

Arts and Crafts gift ideas with Wicked Uncle!

I was recently set a blogger challenge by online retailer [Wicked Uncle](#), to purchase some arts and crafts items from their website and to then share our verdict on the items received. We were really chuffed to be asked and the boys couldn't wait to scour the Wicked Uncle website to see what took their fancy.

They were literally chomping at the bit to receive their items so, what did we choose and, most importantly, what did the boys think of them?

Who are Wicked Uncle?

[Wicked Uncle](#) pride themselves on helping solve the mystery of what to buy children of every age.

Have a clueless uncle who needs a helping hand as to what buy your kids?

At a loss yourself for ideas for kids birthday presents because they seem to have everything?

Yes?

Then Wicked Uncle are here to help!

They have scoured the world to find a really useful selection of fun, unusual and different presents for children so you don't have to! They have even tested them with their own 'Junior Testers' so they are 100% fun approved!

Wicked Uncle can gift wrap your presents, send them direct to a recipient with a handwritten birthday card and even send you a birthday reminder every year to make sure you don't forget! (Clever eh?!) These guys literally take the stress out of present purchasing.

How easy was it to use the website?

The Wicked Uncle website is literally idiot proof. My dad is pretty I.T illiterate and I think even he would be able to use it without too much bother.

The ordering process was very straight forward. The site is set up in age and gender categories, making it very straightforward to go to the age appropriate toys. I loved the fact the items are grouped into themes as well so I could narrow down what I was looking for rather than trawling through pages upon pages of 'things'. My boys love using their imaginations and being creative. Thankfully March's Wicked Uncle Blogger challenge was to review their arts and crafts offerings so this was right up our (glitter covered) alley! There was a large selection of items to choose from, some of which I had never seen before, and others that were brands I was familiar with such as Melissa & Doug.

What items did the boys

choose?

Zak: Kinetic Sand



Zak (who is 7) chose to buy some Kinetic Sand. He has wanted some of this stuff for **ages** so he was over the moon to finally be getting some. I am a bit of a worry head when it comes to messy play at home, unless it's summer and I can launch the kids out into the garden where they can get messy to their hearts content, so I was a little apprehensive about having sand indoors at home. Would my fears come to fruition?

In short, no. Thankfully indoor sand wasn't as bad as I had feared...until the toddler had a go that is.

Despite the fact it says the sand 'only sticks to itself' it does also disperse fairly easily around the house, into underwear and into hair... Moral of the story is not to let the toddler play with it indoors. My 7 year old, Zak, however, he had a whale of a time with the stuff. It's actually quite therapeutic/hypnotic and I joined in for a bit. It almost looks and feels like sinking sand, very odd but also very cool.

You can mould the sand using pots/sandpit moulds etc, that sort of thing and you can also build it up and cut it with a plastic knife. It kept Zak amused for hours and he buried some mini dinosaurs in his to become a budding paleontologist for a while.

Zak said, "I think Kinetic sand is great. I like it because it feels funny, you can do lots of things with it and you can play with it on a rainy day when you can't go outside and use the sandpit. I would give Kinetic sand 9/10 – it would have got 10/10 but I wanted blue sand and my mummy got me normal sand coloured stuff".

Silly mummy...

My only gripe is that the Kinetic sand didn't come with anything to store it in once open. I put it in an old chocolate tub (like what you get Cadbury's roses in) so the lid fits firmly and I know it isn't going to end up everywhere whilst being stored.

Kinetic sand retails at £15.95 which is quite expensive for some sand without a storage container or any tools/moulds I think but it doesn't dry out, it has longevity and, above all, the kids loved it.

Luke: Nutty Putty



Nutty Putty®

4+

Think it, make it,
... even bake it!

Rubbery when baked



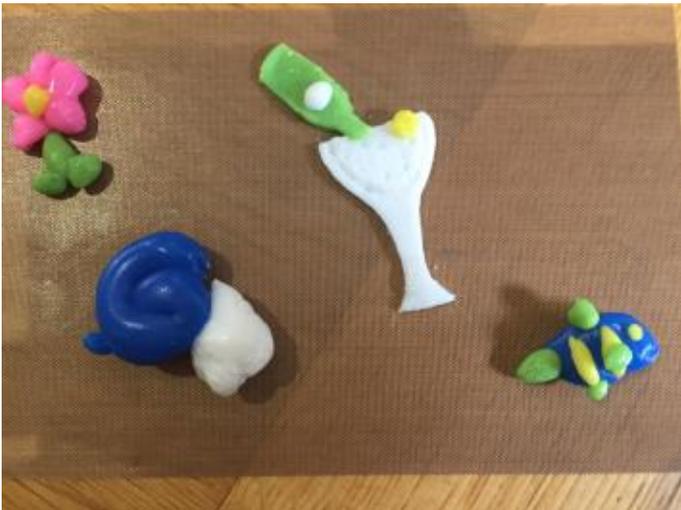
6
COLOURS

Make
your own
creations

Educational Benefits
see reverse



Alphabet
Pie®



Luke chose to get some Nutty Putty. Again, this is marketed as being (fairly) mess free and for me, it looks a million times better than the dreaded playdoh, which ends up trodden into carpets and dries out very quickly.

It's essentially a plastic based putty which can be shaped and moulded as you see fit and then you can either put it back in a sealed bag to use again another day or you can bake it in the oven for about 15 minutes to set it hard. By doing this you can make ornaments, keyrings, window decorations, the possibilities are almost endless!

The starter set we bought came with 6 different coloured putty's (you can mix the putty's together to make any other colours), an instruction book, some modelling tools and a rolling pin.

Luke set about creating some pokemon characters with it and a

fish, then Zak and Ben came and joined in and made a flower, a snail and a teddy bear (which looked like something from a horror film if truth be told!)

I had a go too and made myself a Gin and Tonic glass/bottle to stick on the window in the kitchen. I was quite proud of my efforts I have to say. Gold star for mummy, actually, just a G&T will do thanks.

The Nutty Putty starter set retails for £17.95 which isn't too bad considering what you get in the box and it really did keep the kids quiet for a long time.

Luke said, "The Nutty Putty is really cool. The colours are really bright and they stay bright even once they have come out of the oven. I liked squishing it about and making the models was good fun. I would give it 10/10".

So there we have it, the master has spoken and he thinks the stuff is awesome. As a parent, I am actually inclined to agree for once! It was good fun.

Overall, the kids loved the items received from Wicked Uncle and I was impressed with the options available on their website. It took the boys a very long time to choose what they wanted to try!

The various categories really help to pinpoint a particular theme or type of gift and you can also ensure the items you are looking at are age appropriate by filtering the search – this is one of the biggest selling points of their website I would say. I would be more than happy to recommend Wicked Uncle to friends and family You can see the full range of toys available (there are some really unusual finds!) on their website [here](#);

www.wickeduncle.com

Thank you for letting us be toy testers Wicked Uncle! We had a great time!

Disclosure: We were sent a £40 voucher to purchase some products from the Wicked Uncle website in return for this review. All words, thoughts and opinions are my own...or my children's!