The cutest games from Wholesome Direct 2024

Despite its cozy appearance, Wholesome Direct 2024 is actually shaping up to be the most packed event of Summer Game Fest. The hour-long presentation featured more than 70 different games. Some were brand-new announcements, some were previously known games that got a fresh trailer or release date, and a handful of titles even launched during the event.

Now, 70 is a large number, so to help, I've curated the games that stood out to me the most. You can also watch the full presentation right here to soak in every detail. Even better: many of the games have demos on Steam that you can check out. Anyway, here are my picks, in no particular order.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Launching today on PC and Switch

***Kamaeru* looks like a more interactive take on *Neko Atsume*, only with frogs instead of cats and a beautiful painterly art style. The goal is to not only build a sanctuary to raise those frogs in but also restore their wetland habitat. Best of all: it's out today.**

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[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63 dark:[&>a]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray”>Image: Alblune

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Launching on Steam; no release date announced

This is what would happen if you mashed *Animal Crossing* with *Picross*. The game is all about solving nonograms, which then create items (out of cheese, naturally) that you can use to decorate a cozy home. It also looks to be jam-packed with mouse puns.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1″>Launching 2025 on PC, Switch, PS5, and Xbox

Calling *Stardew Valley* fans. *Discounty* looks like it has a similarly charming vibe, only

with less farming and more business. Instead of building up a farmstead, you’re tasked with running a grocery store in a small town, which naturally means getting deeply involved in the community.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-blurple-1”>Launching August 1st on PC

A side-scrolling platformer that looks a bit like *Super Mario Bros. 2*, if only it was coated in Japanese

folklore and mythology. It also comes from the same developer behind the oddball political platformer *Super Bernie World*.

a:hover|:shadow-highlight-franklin|&>a|:shadow-underline-blurple-1”>Launching June 19th . on the Nintendo Switch

Moonstone Island is already out on PC,

but its mix of life sim and creature collection feels like a perfect fit for the Switch. There’s a lot going on in this game: farming, potion brewing, card-based battles, and spirits to tame. Plus, you can ride around on a

broom.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-purple-1”>Launching on PC, Switch, and PS5; no release date announced

The end of the world is usually dark and dire,

but *Caravan SandWitch* takes things in a slightly more wholesome direction. It’s an exploration game about venturing

through a wasteland in your trusty van, and it has no combat or death, so you can drive around at your own pace.

a:hover{box-shadow:0 0 11px rgba(33,33,33,.2)}</style></head><body><h1>Frankl's underpowered yet lavishly illustrated bloomers</h1> Launching on iOS and Android, and consoles; no release date announced This is looking like

the most charming *Where's Waldo?*-style game since *Hidden Folks*. But whereas

that was a black-and-white world, *Lost and Found Co.* is bursting with color. It

even has a cute little dragon.

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launching
switching
playstation
xbox
and
later
this year

From the creators

of *Coffee Talk*, *Afterlove EP* is described as “a

colorful mixtape of genres” that’s part dating

sim, part rhythm game, and part story-driven

adventure. Whatever it is, it both looks and sounds great,

with hand-drawn art from Soyatu and a soundtrack

of Indonesian pop-rock from L’alphalpha.

https://www.theverge.com/24171620/wholesome-direct-202

4-sgf-trailers-news