

DAD DESERVES THE BEST

When I initially began writing this column, although I'd hoped it would appeal to both moms and dads, I secretly believed most men probably would have very little interest in it. What I've found out over a year later is that nothing could be farther from the truth, especially when it comes to the completely devoted and utterly dotting Staten Island dads that I've had the privilege to befriend.

OK, I haven't met many stay-at-home dads, but I have become acquainted with many who have designed flexible work schedules in order to pitch in and really take an active role in raising their children.

These dads are a pretty committed bunch who proudly wear their Daddy status like a

badge of honor. Just like us mommies, they're fully invested in their children's whirlwind of weekend activities, taking part in Daddy and Me classes and arts-and-crafts workshops and can even be found crawling through outdoor mazes and indoor tunnels at kiddie gym classes.

And these dedicated dads deserve only the best this Father's Day. For some fun Father's Day activities and gift ideas, here are some of my top picks.



MELISSA CHAPMAN-MUSHNICK

For more must-have gifts and Father's Day treats, check out Melissa Chapman-Mushnick's blog at <http://blog.silive.com/kidsinthecity/>.

TAILGATE TOSS

Check out this easy-to-learn and fun-to-play backyard game which allows dads to compete against their kids without having to "play down" or "go easy" on them!

Age appeal
Six years and older.

Price
\$84.90

How to play
Place the two game boards 25 to 30 feet away. Teams separate, much like in horseshoes, with one player from each side at a game board. Every round, a player from each team will have four beanbag tosses per turn. The two opposing players on the same side toss throw at one board, and vice versa. Teams are awarded one point for bean bags that land on the board and three points for bags that go through the hole. Play up to 11 or 21 points.

What kids will go gaga for
Being on a "level" playing field with their dad and getting the game in the logo of their favorite sports team.



Parent perks

It's the perfect "relax and unwind" game and can be played after work when the kids are looking to play, in between flips on the grill, after dinner, or right before bed!

Drawbacks
It's a bit pricey.

Overall
It's easy to transport and perfect for barbecues.

Information

Available in a variety of MLB, NFL and NCAA team logos at www.CSNStores.com. While you're checking out the site, you might just want to nab the Arctic 18-Piece Stainless Steel Barbecue Tool Set which, from tongs to kabob skewers, has everything a 'serious' Dad griller could ask for!