



WASHINGTON Parent



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Tot Tips Advice & Reviews for Parents of Young Children

by Maria Gildea Selwood

Smart Cappy

The [Smart Cappy](#) is a new product designed to help avoid flat head syndrome in infants. While not life-threatening, flat head syndrome can lead to an abnormally shaped head, characterized by a flatness in back. Treatment for moderate to severe cases includes physical therapy and the use of a helmet. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants should always be placed on their backs for sleep to avoid SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), but this has resulted in a rise of flat head syndrome. Prolonged time spent in car carriers and bouncy seats can also contribute to the condition. The Smart Cappy has a special memory foam insert on the backside of the cap that helps to relieve pressure on your baby's head. Always consult with your pediatrician but, in addition to repositioning your baby and offering lots of supervised "tummy time," the incidence of flat head syndrome seems to be reduced by using the Smart Cappy. Visit the manufacturer's website for more information: www.lagoogie.com.

Boon Animal Bag

Store your child's stuffed animals in the plush Animal Bag, made by Boon. There are different size bags, all with mesh tops that unzip revealing a large space for stuffed animals. Once filled, the bag becomes a comfy chair for your child. The largest bag, called the Trio Elite, retails for an incredible \$399, but fear not, the smaller ones are much more reasonably priced. Finding a place to hide all of your child's stuffed animals (how did we accumulate so many?) has always been tricky. The fact that this soft storage bag doubles as this century's bean bag chair is a bonus. For more information on the Boon chairs and where to purchase one, check out their website: www.booninc.com.

CPSC Recall

The CPSC and the Orvis Company announce the joint recall of children's toys sold with sleeping bags.

We encourage our readers to visit the Consumer Products Safety Commission website frequently to keep current with the toy recalls: <http://www.cpsc.gov/recentrecalls.html>.

Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies

PBS KIDS premiered Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies in September. The charming show is about an elephant named Mama Mirabelle (voiced by actress Vanessa Williams) and the young animal characters she cares for on the African savanna. Each episode poses a question the animals have about themselves and/or other land and sea creatures. The questions are answered by Mama Mirabelle with the help of her "home movies," actual crisp and beautiful wildlife footage from National Geographic and BBC archives. The film footage is effectively combined with the endearing animated characters, resulting in a unique and well-written show that preschoolers will love. There is a wealth of information about wildlife in each episode, and it is obvious that great care and diligent research went into making sure all of the details were just right. For more information, check out the PBS website: www.pbskids.org/mamamirabelle.

The fairy doll, an accessory for the Unicorn Animal Sleeping Bag, has a pom pom nose that can detach, posing a choking hazard. The stuffed horse, sold as an accessory for the Horse Animal Sleeping Bag, has plastic button eyes that can detach, posing a choking hazard. For additional information, contact the Orvis Company toll free at 866-531-6199 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit www.orvis.com/recall.

Mother Knows Best

To help cut down on the amount of candy my little one consumes after Halloween, I make a bag of small toys, stickers, crayons and other non-candy "treat bag" fillers. I have him trade his candy for the items in my bag. Sometimes, he likes the items I purchase better than the candy, resulting in a win-win situation!
--Ann M., McLean, VA