

*kid
friendly*

100

**IDEAS
& BEST
BUDGET
BUYS
TO KEEP
THEM
BUSY
ALL
SUMMER
LONG!**

To satisfy a child's love of cool things, we'd have to dedicate a whole issue to it. But as it's *parents* reading this, we limited ourselves to 100. So here's our round-up of 100 fun, educational, decorative, wearable **baby-and-kids-related goodies** (and some you can play with too!)

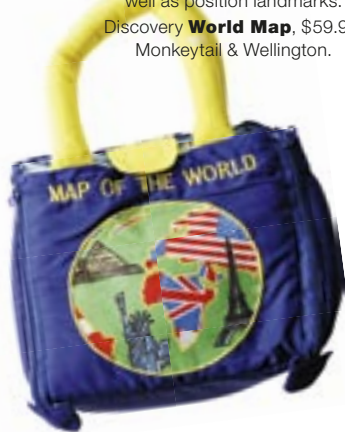


01 Glitzy glitter ball

Bouncy bright balls filled with swirling glitter. Playing catch has never been more fun or sparkly. Large glitter **balls** (7cm diameter), \$7.95 each, Seed.

03 WORLD TRIP

This 3D world map bag flattens and lets little ones match the stick-on flags to the appropriate country as well as position landmarks. Discovery **World Map**, \$59.95, Monkeytail & Wellington.



07 Bath art

Paint you can use in the bath and create bubbles with? These bath crayons are a dirty child's heaven – they dispense bubble bath disguised as paint so you can doodle on the tub and tiles and soak in foam when you're done. Finger Paint **bubble bath**, \$2.95 each, Baby's Got Style.

08 SOFT SEAT

Lightweight for easy lifting by little ones, this unique leather-and-foam seat is multifunctional and makes a quirky feature in the playroom. All sides can be used as a seat, a climber or a big toy! Amazing **Seating Concept** in Royal Blue, \$295, Moochie-Moo.



02 Unisex wear

Colourful retro designs with a modern touch: these unisex designs make a nice change from pink and blue. The cute little funky friends are hand-screenprinted onto certified organic cotton. Our Funky Friends **T-shirt**, \$42, Honey Ants.



04+05 KIDS HQ

Portable, private, kids-only headquarters that will be the basis for many imaginative playtimes, quiet reading sessions and – occasionally – even snoozes on the range.

- 04 An Angel At My Table **teepee**, \$229, Mummy's Favourite.
- 05 A selection of Charlie & Lola **books**, from \$6 each, Kmart. And also... Wooden **tambourine**, \$26.95, Oxfam Shop.

Cushion made from fabric from Spotlight.

06 six great BLOGS

babyology.com.au
news and reviews on the hippest in kids things

growingupgreen.com.au
a source for all things kiddy-eco

babyccinoblog.com
a little bit of everything; our own Natalie Walton is a contributor

ohdeedoh.com
for plenty of kids-room inspiration

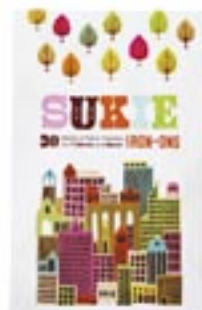
bkids.typepad.com
lots of pretty baby and kids things

soulemama.com
for the lovers of craft and the simpler life



09 Be your own designer

Give clothes and homewares a personal touch with these iron-on transfers. Features 30 pages of cool prints including birds, mushrooms and foxes. Sukie "Iron-Ons" **transfers**, \$19.95, Belsize Square.



10 Mummy calling cards

Rather than rustling around for five minutes in your handbag for a chocolate wrapper and melted crayon to write down your details, whip out one of these calling cards instead. Customise with your children's names, allergies, emergency info or just your basic contact details.

Calling card, from \$50 for 50 cards, Mummy Cards.

13

11 No-cook playdough

Easy? Yes. Fun? Of course! Messy? Most definitely! Here is our easy-peasy recipe for super-soft, vibrant homemade playdough.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups plain flour (you might need more once it's all mixed)

½ cup table salt

1 tbsp cream of tartar

½ tsp vegetable oil

2 cups boiling water (you might need more once it's all mixed)

A few sprinkles of colouring

(we used powdered paint from an art supply store for real vibrant colour, but liquid food colouring also works)

METHOD

1 Place everything in a bowl except the water. Gradually pour the water in, stirring until you have a nice consistency. **2** Keep adding flour (to thicken) or water (to thin) if required. **3** Once thick enough to hold, knead on a flour-dusted chopping board until all ingredients are mixed and the dough is no longer sticky. Store in covered container.

12 Feathered friend

Instantly transport them to dress-up land.

Indian Chief **headdress**, \$22, The Party People.

Zoe wears Gitana smock **dress**, \$69.95, Zimmermann. Zack wears Basic **tee** in Black Iris, \$6, Kmart.



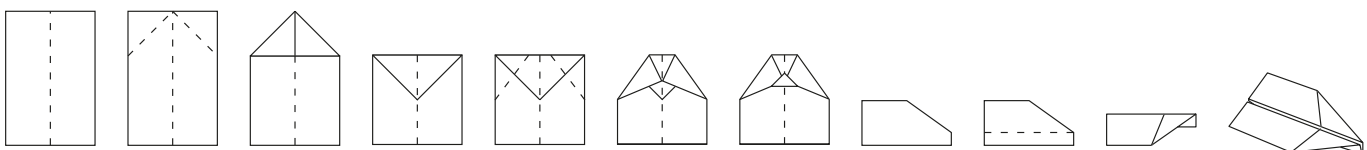
13+14 ART CLASS

13 Master the art of getting creative on this art-in-itself table and chair set in the shape of a painter's palette and coloured with Murabond paints.

Art **table** and 2 **stools**, \$275, Table&chairs.

14 The metallic crayons glide on beautifully and wash off the skin with a little soap and water. And the watercolour set is so cute!

Monte Martre Kids Colour Face **crayons**, \$3.99 a pack, and watercolour **paint set**, \$3, Hot Dollar.



15 The perfect paper plane

A minute's worth of work for hours of fun. Make the plane from **thickish A4 paper** for the best flight. For more paper-plane designs – you may not believe how many variations there can be – check out paperplane.org, paperairplanes.co.uk, bestpaperairplanes.com, 10paperairplanes.com and origami-kids.com →



16

16 Mummy & me necklaces

Beautiful hand-stamped jewellery to celebrate a birth or mark a milestone. These Ubercircles can be kept together and worn by mum while baby is small and separated and gifted when they come of age. Gorgeous! Ubercircle **necklace**, from \$160, Uberkate.



17 LUSH PLUSH

This plushie is just waiting for a big, warm baby hug. Heidi Ho The Elephant **soft toy**, \$48.95, Peabody.



18 Dandy wall art

For great DIY room decor, go for decals. This whimsical dandelion wall art appears to fluffily float across the room. Available in 18 colours. Dandelion Seed vinyl **decal set**, \$50, Styled Baby.



19 SLEEPING BEAUTIFULLY

Made from safe, enviro-friendly materials, this classic-style cot will fit all kinds of nursery. It can be converted into a toddler bed, too. Choose from White (pictured), Birch or Grey. Ouef NYC "Sparrow" **cot**, \$1199.95, Bébé Online.



20 SPACE-SAVING CHANGE TABLE

Free up the floor with this clever and compact change table. Holding up to 50kg, it attaches to the wall and folds down to change. Two built-in shelves hold all the supplies and it simply folds up again to the wall out of the way. Bo Design "Nathi" **change table**, \$799, Danish By Design.



21 Bloomin' cute

What could be cuter than a pair of chubby bubba legs in polka-dot bloomers? Not much! Polka Dot **bloomers**, \$25, Wild Things Of Noosa.



22 Glass gets groovy

These brilliant plastic sleeves make the glass bottles (included) unbreakable and grippable. 2 sizes. Lifeactory "WeeGo" **bottle**, from \$19.95, Until.

23 Artistic mealtimes
Four removable compartments for colour-matching morsels or for fussy eaters who don't like mixing their food. Skip Hop "Palette Plate" **feeding set**, \$49.95, Until.



win this - see page 169

24 Cool cloth nappies

Look! Cloth nappies you'll actually use. They're one-size-fits-all, highly absorbent, and don't need soaking or bleaching. Many designs available. Couture **nappy** in Bumble Bee, \$35, Cushie Tushies.



25 RACK 'EM

Keep baby's bottles, teets, pumps, etc, together in one place with this sculptural drying rack. Skip Hop "Splash" **bottle drying rack**, \$79.95, Until.



26 Rainbow night light

Portable and rechargeable, with ever-changing colours that'll keep little ones company at home or when you're travelling. Gimmö by Magic Light **night light** in Whoppie The Duck, \$44.95, Little Styles. Other characters available, too.

27

27 HAPPY SNOOZERS

If your baby is a bedtime escape artist, a sleeping bag is a must. This cute, organic cotton bag is unisex, and, with a 0.5 TOG rating, is perfect for warm summer months. Winter version available, too.

Baby **Sleep Bag**, \$105, Apple & Bee.

28 Compact nappy bag
No need to drag around a huge nappy bag when all the essentials fit in this stylish compact wallet, which you can slip inside your regular handbag.

Petite Traveller **nappy bag** in Zanzibar, \$39.95, Isoki.



29 SHAKE IT!

A soft, felt-faced rattle and teether.

Koolkid **rattle ring**, \$25.50, Hunt & Gather.

30 Cool cow
This gel pack will soothe sores and nasty bumps. Lots of other styles, too.

Cow **coldpack**, \$9.95, Moochie-Moo.



32 Food to go

All-in-one food container. Genius! Fill with puree and squeeze onto built-in spoon.

Boon "Squirt" **food dispenser**, \$17.99, Bambini Pronto.

33 CHEEKY STEPS

Super-soft, leather, first-walker shoes. Urban Soles baby **shoes** in Blue, \$39.95, Cheeky Little Soles.



31

31 FAMILY TREE

Fill in this family tree poster or let the kids fill the frames with favourite pictures of loved ones. The A3 size fits into the Ikea "Ribba" frame.

Family tree **poster**, \$US45 plus shipping, Famille Summerbelle.



36 Rock-a-bye baby

A tiny baby may seem lost in a huge cot; this little cradle is ideal for the first few months. It also rocks, but the baby won't roll thanks to the mattress design.

Seed organic **cradle**, \$299, Design Child.



34 UP HIGH

A pod-like highchair that features sleek modern lines and too-easy pneumatic lift.

Boon "Flair" pedestal **highchair**, \$369.95, Essential Bubs.

34



35 Playmat-in-a-bag

Take anywhere. Unroll for a playmat, then pull the string to draw up into a bag, toys and all.

Cotton Carry-All **playmat**, \$35, Remi & Jack.



win this - see page 169

37 LET'S PLAY

Cute and cheery designs that can be a little tongue-in-cheek, or just plain cheeky!

Kombi **playsuit**, \$29.95, Sooki Baby. →



Zack wears
Dinosaur **tee**
with hood,
\$14, Kmart; Utility
shorts, \$49.95,
Country Road.

38

← almost worth
a graze!

38+39+40 ADVENTURES!

38 Awesome thongs that glow in the dark. Glow-in-the-dark Skull **thongs**, \$24.95, Havaianas.

39 All boo-boos will be made extra better with a Cowboy bandaid (or a Pirate, Crime Scene and Ninja, which are also available). Cowboy **bandages** ("Texas size"), \$9.50 for 15 (comes in a tin with a toy), Little Bruiser.

40 Those handmade and a little-out-of-the-ordinary toys make the best gifts and the coolest cuddly friends. Baby Oobee **toy**, \$US30, Onegirl.etsy.com

41



41 PUZZLE ME THIS

Give the latest puzzler by the Rubik's brand a try. All grown-up and hi-tech, this mindbender will keep the kids (and adults) very quiet. Rubik's 360 **brain puzzle**, \$34.95, Myer.

42 Pure & simple

We love the so-soft and sweetly designed organic cotton range by Pure Baby. **Growsuit** in Coral Stripe, \$34.95, Pure Baby.



43 Storage solution

Sturdy and stylish, this soft-canvas storage bag holds heaps of kids stuff and is easy to hold thanks to the large handles. Folds flat when not in use. Comes in 3 cool colours.

Skip Hop **Bin-Go** in Chocolate/Natural, \$59.95, Until.



44 Roadtrip fun

Save your sanity on car trips with this keep-them-busy-box filled with puzzles and pictures to draw. The cards are wipeable.

100 Things Journey **activity pack**, \$14.95, Seed.



45 Helmet head

The clever people behind Nutcase Helmets have given bikies a hipper alternative to the usual headgear and in sizes to fit kids from toddler to age 5.

Little Nutty 8 Ball **helmet**, \$99.95, Nutcase Helmets.



46 Balancing act

This cool bike aims to teach kids to ride without training wheels. It doesn't matter if it takes a while – it's good for ages 2 to 5.

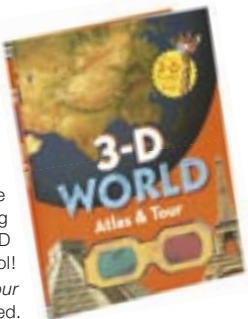
Early Rider Classic **bike**, \$329.95, Early Rider.

47 Holiday in a book

Get up close with a giraffe in Africa or look down from the Eiffel Tower with this realistic and fun world explorer.

It's filled with simple explanations, interesting facts and 2 pairs of 3D glasses. So cool!

3-D World Atlas & Tour **book**, \$22.95, Seed.



49 Little loungers

Look! A pull-out couch in eye-friendly, washable fabrics. Incredibly useful for reading, watching telly and sleepovers. Available in 3 colours.

Chillout **couch**, \$149, White & White.

48 GARDEN IN A BOX

The perfect gift or ongoing project for kids of all ages. The kit contains all they need to start their own veggie garden including a planter box, seeds and gloves.

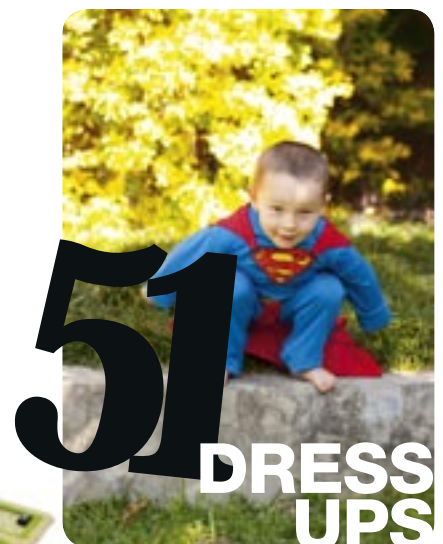
Seedling "Grow Your Own Veggie Patch" **gardening kit**, \$59, Prince & Princess.



50 Play mat

It's a rug. A car park. A soccer field. A road. Endless fun for them (and peace for you) with this interactive 3D rug.

Danish By Design "Traffic" interactive play **rug**, from \$189.95, Bubba Bling.



51 DRESS UPS

For as long as there are children, there will be imaginary flights around the yard in a cape and possibly underpants over their clothes. Might as well let them indulge their superhero status with a "real" suit.

Superman suit, \$27, Kmart. →

52



52 Lolly funds box

Keep pocket money safe and sound (but easily accessible for emergency sugar rushes) in a large and decorative money box. DwellStudio "Hippo" animal box, \$159.50, Luxury Labels.

55 TOY SCOOP

A friend to the popular Frog Pod. Scoop up all the bath toys, then stick to the bath edge with the handy not-going-anywhere suction caps. Bug Pod bath organiser, \$59.95, Boon.



58 Pretty prints

These gorgeous cot quilts, made with designer fabrics such as Amy Butler, are reversible and also come in bassinette size. It's modern style for modern babies. Reversible cot quilt in Espresso and/or Lotus Wallflower, \$130, Holly Chic.

53 Booster chair

Too big for a high chair; too small for a grown-up's chair... a medium-size kid needs this contraption, which allows regular dining chairs to be boosted from the legs up. High Leg chair booster, \$43.95, Litaf.



54 ZOO WALLS

What child gets tired of animals? This bold wallpaper will be loved longer than teddy-bear skirting and is much easier on the eyes, too. A modern-day safari style to suit all ages. Animal Farm wallpaper, \$150 a 10 metre roll, Ferm Living.



57 Legend in a lunchbox

Japanese design that's cute and compact. Two compartments for different lunches. Sushi and sarnies, anyone? Shinzi Katoh "Route 601" Bento lunchbox, \$29.95, Monkeytail & Wellington.



56 Pack & play

Train sets can take up a lot of room and are not easy to take with you or move room to room – despite your child's determination to do so. Until now. Unfold for locomotive fun, then, at the end of the line, fold it up into a carry-all depot for storage or transporting with ease. Zip Bin Train Depot, \$24.95, Cool Things.



59 Lounging around

Bright and cheery to colour-up the outdoors, these chairs are comfy and come individually or in a 6-piece set with a table and umbrella. Kids Sommersault chairs, \$14.98 each, (6-piece setting, \$75, not shown), Bunnings.

61

lightweight,
nifty,
fun to
push!



61 Cheeky monkey

He looks like a regular toy, but this one is magic. When drawn on with the special wand, this little fella glows in the dark to help send your little monkey off to slumber. Sleepy monkey, \$34.95, Cool Things.



62 COOL WHEELS

This one-piece foldable stroller transforms from infant to toddler with a reversible, reclining and extendable seat. Bugaboo Bee stroller, \$989, Babies Galore.



59 Giant bubbles

If all else fails on one of those days, bubbles will always, always make things better. Even more so if they're extra big ones. Go to www.reallivingmag.com.au for a giant-bubble recipe. Double Big bubble maker, \$9.99, Toys "R" Us.

63+64+65 SLEEPOVER FUN

63 Whether it's friends staying the night or siblings crashing in the same room for the novelty factor, the sleepover consists of a night of giggles and non-stop chatter – and not much sleeping! They'll say they want to stay the night because they're pals with your kid... But really it's because they want to work the electric air pump on the Aerobed they'll be jumping and sleeping on. SleepOver **inflatable bed**, \$99.95, AeroBed.

64 For colour, fun and gorgeous designs, you can't beat the Kideko range of bedspreads. Two of them in constant rotation on your child's bed will mean an extra cool doona for sleepovers. The PJs are great, too. **Quilt set** in Sunshine, \$125, and Monster **PJs**, \$34.95, Kideko.

65 No sleepover is complete without the torchlight chats or sneaky reading. Make it a little more colourful with a colour-changing wand light. Disney flashing **light**, \$6.99, Toys "R" Us.

bedtime was never so much fun

EXCLUSIVE REAL LIVING OFFER Two Aerobed SleepOver beds for the price of one!

For one month only **real living** readers have an exclusive opportunity to purchase TWO AeroBed SleepOver backpack beds for just \$99* (the normal RRP for one). The SleepOver bed is the perfect spare bed for kids and unexpected friends. It inflates

and deflates in seconds with its own 240V pump and packs away in its own backpack. It's the perfect Christmas gift. Simply visit www.ourhomelifestyle.com.au, click on the **real living** icon, type in the OFFER CODE "RL1108" and place your order. *Plus postage and handling. Red only.

63

66 Tiny toolman

This is a real downsized version of dad's tool set including tool belt, hammer, spirit level, battery-free torch and soft tape measure.

Real **Tool Set** For Boys, \$39.95, Me2Me2.



67 NO MORE RED EYES

This alien-like device fits on bubba's forehead and protects eyes from stinging soap.

Drieyes, \$24.97 plus shipping, Drieyes.



68 SPF SWIMMERS

Water babies will love the comfort; mums will love the muted palette and super style. This range of cossies, rashies, swim shorts and hats is chlorine resistant, UBF50, Australian made and comes in sizes 00 to 8.

Rash **tops**, \$44.95 each; **brief**, \$24.95; and **boardshorts**, \$49.95, White Soda.

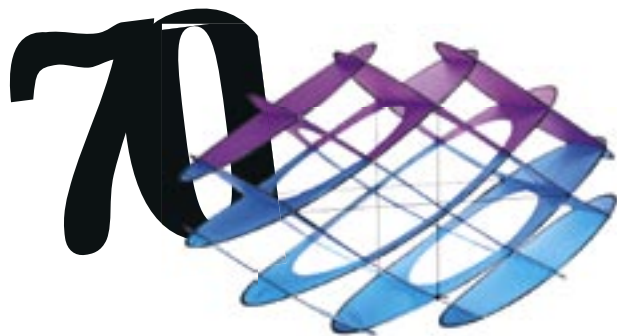


69 My first desk

Reading, writing, drawing – all they need is a space of their own to get the creative juices flowing. They might even look forward to homework!

Funky red **desk** with **toybox** and **stool**, \$580, Moochie-Moo. →





70 HIGH AS THE SKY

Remember the thrill you felt when your kite finally caught the wind and took flight? Share the joy with one of today's funkier versions – these box kites store flat and expand by themselves.

EO10 **kite** in Sky, \$149, Kitepower.

Zack wears H&T denim **jeans**, \$20, Kmart.



71 HIDEOUT BOX

Giant mailbox, tunnel, secret hideout... It's endless creative fun with a **cardboard box**. And you don't even have to buy an expensive appliance to get it super-sized – ask your local department store or supermarket if you can raid their storeroom.

72 Alphaboy!

Graphic + educational + cool = the perfect combo.

AlphaBoy **T-shirt**, \$30, Little Bruiser.



73 Build 'em up

Give them the building blocks to creativity and they will create! A set of classic wooden blocks is a household essential.

21 **building blocks**, \$49.95, Boikido.

75

75 Toilet targets

Hang this in the toilet bowl. The lad aims at a black spot, which then changes into a picture.

Wee Target **toily-training tool**, \$7.95, Moochie-Moo.



76 LET'S BOP

Turn it on and wait for the command – get ready to bop, spin and twist. Fun, fun, fun.

Bop It! **audio toy**, \$29.95 from toy stores.



74 Brrrrmm, brrrrmm

Tiny toy cars will come and break, but a few good quality wooden ones will last forever. Drive away!

Racing car in Blue, approx \$16, Bajo Toys.

77 WATCH ME GROW!

Why use pencil marks when there are cool, interactive height charts around like this one? How Tall Am I? Oak-and-Woodpecker height **chart**, approx \$180, Bajo Toys.



78 The puzzle tree

Over 170 pieces of printed recycled board can be slotted together to build a tree. Kids On Roof "Totem Tree" **puzzle**, \$62, Hunt & Gather.



79 The big bounce

Much like the ones we had as a kid, only much cooler, the Space Hopper will be bounced and raced on any available surface. Available in Blue, Red, Green or Pink.

Super '70s Space **Hopper**, \$29.95, Oobi Baby.

81



80 Worldly fashion

Add a little colour – and culture – to your daughter’s wardrobe with this eye-catching Mexican dress.

Peace Street “Mexican” shift **dress** in Turquoise, \$59.95, Baby’s Got Style.

81 BABY BLUES

A denim miniskirt with puffy pockets is a summer staple.

Denim **skirt**, \$39.95, Toetum.



82 Bikini babes

Red, flowers, ruffles and bows – a very girly bikini for even the littlest of water babes. Sizes start at 1.

Sunflower Ruffle **bikini**, \$39.95, Seed.



83 Silkprinted stool

A little stool/table made from Zaishu offcuts.

Baby Kimino **stool**, \$150, Zaishu.



Jeans, \$79.95, and **tee**, \$49, Kido Store.

84



87

87 FAIRY PRINCESS

Little girls will adore these beautiful fairy wings. Organza butterfly **fairy wings**, \$24, Fairy Magic.



84+85+86 MINI CHEF

Whether it’s pretend cookies or the real thing, little cooks need the right equipment including cookie cutters, a stool to reach the benchtop, and a cookbook.

84 Kids Kitchen **mat** and Animal **cutters**, \$21.95, Tupperware.

85 Kids Step-Up **stool**, \$39.95, Ezibuy.

86 Woman’s Day *The ABC Of Kids Cooking* **cookbook**, \$14.95, Magshop.com.au



90 FREE PRINT

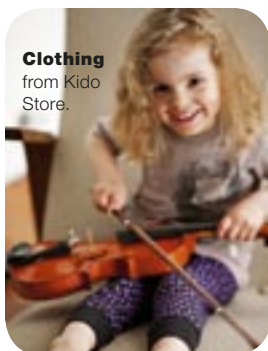
Style up your child’s room with gorgeous free art. Simply download from the net, print and frame.

Adrienne Vita **download**, free, indiefixx.com/Feed_your_soul/downloads.html →



88 Little musicians

The best music for babies in-utero is classical, so why not continue the music lesson by taking your toddler to a kids’ symphony? Check your local concert venue or council for shows, or head to Canberra for **Symphony for Kids** on November 22 at the Canberra Theatre. canberratheatre.org.au



Clothing from Kido Store.



89 Super sun hat

Pretty. Protective. Perfect. Summer’s essential baby accessory in a China doll print. Reversible baby **sun hat**, \$33.95, Styled Baby.



92

92 PARTY ON!

Whatever the milestone, a pretty party invitation is a must. These cute invites-in-a-box include 10 invitations and envelopes, and come in a huge range of fab designs from birds and cupcakes to circus and cars, setting the theme for the day. One Little Lala Bird **invitation box set**, \$24.95, Alannah Rose.

95 Sandwich shapes

Lots of sandwiches will be eaten as the kids try to get through the animal or puzzle shapes with these fab sandwich cutters. Food **cutters**, from \$12.95, Lunch Punch.

99 HIP HOLD ALL

For school, sleepovers or to take their "favourites" to nan's for the day, get the kids something they will want to carry themselves! Oriental **backpack**, \$49.50, Tantrums.

98 Sun-safe streetwear

It's no longer simply a case of slip, slop, slap in the summer months. Here's a line of stylish SPF children's clothing, made from stain-resistant, UV-protected fabrics. Princess **pants** in Pink, \$38, Agoos.



91



The sweetest top
93 Applique is as popular as ever – especially on sweet little singlets. Cupcake **singlet**, \$22.95, Peabody.



Lightbulb moment
91 A light the kids can help customise: choose from various styles, colours, sizes and uses. Online! Nimbus **lamp**, from \$89, Electric Firefly.



94 ONE-MAN BAND

All the noisemakers the children need in one handy place for hours of musical fun. Plan Toys Musical Band **music set**, \$95, Amelie's Room.

96

96 Learner knife
Great for kids over 3, this saw-like knife cuts through anything easily, but is not sharp to touch. Kiddie Food Kutter **safety knife**, \$9.45, Bonito Baby.

97 Soften up
We love the tactile nature of this flocced silhouette-style cushion. Serenity **cushion**, \$34.95, Hiccups.



100 Finger puppets
These little animal finger puppets are perfect for imaginative play. In the house or in the car. DwellStudio **finger puppets**, \$55 for 5, Luxury Labels. For stockists, see page 169.