

## The Most Anticipated Gift Under The Tree

How Holiday Purchase Behavior Becomes A Signal For Tomorrow's Consumer Priorities

Decoded from

Digital Footprints





## The Intelligence Engine Behind This Study

At BioBrain Insights, we merge human intelligence with Al-powered data intelligence to decode millions of real conversations and uncover what truly drives today's consumer decisions.

Our **hybrid model** delivers insights that are:







Current

Contextual

Actionable



#### Digital Listening

Captures real, unfiltered consumer voices across social platforms and forums to spot emerging signals early.



#### Human-Centric Research

Blends emotional depth and cultural context to translate data into stories, people recognize and trust.



#### Al-Driven Analytics

Fuses social listening, digital behavior, and sentiment Al for a 360° view of people and perceptions.

Here, Insight Isn't just found, it's engineered for impact.



## BioBrain Web Intelligence The Science of Seeing Beyond the Buzz

BioBrain web intelligence is our proprietary signal-decoding system that transforms authentic digital voices, not social chatter into decision-grade insights for brands.

## How It Works

#### Harvesting The **Real Web**

Millions of posts, reviews, communities, long-tail forums, blogs.

#### Al + Human Context Intelligence

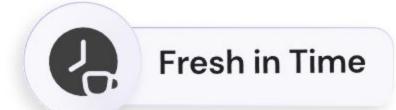
Blend of advanced Al with human insight to decode recurring Needs And Behaviors.

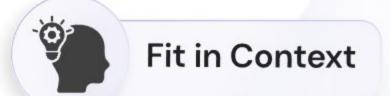
#### **RRR Filtration For Clean** Signals

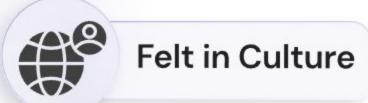
Removes noise to surface emerging themes, consumer need-gaps, and whitespace signals.

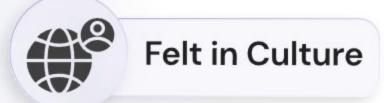
## BioBrain's RRR Framework For Data Acquisition And Analysis

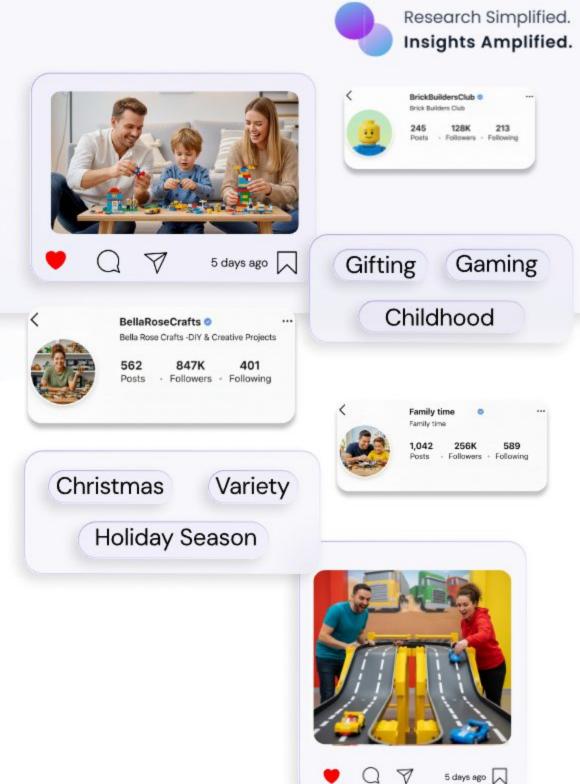
Every signal is filtered using BioBrain's RRR Framework, for analyzing consumer buzz on the web. This ensures that each insight is:











#### Recency

Picking the right timeline.

#### Relevance

Ensuring data- fit for analysis.

#### Resonance

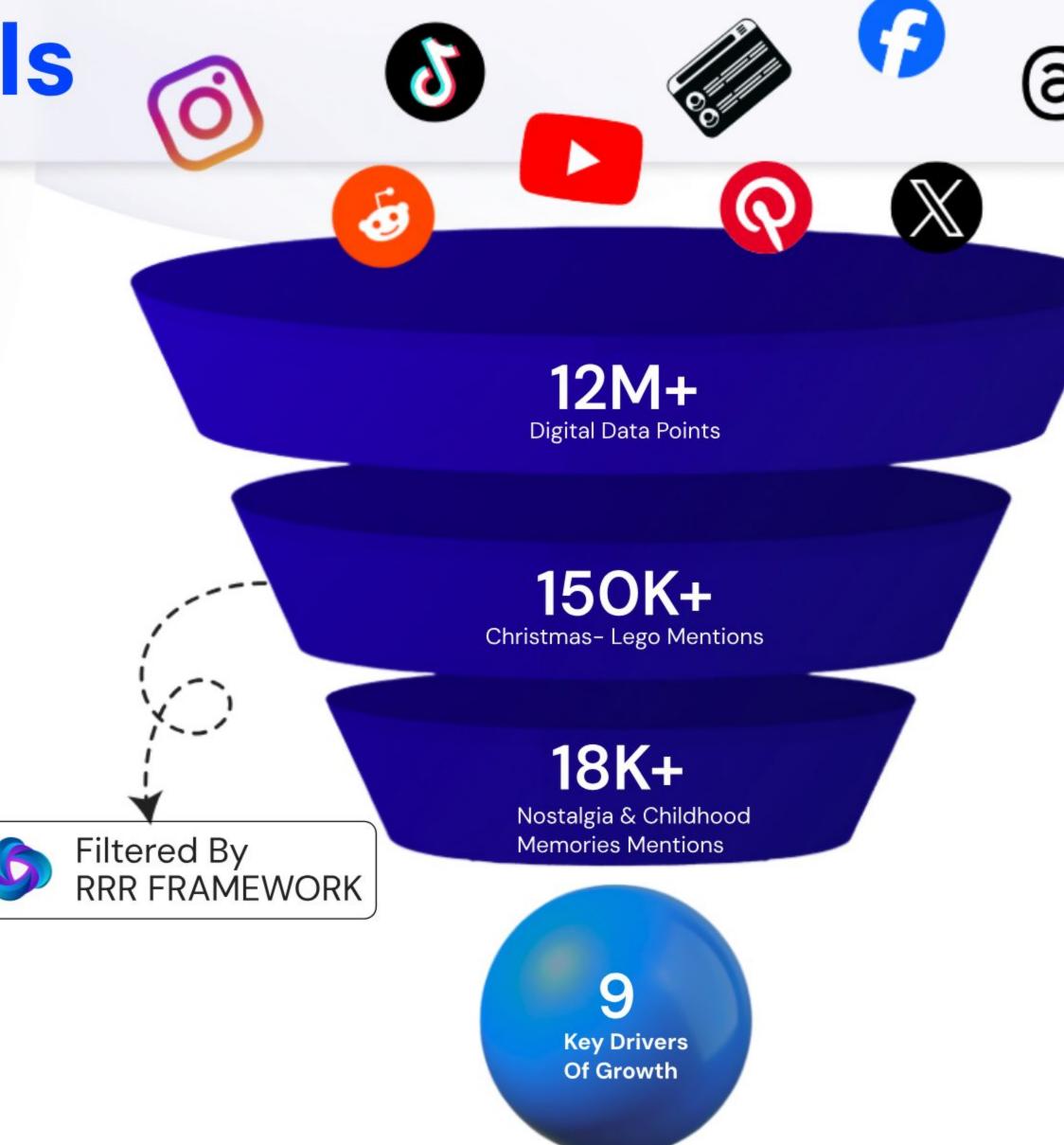
Prioritizing authentic, highimpact consumer voices.

RRR transforms online buzz into trusted evidence that industry leaders can act on.



# Decoded From Millions Of Digital Signals

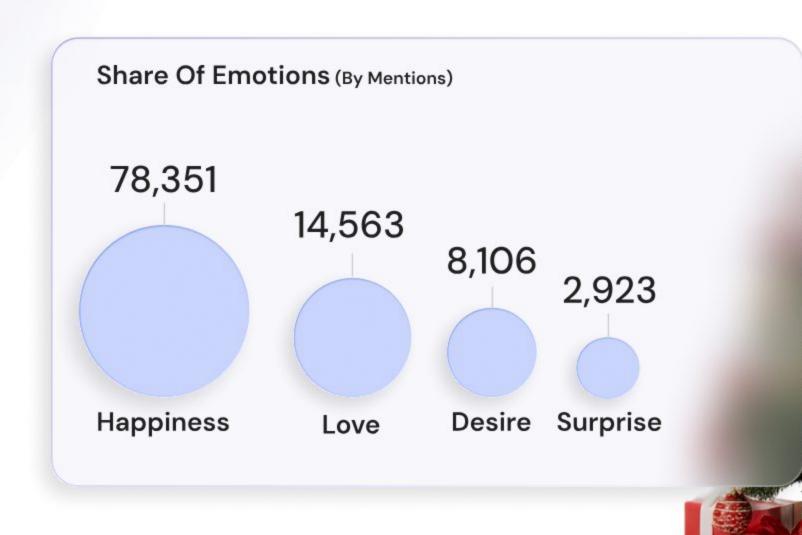
- Christmas isn't just a shopping season- it's when families return to the emotions, rituals, and memories that shaped their holidays growing up.
- To understand how LEGO fits into this emotional landscape, we analysed millions of organic consumer expressions across the digital ecosystem.
- This study maps real conversations, not claimed behavior, revealing the deeper motivations behind why people choose LEGO during Christmas.





## The Psychology Of Christmas: A Homecoming To Childhood Emotions

- The conversations around Christmas are filled with emotional triggers and rituals shared by families.
- When people talk about gifting, these emotions intensify and some gifts show up naturally in this space.
- Because they carry the exact emotional cues of comfort, creativity, and joy.



Understanding Christmas means understanding the deepest emotional codes of the toy & gifting ecosystem.





**Toy/Games Categories** 

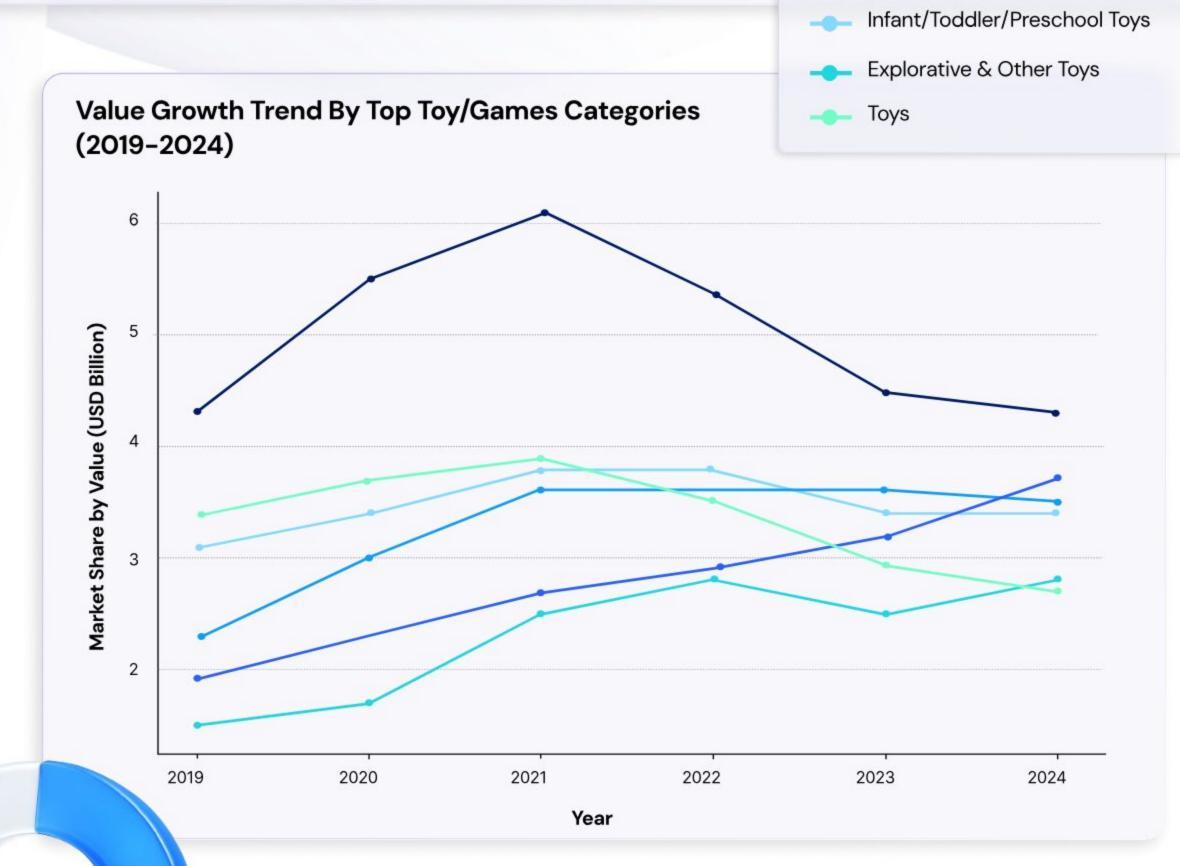
Outdoor & Sports Toys

Games/Puzzle

Building Sets (LEGO & Others)

## What Makes **LEGO Irresistible For Families?**

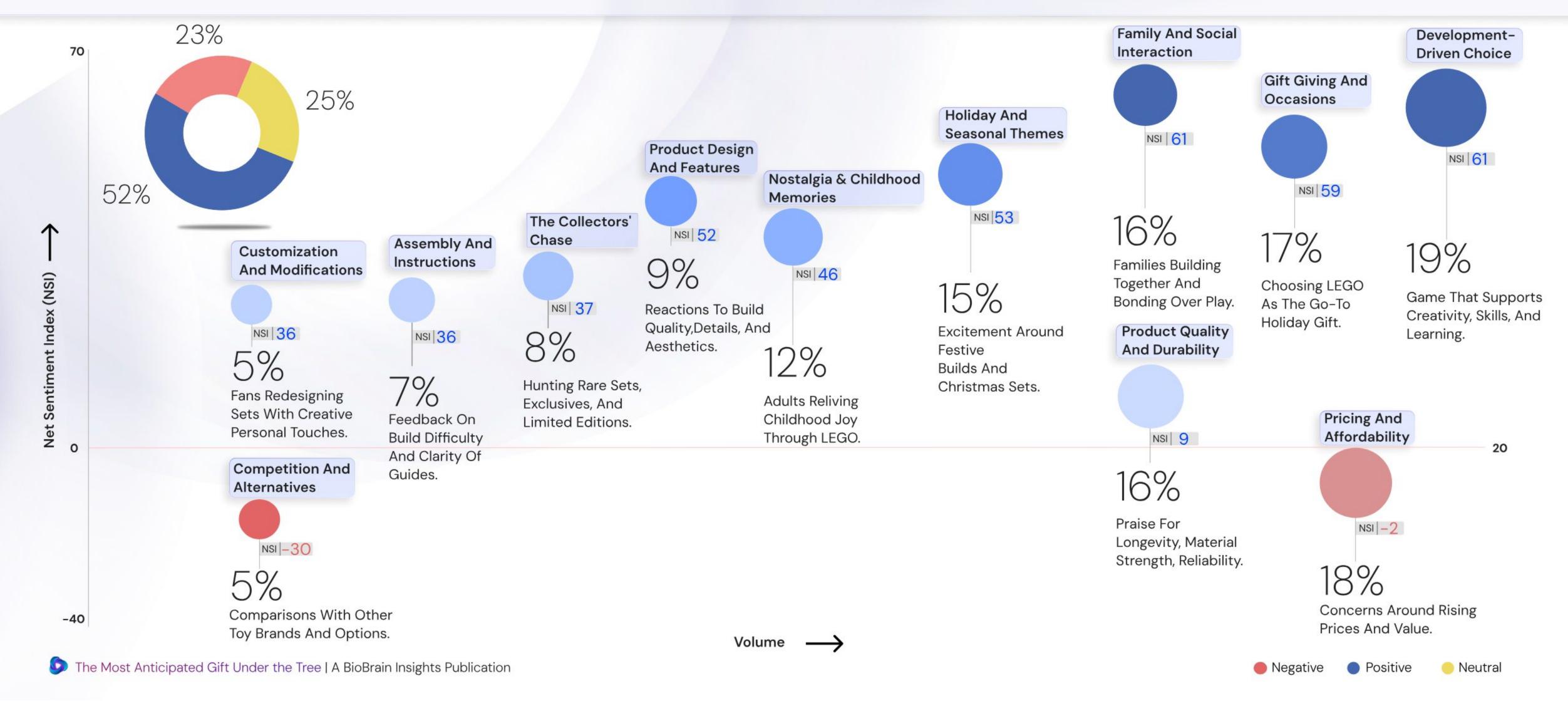
- LEGO leads the Christmas gifting market with an estimated ~ 29% share, making it the most instinctive choice when people start shopping for the season.
- It hits a rare sweet spot: a gift that feels personal yet universally loved.
- A cross-generation favorite, it's one of the few, that works for children, resonates with adults, and brings families together in the moment it's opened.
- And unlike typical toys, LEGO creates an experience- people build it, share it, display it, and turn it into a memory that lasts beyond the holiday.



LEGO's Estimated Market Share During Holiday Season

29%

## Themes & Sentiment Landscape For LEGO





## The Nostalgia Economy Of LEGO Christmas Appeal

- When people talk about LEGO at Christmas, two emotions arise together: adults feel the pull of nostalgia, and kids feel the excitement of play.
- Nostalgia and childhood memories (18K+ Mentions) emerge strongly across our data because this game lets adults pass on the joy they once experienced to the children in their lives.
- Most of them choose LEGO sets that connect back to something they loved growing up:



Characters they adored



Stories they remember



Rituals they cherished



#### Insights Amplified.

### The Generational Bond **That LEGO Delivers**

- For many adults, LEGO is something they now share with their own children, creating a full-circle emotional experience.
- Christmas conversations are filled with people describing it as a family activity, something they build together, rebuild over the years, or unpack as a ritual every holiday season.
- These shared builds turn LEGO into a physical piece of nostalgia that stays in the family.

"Making up a little advent-calendar ritual"

"If you like star wars this is a must have holiday ritual"



"My sons and I have been making it a weekly ritual"





# Why LEGO Designs Instantly Feel Like A Memory

"Perfect set for space enthusiasts or anyone who loves creative LEGO designs."

- After surfacing as the strongest theme, nostalgia shows up most intensely when adults talk about LEGO's design itself- timeless, stable, and instantly recognizable.
- The bricks, colors, minifigures trigger instant recognition while still feeling exciting and new to kids.
- Adults see the sets they grew up with, kids see endless building possibilities, and the consistent design language connects both experiences.

"For woodland animals, LEGO made them each very intricate and well designed"



13K+

Mentions



## What Makes Retro And Nostalgic Sets Attractive?

- Beyond design familiarity, adults are actively drawn to sets that take them back- classic themes, old editions, retired models, and childhood-era builds.
- When gifting for children, they often choose sets rooted in familiar universes because shared recognition makes the gift feel more meaningful.
- This makes **retro sets** a common point of connection for everyone.

Mentions "I'm a big fan of some of the retired sets, like Retro LEGO Love the hogwarts classroom books" 4360 1954

"They did re-release the taj mahal several years

> "I have this set as a desk ornament; snag this before it retires"



## The Magic Doesn't Stop Here, It Expands Into New Behaviors

While nostalgia plays a major role in LEGO's holiday demand, it's not the only reason people gravitate toward it.

From iconic display pieces and rare collectibles, to gaming universe builds, to sets that let people create something personal, these trends define how it fits into modern life.

Together, these behaviors reveal the broader cultural forces behind LEGO's christmas strength are far beyond memory alone.

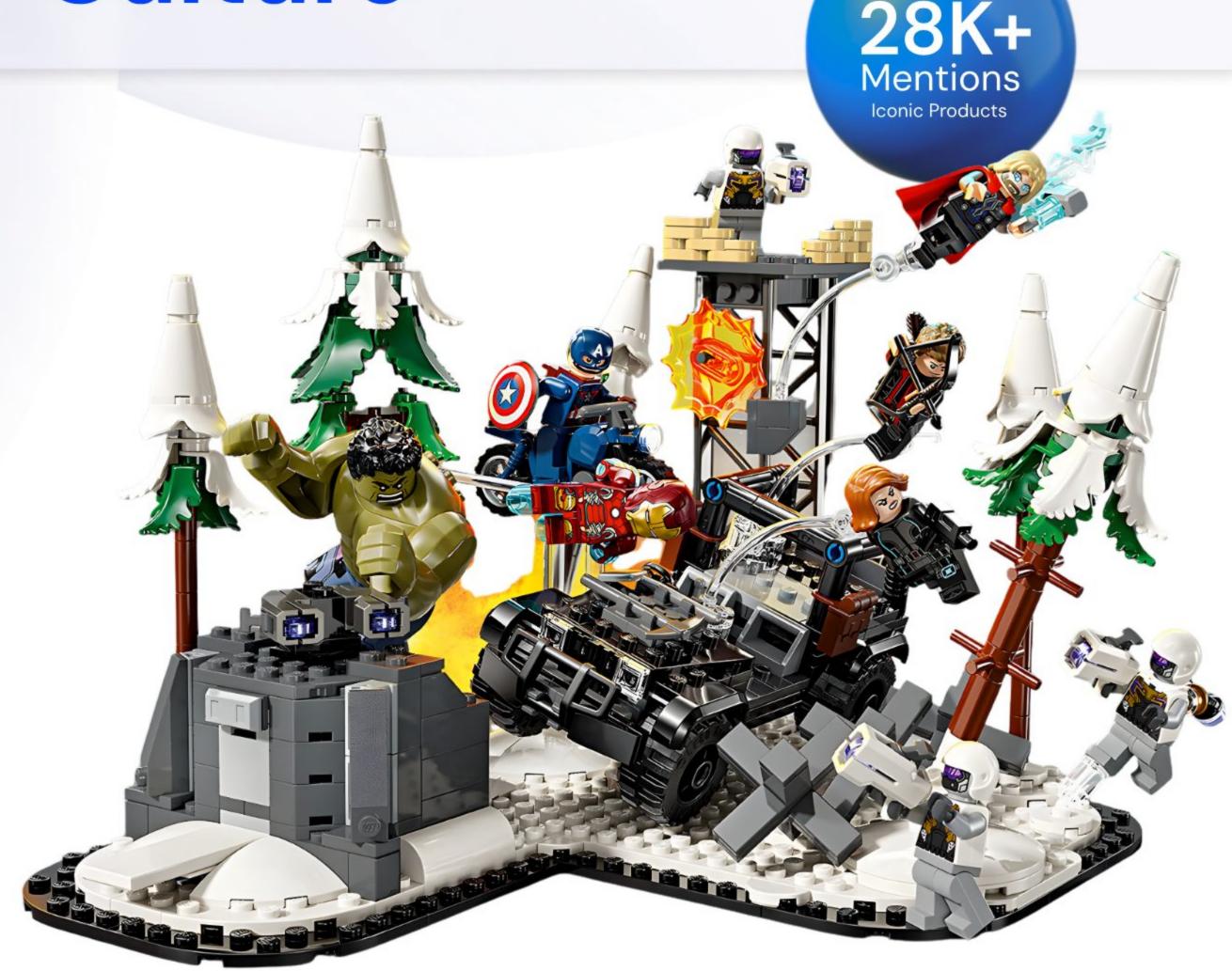




### The Rise Of Display Pieces, Rare Finds & Collector Culture

- Certain LEGO sets have now become cultural icons- the ones people instantly recognize, display, and love gifting.
- And these sets don't just get built; they get kept. Families treat them as display pieces that stay out long, even after the holiday season ends.
- And that's why demand for iconic builds spikes every Christmas.

This trend is reinforced by the booming "Kidult" market - where non-parent adult collectors spend nearly 3X more than the average toy shopper.





## Holiday Themes Surge Every Q4-**Driving Iconic Set Demand**

- Holiday-themed LEGO conversations show a consistent yearly pattern, a sharp spike every Q4 as families enter gifting mode and seasonal sets start trending.
- Across 3 years of data, Q4 emerges as the moment when interest in festive builds, Winter Village sets, and seasonal collectibles rises dramatically.

**LEGO Holiday Themes Mentions** 6286 6000 3160 **Mentions** 2277 1345 1307 416 335 2021-02 2021-02 2021-04 2023-02 2023-02 2023-04 2024-02 2024-02 2024-02 2024-04 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-020-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 2025-02 202

And this seasonal anticipation boosts collectible behavior.



## How Gaming IPs Are Powering LEGO's New Demand

- A major share of LEGO's current demand is driven by Gaming-Linked IPs, the franchises people have followed for decades.
- Sets from Fortnite, Minecraft, Mario, Star Wars, Marvel and other major IP ecosystems consistently top Christmas wishlists.
- Gaming LEGO bridges screen-time and build-time, turning the universes people follow online into something they can hold and create offline.





## The Sets Dominating LEGO Conversations

- With almost 8K Mentions, Advent Calendars across Star Wars, City, Disney, Friends, and Harry Potter consistently lead the conversations.
- Iconic IP universes continue to pull massive attention, with sets like Star Wars and Harry Potter driving strong interest.
- A mix of seasonal favorites and pop-culture hits (Like BTS Dynamite and Marvel's Infinity Gauntlet) shows that LEGO demand spans both tradition and trend-driven hype.





**Mentions** 

Personalization

The Shift To Personal Builds & Custom Characters

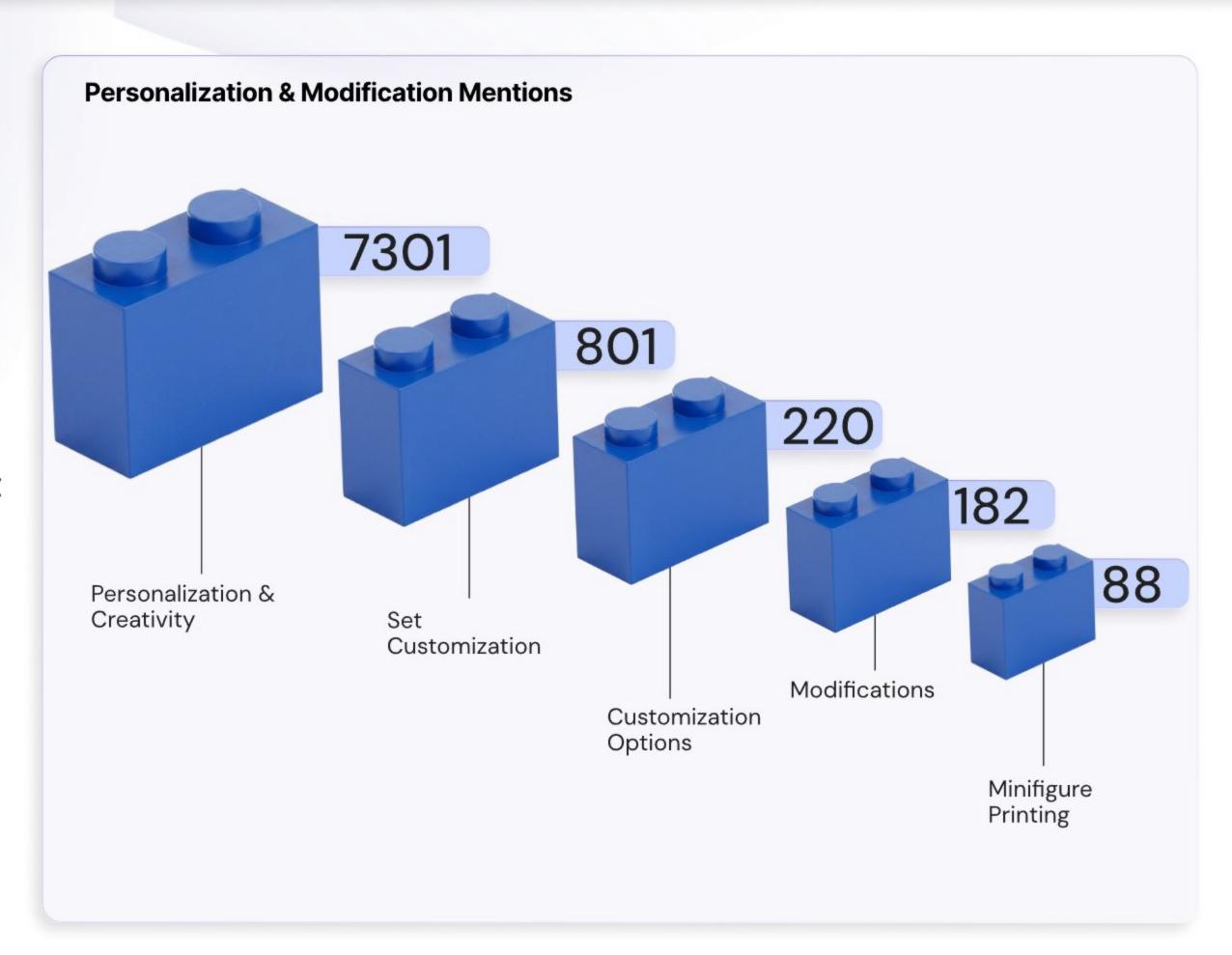
- Personal expression has become a defining part of how people engage with LEGO- especially during gifting moments.
- For many, personalization adds a layer of meaning: a LEGO gift feels more special when it reflects the recipient's personality, interests, or story.
- This shift is driven by a broader cultural movement toward identity-driven play, where gifts aren't just fun, but personal, memorable, and emotionally resonant.





## A Closer Look At LEGO's Personalization Trends

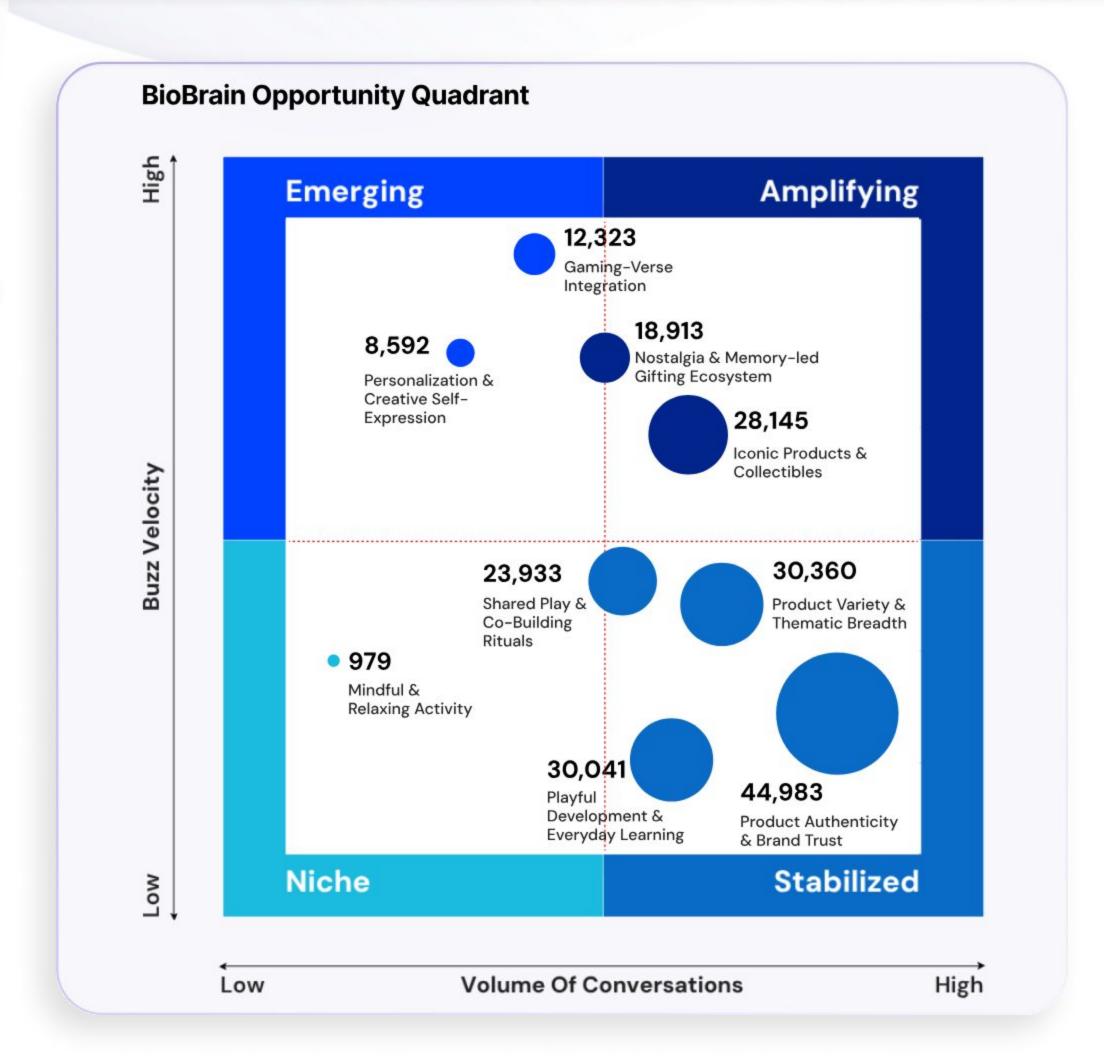
- Mentions around personalization primarily map to hands-on alterations- from modifying set structures to adjusting colors, prints, and minifigure components.
- The conversation clusters show distinct categories: build modifications, minifigure customization, set-level tweaks, and custom printing.
- These structured behaviors indicate that personalization is not random- it has become a repeatable pattern of creative actions done across AFOLs (adult fans), teens, and kids.





# So, What's Truly Driving Growth Right Now?

- Our analysis of 150K+ conversations shows: LEGO's growth isn't powered by one trend, it's shaped by a mix of high-volume behaviors and fast-accelerating cultural shifts.
- Some drivers are amplifying- like Nostalgia-led gifting and the surge in iconic collectibles- which continue to gain momentum every Christmas.
- Others remain stabilized but strong, such as shared family play, product variety, and the trust people place in LEGO's quality and authenticity.
- And newer forces are emerging fast- gaming-verse integration and creative self-expression, bringing a new generation of fans into the ecosystem.





## The Untapped, High-Potential Spaces Shaping LEGO's Next Phase Of Growth



Consumer Need Gap



Opportunity Areas



Why It Matters

Memory-Led Gifting Kits & Nostalgia Reboots

Seasonal Collector Ecosystem

Digital-To-Physical Gaming Extensions

Personalization As A Service

Adults Want Gifts That Recreate Childhood Joy And Connect Generations.

Retro Rebuilds, Heritage Collections, Nostalgia Gift Kits.

Captures The Strongest Emotional Driver; Lifts Premium Gifting Revenue.

Families Want Yearly Holiday **Builds That Feel Special And** Tradition-Worthy.

Limited Christmas Drops, Annual Display Sets, Holiday Minifigure Series, Verified Pre-Loved Marketplace.

Leverages Q4 Spikes; Builds Long-Term Collectible Loyalty.

Gamers Want Their Digital Worlds To Exist Physically; Adults Want Deeper Fandom Engagement.

In-Game Unlocks, Mission-Based Builds, Digital Twins, Co-Launched Digital + Physical Drops.

Converts Huge Gaming Fandoms Into Buyers; Drives Youth Acquisition.

People Want LEGO That Reflects Them - Unique Gifts, Custom Characters, Personal Builds.

Custom Minifig Builder, Personalized Kits, Mod Labs, Color-Swap Packs. Elevates Emotional Gifting; Increases Repeat Holiday Purchases.

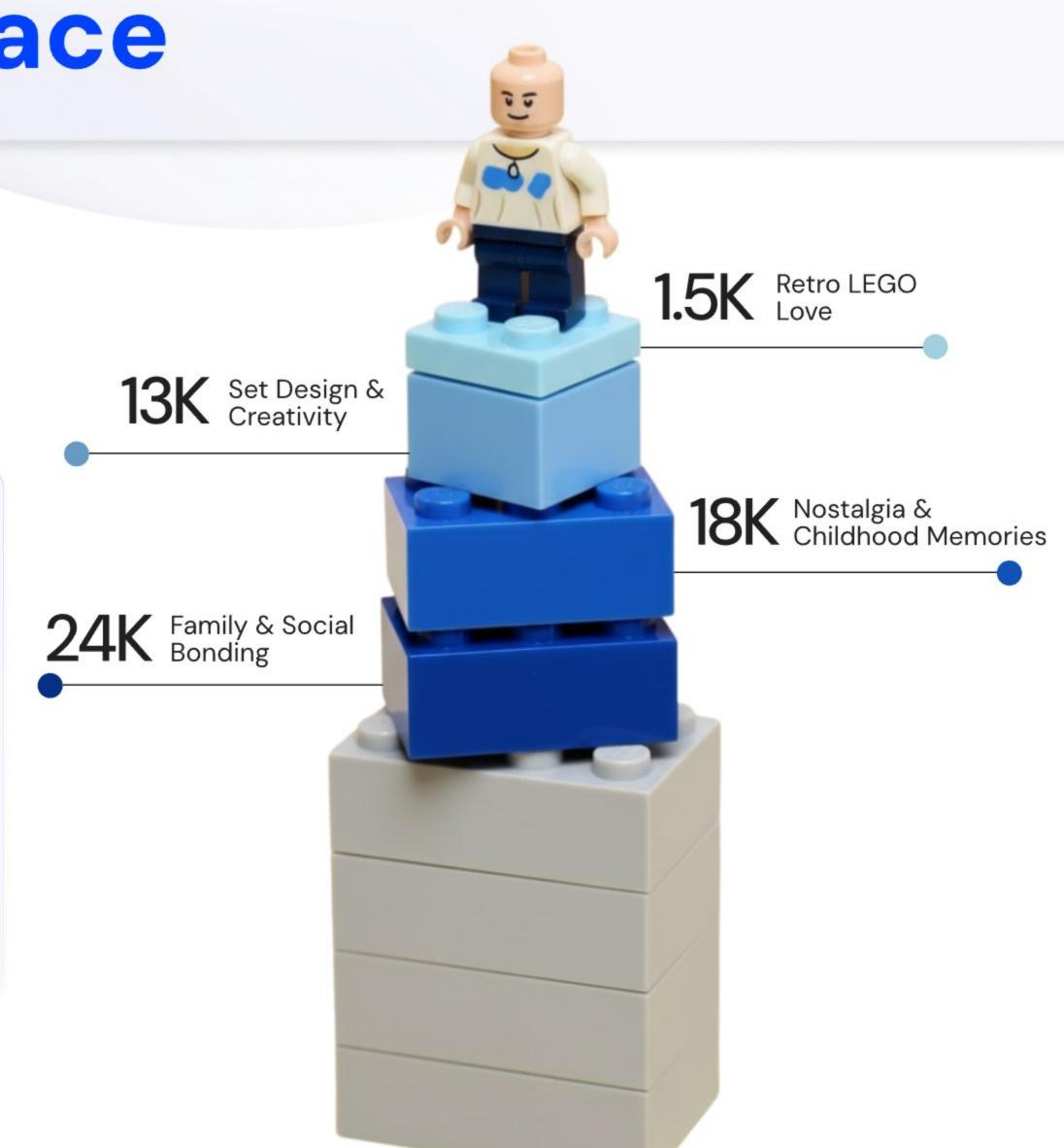


# Who'll Claim The Billion Dollar Memory-Gifting Whitespace

#### **Questions Every Toy Brand**

Should Be Asking Right Now:

- ? Are we fully monetizing the shift toward memory-gifting, or are nostalgia cues still underleveraged in our portfolio?
- ? Have we quantified the lifetime value difference between a childpurchased game and an adult-purchased "memory-gifting" edition?
- In 10 years, will consumers associate "passing down childhood joy" more with our brands or with an emerging challenger?





## This Is Just One Part Of A Much Bigger Opportunity

- Nostalgia-led Memory-gifting is only one of the four behaviors shaping LEGO's future demand.
- The same deep-dive approach can be applied to the other three high-potential territories - Collector Ecosystems, Gaming-Verse Extensions, And Personalization-As-A-Service - to quantify need-gaps and unlock brand -level opportunities, using BioBrain's RRR Framework.

#### **Brand & Product** Deep-Dives

Decode what consumers value across each territory to sharpen positioning and innovation.

#### **Consumer & Category** Forecasting

Model emerging behaviors and demand shifts to identify earlystage market opportunities.



#### **Cultural & Communication Audits**

Understand how brands show up culturally to guide authentic, highimpact storytelling.



### Don't Anticipate Markets, Get Ahead Of Them.

- The LEGO Christmas story is one example of how Web Intelligence turns fragmented online conversations into clear emotional and cultural signals brands can act on.
- Using our RRR Framework, we decode shifts in play, gifting, nostalgia, fandom, and family culture- helping brands stay ahead of what's shaping the toy & gifting ecosystem.



#### **Precision Intelligence**

Signal-grade clarity on the emotional and cultural forces driving demand for consumers.

#### **Adaptive Methodology**

A flexible model that works across categories, age groups, fandoms, regions, and seasons.

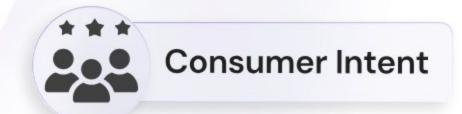
#### **Actionable Foresight**

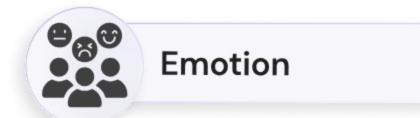
Insights built for decisionsshaping strategy, innovation, communication, and whitespace growth.

### Let's Decode What's Next Together.

Every category carries its own cultural story - and in toys and gifting, that story sits at the intersection of:







At BioBrain Insights, we help brands uncover these hidden cultural codes and turn them into clarity, credibility, and commercial growth.

Let's Collaborate

+1 301 200 00006

















