weeks of sheltering in place, Long Islanders have been staring at all the things they want to do with their homes, say local builders.

HOME IS WHERE EVERYTHING IS

"They were looking at their house in a new way and thinking, You know what? I may need an office in the house because I may not be back at the office or I may be working at home two days a week," says Mitch Pally, chief executive officer of the Long Island Builders Institute, an Islandia-based trade group with 600 members. "Now the house has become the office, the school, the gym, everything else they want to do at home."

GET IN LINE

"Very busy," is how Barry Burke, owner of Best Enterprises General Contracting, which has showrooms in East Northport and Smithtown, describes work right now. "It's busy because prior to COVID, we were extremely busy and we got shut down," Burke says. "So, we have those customers, plus all-new customers who were sitting and looking at their house for three months and they've decided to call us." But there may be other delays in hiring a company to do work, says Joe Legakis, general manager of Selden-based Eastsiders. "The issue we are running into are materials not being readily available," he says. "Windows and shutters seem to be affected the most."

THE NEW NORMAL

"Currently masks and other PPE equipment are extremely easy to acquire, so we now have an ample supply in every vehicle," says Legakis.



Getty Images

"Thankfully, much of our work and even consulting can be accomplished from the exterior, so social distancing is easy to follow." Eastsiders continues to offer virtual consultations, says Legakis. But, he adds, "what has been working fantastic for us and homeowners is actually asking the homeowner to stay in the home or keeping a distance from workers while either speaking on the phone or using FaceTime or Zoom to go over their concerns, options and pricing while we are at their home."

SPECIAL FINANCING

"The bank we work with offered us a loan specific to these uncertain times," says Legakis. "Similar to some auto manufacturers, we can offer no payments and no interest for three months starting when we are completely finished with a home remodeling project and 6.99% interest for 60 months after."

IF YOU TRY ON YOUR OWN

Eastsiders sells siding, windows and cabinets over the counter or for delivery for homeowners who want to do projects on their own, says Legakis. "YouTube and the manufacturers' own websites mostly have detailed installation instructions if a homeowner chooses to take on a project on their own," he adds. "Our over-the-counter sales have been up drastically since COVID-19 began." Burke says his company is often called in to finish DIY projects gone wrong. "If you're not skilled and educated, don't do it," he says. "You'll waste a lot of money."

—Valerie Kellogg



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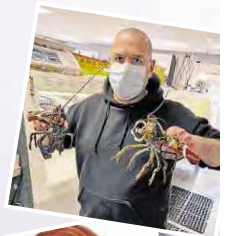
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Little Tikes



BIRDIE GOLF

Great for all ages, this backyard game combines golf and badminton. It comes with built-in stands, four easy-to-hit birdies, two clubs, one flag and a caddy pack. For ages 4 and older, \$29.99, hogwildtoys.com



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SUMMER SCHEDULE 2020

Classes begin July 6th*

Summer classes will be interrupted the week of August 3rd due to dress rehearsal schedule

Session 1

July 6th - August 27th

Monday

Mini Ballet (ages 3-4) 4:15-5:15pm
Tiny Dancer Class (18 mo.+) 5:15-6:00pm
Broadway Workshop (ages 5+) 6:00-7:00pm
Petite Contemporary (ages 5-7) 7:00-8:00pm
Junior/Tween Contemporary (ages 8-10) 8:00-9:00pm

Thursday

Jazz Funk & Flexibility (ages 4-6) 4:30-5:30pm
Jazz Funk & Flexibility (ages 7-10) 5:30-6:30pm
Petite Ballet/Lyrical (ages 5-6) 6:30-7:30pm
Jazz Funk & Flexibility (ages 11+) 7:30-8:30pm

Tuition: \$90 total for 7 week session
(\$75 for the Tiny Dancer Class)

Session 2

Royal Summer Camp

August 11th-August 27th

Join us for a royal fun time
with line dance, crafts,
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Tuition:
\$150 total for 6 sessions

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Session 3

Tuesday

August 11th - August 25th

Irish Step Level 1 (ages 4-6) 4:30-5:30pm
Irish Step Level 2 (ages 7-10) 5:30-6:30pm
Boys Hip Hop (ages 6-9) 6:30-7:30pm

Tuition:
\$40 total for the 3 week session

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