

Hello all!

Firstly, thank you for your interest, I am genuinely excited about this program and cannot wait to show your kids how fun and positive skateboarding can be. That being said, I feel I should do all that I can to ensure the students are as safe as possible. What follows is a kind of a buyer's guide I suppose, from my experienced point of view. There is one thing I cannot stress enough, and that is this: nothing will hinder a student's progress like a low-quality board. More on that below.

Things to keep in mind when buying a skateboard and skateboarding shoes for your child:

- Quality skateboards are expensive, you're going to be looking at spending around \$120. I highly recommend going to a skate shop and not a bigger department/toy store to buy a board. Boards at larger stores are often much cheaper, but they are also made from cheaper materials, often by companies that are not solely focused on skateboarding. Red flags to avoid are plastic trucks (the truck refers to the parts that hold the wheels and the deck together), and a plastic wrapping around the entire product. These lower quality boards are difficult to learn on, not to mention dangerous.

- One reason these boards are often dangerous is the bearings in the wheels spinning drastically slower than bearings should. This makes it harder to obtain and keep momentum. If a student learns on such bearings, and then upgrades to quality ones, they will all of a sudden be going much faster than they are used to, and quite frankly they likely won't know what to do and might fall. The wheels on lower quality boards are usually hard plastic, as opposed to polyurethane, and thus they tend to slip easily on concrete. This is not something you want, trust me. The bushings are usually also hard plastic, which means no matter how much you loosen the trucks, when you lean one way or the other, you won't physically turn nearly as much as you should, if at all. (Bushings are the rubber/plastic part of the truck that bends when the skater turns.)

- Skateboarding shoes are well worth it for the serious or experienced skater. That being said, for a beginner, it is not necessary to buy professional skateboarding shoes. The most important thing is that they

have a flat bottom and are made from relatively durable material. A pair of Converse Chuck Taylor's will do just fine. Mids or high-top shoes offer more support as well as more ankle protection.

- The same can be said of pads, I think for our purposes the high end ones are unnecessary. If you have a set from any other activity that has elbow and knee pads, and wrist guards, that should work just fine.

- Finally, it will benefit most of you to ask for soft bushings. These will be much easier for light skaters to break in.

Please understand I am not trying to make you spend more money, but rather ensure your child has as much fun as possible, while remaining as safe as possible. I am including a 25 percent off coupon to Launch Boardshop to hopefully ease any financial stress. Thanks for your interest, I look forward to skating with your kids in the spring!

- Max Davis

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *

LAUNDRY
||:BOARDSHOP:|
* 1200 S. UNIVERSITY
(734)827-5283
* 25% OFF COUPON *