

## Trends & toys: Play time goes green

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for *The Northwestern*

We tell our kids to recycle, to shut off the water when they are brushing their teeth, and not to stand in front of the refrigerator with the door wide open. So why not take the same earth-friendly approach to choosing their toys?

There are different designations for “eco-friendly” products. And the terms, which range from “natural,” “organic” or “green” to “Phthalate free” can be confusing. So be sure to do your homework — the planet will thank you!

### **Xeko trading card game by Matter Group**

There are no football players or baseball stars on these trading cards. Xeko cards feature the stars of the eco-system, from endangered species to natural resources. Kids ages 8 and older play the game by collecting and trading the cards, which are printed on recycled materials with soy-based inks, to create the strongest “Xeko-system.”

Price: Starter packs, \$20-\$30; booster packs, \$4

Web: [www.xekoshop.com](http://www.xekoshop.com)

