

**Photos by
Damon Lee/DN**

From left: Not everybody likes to meet Santa. Levi Glaser, 1 1/2 years old, cries as his mother, Deb Glaser, comforts him at Gateway Mall. Getting photographed with Santa is a traditional part of the mall Santa experience for many children like Michael Springer, 2, and his 7-year-old brother Jacob. Matt Juengel, 9, lists the items he wants Santa to bring him for Christmas this year. Juengel's list included an 18-speed bike, a bowling bag and a toy train.



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Dear Santa

Lincoln children start making lists for the fat, jolly guy in the red suit

By Karen Okamoto
Staff Reporter

"Who is that?" a mother asked her young son as they stopped alongside a booth at Gateway Shopping Center.

"Santa Claus!" the son screamed, as he pointed to that man whose belly shakes like a bowl full of jelly when he laughs.

On a recent weekend, youngsters lined up to sit on the lap of the man who fills their Christmas wish lists.

Some children ran right up to St. Nick; others were shy and had to be coaxed by their parents.

But whatever the case, they had their wish lists.

Some had long lists and were more than willing to share them.

Bruce Ruhmann, 3, son of Kurt and Teresa Ruhmann, was one of those children.

"I want It from the Pit, Forbidden Bridge, Aladdin game ... Super Dog, a new coat, a jacket," he said. "I want the Batmobile, Batjet, Manbat.

"Maybe I'll take ... Penguin. Oh, I might want Batcave, Robin, new roller skates that won't wake Uncle Mike up."

Michael Schutz, 4, son of Jim and Wendy Schutz, also had a long list. He started his list with two Transformers, Power Rangers, Jurassic Park dinosaurs and Thomas the Tank Engine.

Then looking up at his mother, he said, "Come on, tell me what else."

After a brief pause, he added to his

list trains, books, Tinker Toys, Dinoblocks and Legos.

Other children said they had long lists but couldn't remember everything on them.

"I wanna plastic race car," said Brent Contreras, 4, son of Tony and Deb Contreras. "I don't know anything else on my list."

But some children wanted only one or two things.

Keegan Danaher, 8, son of Kelly and Sheree Danaher, said he wanted Game Gear, a video game unit.

Jordan Lake, 5, son of Jeff and Diana Lake, said he wanted the game Crossfire.

Desi Brogan, 13, daughter of Mary Brogan, said she wanted a ferret and a futon bed.

Some siblings hoped for the same things.

Shane Gorey, 11, and Chase Gorey, 7, sons of Linda Gorey, both said they wanted Rollerblades. But Shane said he also would like any team hat.

Cassidy Glenn, 9, and Audrey Glenn, 5, daughters of James and Linda Glenn, both said they would like a jewelry maker, among other things.

Some items were popular not only among siblings, but others as well.

Barney was popular.

Kailey Phillips, 2, daughter of Ron and Karen Phillips, said she wanted more of the purple dinosaur.

Julie Vacek, 6, daughter of Les and Nancy Vacek of Wilber, said she

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"Maybe I'll take ... Penguin. Oh, I might want Batcave, Robin, new roller skates that won't wake Uncle Mike up."

—Bruce Ruhmann

— " " —
would like a Barney movie and a Barney towel and washcloth.
Bicycles also were popular.
Matt Juengel, 9, son of Jim and Becky Juengel, said he wanted an 18-speed bike.
Matt's sister, Cassie, 5, also said she wanted a new bike.
Michael Towle, 3, son of Ron and Faith Towle, said he wanted a "big bike — a motorcycle one."
Dolls, books, movies, clothes, sports equipment and electronic games were also included on the wish lists. The wish lists were as different as the children who made them.