

The kids worked with BKFK to develop marketing materials, and say they've been able to give their input at every stage of the product-development process. It cost about \$300 to develop the prototypes, but securing a patent and gearing up for product release hasn't cost the kids anything.

BKFK has picked up the tab. This included patent search and application, and the patent will cite the kids as sole inventors.

"BKFK doesn't charge a fee for anything they do – even when we have met for dinner!" says mom Janice Hansen.

"And they don't make any claim to the kids' idea."

In return, BKFK will take a cut from sales of Boogie2Boogie, less than 50 percent, according to Hansen.

It took 10 months to go from idea to creating a prototype, and more than two years to get the product ready for retail.

But the Hansen and Johnsen foursome already have profited.

"Now that I've invented Boogie2Boogie," says Alyssa, "I think I can do anything – even if I am a kid!"

Visit www.bkfk.com, call 203-321-1226 or email info@bkfk.com.

FIRE, WATER, AIR TOYS TAKE GRAND PRIZES by Mike Drummond

This summer has been a busy one for the folks at By Kids For Kids, who had their hands full handing out awards. From a record 10,000 submissions, BKFK named three grand prize winners of the third annual "Invent-a-Toy" World Games in June. An awards ceremony was held in New York at the Licensing International Expo. The toy competition is designed to ignite the imaginative and entrepreneurial spirit of America's kids, and to empower all kids to create the future toys and games "they really want." Mattel was the competition's sponsor.

The 2007 "Invent-a-Toy" World Games grand prize winners:

Eddie Boler, 8, from Richardson, Texas. Eddie invented Xoomball – a game using air pumps, Ping-Pong balls and a specially designed game board with holes. The object of the game is to blow the Ping-Pong balls using the air pumps just the right way to get the balls into the holes.

Brooke Rogers – a kindergartner from Wilton, Calif. Brooke invented Kipsy's Campfire Campout at the age of 4. Her invention is a toy campfire that kids can play with indoors, so you can go camping even when it's raining. Battery operated, this luminous indoor campfire features sound effects such as owls and crackling fires. It also has a recording device to record your own voice (and those of your family and friends) singing campfire songs.

Russell Moore, 13, from Trumbull, Conn. He built Waterworks Building Toy, a set of pipes and tubes and connections that kids can use to build a structure to shoot water through. Russell is a "serial inventor," and defying incredible odds, was also a winner in last year's "Invent-a-Toy" competition for his "Water Tag" invention. This year's winners landed a licensing contract with BKFK, legal support to patent the invention in the winner's name (if patentable), professional expertise to bring the product to market and a \$5,000 U.S. savings bond. Each winner also named an inspirational or supportive teacher, who received a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, courtesy of BKFK.

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Photo courtesy of Scott Barnhill

"Invent-A-Toy" Grand Prize Winners Russell Moore (top), Eddie Boler (bottom left) and Brooke Rogers (bottom right).