

Perkins Computer Center

hSoft Consulting

Top Five Techie Gifts for Mom

From tech-averse to tech-savvy and all moms in between

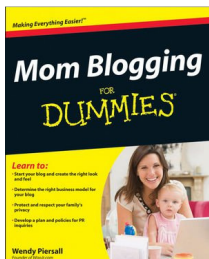
She was there during school performances, dance classes, baseball games, nightmares, broken hearts, science fair triumphs—in sickness and in health. Doesn't she deserve more than some flowers and a card? She will smile and tell you it's the thought that counts, so we're here to help you put just a little more thought into this year's Mother's Day gift. Here are our Top Five Techie Gifts for Mom.

#5: Photo Key Chains – What mother wouldn't want 100 pictures of her favorite people in her pocket? Available in a range of prices and sizes, photo key chains (and mini albums) are a great gift option for moms who are always asking after photographs of her kids and grand-kids. You might want to pre-load the device to get her started, but they're very easy to use.

The Heart Keychain from Nextar with a 1.5" screen is \$14.99 on Amazon.com, has a rechargeable built-in battery and stores up to 60 images.



With a list price of \$19.99, Coby's Cliphanger Key Chain also stores 60 images and uses a rechargeable battery. It has a USB port, which makes it easier to transfer files, and a digital clock display.



#4: Mom Blogging for Dummies Book \$24.99 –

The population of mom bloggers is growing at a stunning pace and they boast an audience of more than 23 million women reading, posting, or commenting on blogs every week. This fun and friendly guide targets moms who are looking to become a savvy blogger, build a personal brand, earn free products to review or give away, or make some extra cash through ad revenue. Named by Nielsen as one of the most influential moms online, author Wendy Piersall helps you determine the right business model for your blog and then create a professional, in-demand personal brand.

#3: Gorillapod \$21.99 -- The one thing that can make your mother's digital camera experience that much better? A Gorillapod by Joby. This great camera tripod can be bent and manipulated into any shape necessary to steady a digital camera for taking pictures. You can even use the legs to wrap around a tree branch, bar, or other protrusion for the ultimate in convenience. It's especially useful outdoors; models available for both point-and-shoot cameras as well as for DSLRs.



#2: Sonos ZonePlayer S5 Music System --She wants music in the kitchen, bedroom, family room, garden, and bathroom. But who has the time--or money--to wire the house for sound? You do! Sweep in with a ZoneBridge (\$99) and the Sonos ZonePlayer S5 (\$399). Just plug the ZoneBridge into the router to make the S5 a portable, wireless music system that she can pick up and move anywhere. All it needs is power to deliver iTunes, satellite radio, the MP3s on her computer, and more--right to where she happens to be standing. Bonus: She can order up a playlist and control the ZonePlayer from anywhere, using an app on the iPhone.



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Memorial Day Info

- ✓ Waterloo, N.Y. is considered the birthplace of this holiday because the people of Waterloo were the first people to proclaim a day on May 5, 1866 to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War. They closed their businesses and placed flowers and flags on the graves of their soldiers. Flags were flown at half-mast.
- ✓ Non-profit group "Spirit of America" helps US troops carry out humanitarian projects around the world through donations of much needed goods and supplies. www.spiritofamerica.net
- ✓ "Operation Kids for Troops": Write directly to military men and women stationed overseas through this site or learn how your local school can participate in sending mail to troops. You can submit the names and addresses of loved ones (serving overseas in a combat area) to the mailing list. <http://www.kidz4troops.org/>

Top Five Techie Gifts for Mom (continued)

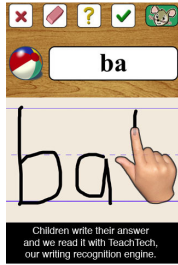
#1: Neat Desk Scanner \$400 -- Give your neat-freak geek or super multi-tasking mom an ultimate gift by introducing her to the Neat Desk Scanner. It's a fun way to zip through paper clutter! To use, just drop a pile of receipts, bills, papers, or business cards into the feeder and push the PDF button. It buzzes through them all and creates digital versions of what was once littering up the counters, storing them as PDFs on her hard drive--or her NAS device, if she's that geeky--where she can easily find them but never has to tidy them up again.



Quick Hits: Best educational tech for kids

Teach Me Apps on Smartphones:

Age-appropriate addition, subtraction, spelling, and sight words. Math and spelling challenges require your child to write the answer with their finger to improve penmanship. The app gently corrects wrong answers and allows for redemption. Fun backgrounds such as a farm, the ocean, and a pirate cove are part of a sticker reward system.



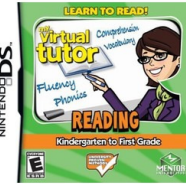
LeapFrog's Tag Reader:

Incredibly popular, for a reason. The Tag Reader is a special pen that the kids use to trace over the words in Tag books. The pen reads the words aloud, helping the kids understand the story. LeapFrog provides titles to read with well-known characters such as Disney princesses, Dora, and characters from Pixar's Toy Story. Yes, your children can argue over who gets to read, too.



My Virtual Tutor Nintendo DS:

Using games, sounds, and interactive tools, it encourages kids to become familiar with beginning word sounds. My Reading Tutor does all this and lets your children record their own stories using the built-in microphone on the DS.



Mother's Day Brunch Recipes

Scrambled Eggs with Crème Fraîche and Caviar in Egg Cups

- 8 large brown or white eggs (or a mix)
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Crème fraîche or sour cream, for serving
- Salmon roe or sevruga caviar (or both), for serving

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Hold an egg in one hand, tapered end up. Place an egg topper over the top, and squeeze, using a scissor motion. Discard top of egg shell. Pour egg into a medium bowl. Repeat with remaining eggs. Boil shells 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to a wire rack. Let dry, cut sides down. Whisk together eggs and cream. Season with salt and pepper. Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add eggs. Using a rubber spatula, stir to create curds and slide eggs from edges to center. Cook until set, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer eggs to a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2-inch plain round tip. Pipe eggs into shells. Transfer shells to egg cups. Top with crème fraîche and caviar.



Bacon, Egg, and Toast Cups

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 8 slices white or whole-wheat sandwich bread
- 6 slices bacon
- 6 large eggs
- Coarse salt and ground pepper

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly butter 6 standard muffin cups. With a rolling pin, flatten bread slices slightly and, with a 4 1/4-inch cookie cutter, cut into 8 rounds. Cut each round in half, then press 2 halves into each muffin cup, overlapping slightly and making sure bread comes up to edge of cup. Use extra bread to patch any gaps. Brush bread with remaining butter. In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium, until almost crisp, 4 minutes, flipping once. (It will continue to cook in the oven.) Lay 1 bacon slice in each bread cup and crack an egg over each. Season with salt and pepper. Bake until egg whites are just set, 20 to 25 minutes. Run a small knife around cups to loosen toasts. Serve immediately.

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