

Best Metal Detectors for Kids Guide

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Considering Metal Detecting with Your Kids?

From scavenger hunts to geocaching, there is an innate excitement in the treasure hunt. Metal detecting is a hobby that provides many benefits, the least of which is that it's fun for practically any age. This guide will highlight some of our favorite choices for metal detectors which are easy enough for kids and beginners, with the functionality and price that adults will enjoy.

Benefits For Kids & Adults:

- Bonding Experiences – A chance to spend time together, and to make lasting memories.
- Getting Into the Great Outdoors – With the advent of Nature Deficit Disorder, fun reasons to get outside and into nature are a benefit for all ages.
- Fresh Air and Exercise - You've probably heard how good walking and moving is for our bodies, and metal detecting lends itself perfectly to that.
- Patience and Resilience - The search for treasure involves walking the land, listening to the different tones, and digging many a hole. When a treasure is found, that patience and work are rewarded.
- Educational – But your kids won't know it! They will just see it as fun – Diving into your local history, learning the differences between metals, and even learning to operate a metal detector, appeal to our natural curiosity, a prime component in learning.

Choosing a Metal Detector for Kids

When choosing a metal detector for kids, the goal is to find one that appeals to kids, while still having the functionality to find treasure. For this reason, we avoided the "toy" type metal detectors. Other factors we considered:

- Weight: A lightweight, ergonomic metal detector will allow for longer treasure hunting.
- Size: An adjustable and/or removable shaft will ensure a metal detector length that works for both children and adults.
- Functionality: Turn-on-and-go functionality so you can get started right out of the box.
- Warranty: For that extra peace of mind.
- Quality and Reliability: We chose companies that are known for making durable, well-made metal detectors.
- Price: When first starting, it makes sense to find a well-priced detector that does not compromise on performance.

Minelab Go-Find 44



Below you'll find our favorite detectors for kids and families:

The [Go-Find 44](#) has automatic ground tracking and an easy-to-read LED screen that shows if you have found trash or treasure. Red LEDs light for trash, while green indicates coins or jewelry.

3 search (find) modes allow you to search for specific groups of metal objects by accepting or rejecting detection. Similarly to the ACEs, the Go-Finds produce audible tones to alert you to the type of metal you are targeting. A low tone for iron (ferrous), a mid-tone for less valuable metals, and a high tone for silver and copper targets. Battery life provides 15 - 20 hours of treasure-seeking time, and the adjustable shaft extends from 21.9" - 51.4". The [Go-Find 44](#) connects with the Go-Find Standard app, with which you can identify coins, customize your detector and App tones, record finds to Google Maps, and listen to music while you detect. You can upgrade to the Go-Find Pro app as an in-app purchase, which adds the ability to remotely control the metal detector volume and an advanced settings menu.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (8 kHz) Adjustable
- Search Coil: 10" Mono Waterproof
- Search Modes: 3 (All Metal / Coin / Jewelry)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Digital Target ID: No VDI
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Automatic Ground Tracking
- Audio Tones: 4
- Battery: 4 AA
- Weight: 2.3 lbs.
- Warranty: 2 Years

PROS

- One-touch operation: Turn-on-and-go
- Easy Portability: Just unfold to use and fold back up to transport.
- Treasure View: Green LEDs for Treasure, Red for Trash
- Go-Find Standard App

CONS

- Not Waterproof
- No Visual Target ID

Shop the [Minelab Go-Find](#)

Minelab Go-Find 66



The [Go-Find 66](#) has automatic ground tracking and an easy-to-read LED screen that shows if you have found trash or treasure. Red LEDs light for trash, while green indicates coins or jewelry.

Battery life provides 15 - 20 hours of treasure-seeking time, and the adjustable shaft extends from 21.9" - 51.4". The [Go-Find 66](#) adds two search modes over the Go-Find 44's 3 - Relics and Custom. It adds mid-tone for higher value metals and lower than the high tone silver and copper. The Go-Find 66 connects with the Go-Find Pro app, with which you can identify coins, view detector information and control volume, customize your detector and App tones, record finds to Google Maps, and listen to music while you detect. Earbuds are included with this detector.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (8 kHz) Adjustable
- Search Coil: 10" Mono Waterproof
- Search Modes: 5 (All Metal / Coin / Jewelry / Relics/ Custom)

- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Digital Target ID: No VDI
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Automatic Ground Tracking
- Audio Tones: 4
- Battery: 4 AA
- Weight: 2.3 lbs.
- Warranty: 2 Years

PROS

- One-touch operation: Turn-on-and-go
- Easy Portability: Just unfold to use and fold back up to transport.
- Treasure View: Green LEDs for Treasure, Red for Trash
- Go-Find Pro App

CONS

- Not Waterproof
- No Visual Target ID

Shop the [Minelab Go-Find](#)

Quest X5



At 2.09 lbs, the [Quest X5](#) is lightweight. The adjustable shaft provides a length range from 22" - 44", great for adults and kids. The X5 comes with a TurboD Double D coil for great performance to handle highly mineralized soil or beach hunting.

The USB rechargeable battery will provide 8 - 12 hours of treasure-hunting time. The [Quest X5](#) has a Digital Target ID, which allows the user to quickly identify what type of target the machine is detecting. There is also a built-in flashlight.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (7.99 kHz)
- Search Coil: DD
- Search Modes: 3 (All Metal / Coin / Jewelry)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Semi-Auto
- Audio Tones: 5
- Battery: 1000mAh Li-Pro battery
- Weight: 2.09 lbs.
- Warranty: 2 years for control box & coil

PROS

- Rainproof
- Lightweight and adjustable
- Intuitive Menu

CONS

- Not Waterproof

[Shop the Quest X Series](#)

Garrett Ace 200



The [ACE 200](#) is lightweight and easy to learn. The Digital Target ID scale and depth indicator make it easy to know what you are digging, and how deep to dig.

The [ACE 200](#) has 3 tones, based on conductivity and the type of metal of your target. For this detector, a low tone for ferrous Digital ID < 21), medium for low conductivity (21 -80), and a bell tone for high conductivity (> 80).

Battery life provides 15 - 20 hours of treasure-seeking time, and the adjustable shaft extends from 42" - 51". The Garrett Ace Metal Detectors are known for being easy to learn while still having a great search scope.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (6.5 kHz)
- Search Coil: Concentric 6.5" x 9" PROformance™
- Search Modes: 3 (Zero Disk (All Metal) / Coin / Jewelry)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: No
- Digital Target ID: 0 - 99
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Preset
- Audio Tones: 3
- Battery: 4 AA
- Weight: 2.7 lbs.
- Warranty: 2 Years, Limited Parts/Labor

PROS

- One-touch operation: Turn-on-and-go
- Easy Portability: Breaks down in 3 pieces for transport
- Comfortable armrest

CONS

- Not Waterproof
- No adjustable ground balance

[Shop Garrett Ace 200 Bundles](#)

Garrett Ace 300



The [ACE 300](#) is lightweight and easy to learn. The Digital Target ID scale and depth indicator make it easy to know what you are digging, and how deep to dig.

Battery life provides 15 - 20 hours of treasure-seeking time, and the adjustable shaft extends from 42" - 51". The [ACE 300](#) includes Notch Discrimination and Pinpointing. Pinpointing can help to zone in on your target and decrease the size of the hole you need to dig. The ACE 300 adds 2 additional search modes (Relic and Custom) over the Ace 200, and a pinpoint mode. It also provides frequency adjustments, over the ACE 200's fixed frequency. The Ace 300 includes headphones (which will also prolong battery life), making it a nice package with more features for a great price.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (8 kHz) Adjustable
- Search Coil: 7" x 10" concentric PROformance™
- Search Modes: 5 (All Metal / Coin / Jewelry / Relics/ Custom)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: No
- Digital Target ID: 0 - 99
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Preset
- Audio Tones: 3
- Battery: 4 AA
- Weight: 2.8 lbs.
- Warranty: 2 Years, Limited Parts/Labor

PROS

- One-touch operation: Turn-on-and-go
- Easy Portability: Breaks down in 3 pieces for transport
- Comfortable armrest

CONS

- Not Waterproof
- No adjustable ground balance

[Shop Garrett Ace 300 Bundles](#)

[Fisher F11](#)



The [Fisher F11](#) is a favorite turn-on-and-go metal detector for kids and beginners, with a great price, and quality features. The 9 Segment Visual Target ID: Shows you every metal from iron, gold, nickel, brass, gold, zinc, copper to silver.

The adjustable shaft goes from 41.5" to 51.5". This machine touts simplicity and an easy-to-learn set of tones. The volume and sensitivity are also easily adjustable.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (7.69 kHz) Adjustable
- Search Coil: 7" Concentric Waterproof
- Search Modes: 3 (Artifacts / Coin / Jewelry)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Digital Target ID: No VDI
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Preset
- Audio Tones: 4
- Battery: 4 AA
- Weight: 2.3 lbs.

PROS

- Easy to use: Turn-on-and-go
- Large easy to understand display
- Standard elements of a good metal detector without getting complicated

CONS

- Not Waterproof or Weatherproof
- No Visual Target ID

[Shop Fisher F11 Bundles](#)

Teknetics Digitek



The [Teknetics Digitek](#) is the result of nine years of software engineering, featuring a lightweight design, target accuracy, and deep-penetrating detection technology.

It has a large, easy-to-understand display and can easily be used in its default turn-on-and-go settings or programmed for more specific treasure-hunting goals.

This is a great starter detector, with many features that ensure it won't be outgrown. The [Digitek](#) can notch out unwanted targets, a 3-tone audio ID, and the ability to detect coins to 8" depth, and large objects to 2' depth. This detector is lightweight at 2.3 lbs, with an adjustable shaft.

Technical Specifications

- Frequencies: VLF Single (7.69 kHz)
- Search Coil: 7" Concentric Waterproof
- Search Modes: 2 (All Metal /Pinpoint)
- Display Type: LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Digital Target ID: Yes
- Depth Indication: Yes
- Ground Balance: Preset
- Audio Tones: 3
- Battery: 1.9 Volt
- Weight: 2.3 lbs.
- Warranty: 5 Year Limited

PROS

- Adjustable discrimination
- Graphic depth indicator
- Large, easy-to-understand display

- Padded armrest and hand grip

CONS

- Not Waterproof

[Shop the Teknetics Digitek](#)

Nokta Mini & Midi Hoard



New in 2020, the [Nokta Mini](#) and [Midi Hoard](#) are the first Waterproof Kid's Metal Detectors.

These detectors are light-weight at 1.7 & 1.9 lbs and brightly colored to appeal to kids. Both of these detectors find, discriminate, and pinpoint as an adult detector does, with a kid-friendly LCD display.

Mini Hoard

Technical Specifications

- Ideal Age: 4-8 years
- Operating Frequency: 15 kHz
- Search Coil: 6"
- Discrimination: Iron
- Audio Tones: 2
- Depth Indicator: 3 Levels
- Display Type: Custom LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Auto Shut-off & Alarm: Yes

- Length: 25" - 35"

Midi Hoard

Technical Specifications

- Ideal Age: 8 - 12 years
- Operating Frequency: 15 kHz
- Search Coil: 7"
- Discrimination: 2 Levels
- Audio Tones: 3
- Depth Indicator: 3 Levels
- Display Type: Custom LCD
- Pinpoint Mode: Yes
- Auto Shut-off & Alarm: Yes
- Length: 32.5" - 43"

PROS

- Waterproof and can be submerged up to 3 meters
- Kid-friendly, custom LCD display
- Great starter detector price point
- Finds, discriminates, and pinpoints

CONS

- None at this price point
- Smart discrimination
- Large, easy-to-understand display
- Not Waterproof

[Shop the Nokta Hoard Series](#)

Any of these options will provide you and your child with a fun metal-detecting experience, and a machine they won't outgrow too quickly. Just getting started in the hobby? Read [Getting Started with Metal Detecting](#).