

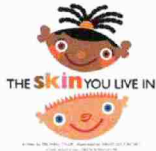
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{REVIEWS} read

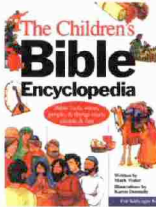
By Veronique F. Saiya

BOOKS



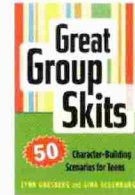
THE SKIN YOU LIVE IN This picture book examines human diversity by focusing on skin. Rhyming verses describe the many experiences that can be had in it; the different shades in which it comes; and the things that it is not. The poem ends by emphasizing the importance of the “You” who’s within” and pointing out that skin is something that makes individuals different and similar at the same time. Promotes self-esteem and multiculturalism. *Ages 3+.* By Michael Tyler. *Chicago Children’s Museum; www.ipgbook.com; \$15.*

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: PUZZLE BOOK Sail across the ocean with Max and enter the world of Where the Wild Things Are! Each of the six jigsaw puzzles inside features a photo from the unforgettable new movie based on the book by Maurice Sendak. Kids are sure to enjoy exercising their spacial skills, reasoning ability, and fine motor skills while putting together these beautiful high-gloss pictorials. *Ages 4+.* *Harper Festival; www.harpercollinschildrens.com; \$16.*

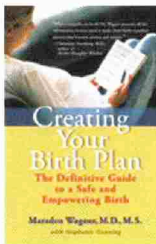


THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA This comprehensive, full-color childrens Bible encyclopedia features entries on most Bible subjects appropriate for kids 8 to 12 years old. Every page has illustrations, sidebars, boxes, interrupters, and various other techniques to create visual interest. Categories included in the 320 pages of pertinent information are people, places, things, events, theological concepts, social practices, stories, and more. *Ages 8+.* By Mark Water. *Baker; www.bakerpublishinggroup.com; \$20.*

GREAT GROUP SKITS: CHARACTER-BUILDING SCENARIOS FOR TEENS Created by experts who teach improvisational theater, this resource for educators and youth workers provides new and creative role-playing exercises that tackle a wide range of topics designed as improvisational scenarios that give a starting point and let kids decide where to go, enhancing their creativity, self-reliance, and analytical skills. Skits cover: imagination, teamwork, communication, motivation, peer pressure, integrity, and more. *Ages 13 +.* By Lynn Grasberg & Gina Oldenburg. *Search Institute Press; www.search-institute.org \$17.*

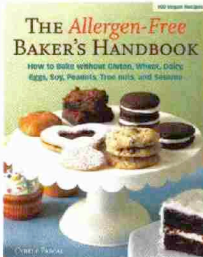
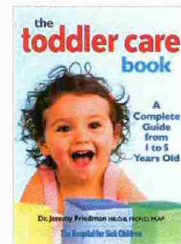


PARENTS

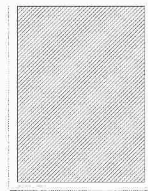


CREATING YOUR BIRTH PLAN Helps expectant mothers make informed decisions about the assistance they’ll require for childbirth. Designed to encourage collaboration between pregnant women and their caregivers, it includes information on: what to expect when delivering in a hospital, in a birthing center, or at home; how to select an advocate to ensure expectant mothers’ wishes are honored by their caregiver; the natural stages of labor in a problem-free birth; explanations of various medical or surgical interventions, and potential complications and benefits of each; natural alternatives to drugs, technology, and surgery. By Marsden Wagner, M.D., M.S. *The Berkley Publishing Group; www.penguin.com; \$16.*

THE TODDLER CARE BOOK Features a wealth of reliable information, presented in an easy-to-understand style, with hundreds of full-color photos. Each chapter ends with a Frequently Asked Questions section and covers topics like healthy sleep habits, nutrition, physical/emotional developmental milestones, behavior patterns/issues, safety recommendations, and more. In addition, there is a chapter dedicated to first aid and caring for your sick child (with advice on treating conditions like: fever, colds, impetigo, lice, urinary tract infections, flat feet, and cerebral palsy). By Dr. Jeremy Friedman, MB, ChB, FRCP(C), FAAP; Robert Rose; *www.fireflybooks.com; \$30.*



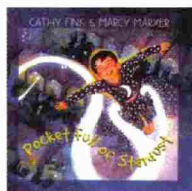
THE ALLERGEN-FREE BAKER'S HANDBOOK Offers detailed explanations of alternative food-stuffs, advice about choosing safe products, and sources for buying them. Additionally, these recipes will appeal to vegans, people avoiding refined sugar and artificial ingredients, and whole-foods cooks interested in baking with gluten-free flours such as amaranth and quinoa. By Cybele Pascal. *Celestial Arts; www.crownpublishing.com; \$25.*



MUSIC



MUSIC TIME WITH STEVE SONGS, VOL 1 The beloved music as heard nationally from Mr. Steve on PBS KIDS is available for the first time on this album. Steve Roslonek is recognized for his fun, educational lyrics and music, entertaining for both kids and adults. Steve's warmth, gentle humor, and quirky wordplay abound in this album that features 18 songs including 2 bonus tracks and never before heard extended versions of PBS KIDS favorites. *All ages. SteveSongs/PBS Kids; www.stevesongs.com; CD/\$15.*

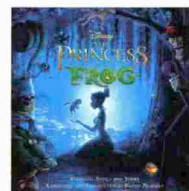


KINGSWAY KIDS "A TON OF WORSHIP FOR KIDS" Enjoy four CD's filled with the best in kids' worship songs. Bringing the Bible to life and laying some seriously good foundations for faith, this collection of songs has it all, with classics from down the years and a couple of funny ones thrown in for good measure. These 100 tracks will keep your pre-teen kid's praises going for four hours. *All ages. Kingsway Music; www.kingswaymusicstore.com; CD/\$17.*

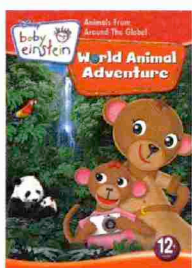


CATHY FINK & MARCY MARXER "POCKET FULL OF STARDUST" A collection of 16 songs, that combine playful and artful music with bedtime themes. Enjoy 16 original songs in wide variety of musical styles and a wonderful children's ensemble. Fink and Marxer, known for their Grammy-nominated children's songs, craftily start the album with upbeat music that eventually winds down in tempo, thus sneaking in sleepy rhythms to lull children to sleep. *All ages. Rounder Records; www.rounder.com; CD/\$16.*

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG SOUNDTRACK Enjoy 17 tracks from this amazing soundtrack featuring Anika Noni Rose (Dreamgirls), Ne-Yo (R&B music star), and Academy Award winning composer Randy Newman. Set in the great city of New Orleans, the sounds of jazz, zydeco, blues, gospel, and more are all present for an unforgettable musical experience the entire family will enjoy! *All ages. Walt Disney Records; www.disney.go.com/DisneyRecords; CD/\$19.*

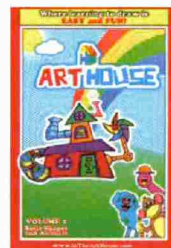


DVD & GAMES



BABY EINSTEIN: WORLD ANIMAL ADVENTURE Babies love animals, and now you can bring animals from the seven continents home to your baby. Meet exotic animals from all over the world like Asian pandas, Australian kangaroos, and Arctic snow monkeys, all filmed in their beautiful, natural habitats. Rhythms and songs inspired by faraway lands have been orchestrated especially for little ears. Also enjoy funny puppet shows featuring moms and their baby animals. *Ages 3 mos. +. Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment; www.babyeinstein.com; DVD/\$20.*

ART HOUSE, VOL. 1: BASIC SHAPES AND ANIMALS Join Teacher Emily and the Art House Gang as they draw fish, dogs, monkeys, birds, dinosaurs, and more. Engaging kids with bright, bold animation by Brad Abelson (The Simpsons); original music by award-winning composer Peter Scaturro; and fun live-action visuals, the program is both interactive and easy-to-follow, providing step-by-step instructions to help young viewers create simple drawings of their very own. Along with printable coloring book pages, learning to draw has never been easier or more fun! *Ages 3 +. Art House, LLC; www.intheartthouse.com; DVD/\$15.*



LEAPFROG LEAPSTER LEARNING GAME: SCHOLASTIC OUTWIT! Challenge your mind with brain games from five clever animals! Play 15 fast-paced games that build thinking, memory, reasoning, and identification skills. Leapster2 players can connect online for extra activities and rewards. And with the LeapFrog Learning Path, parents can see what their child is learning. Appropriate for ages 4 years to 8 years. For use with any Leapster system. *Ages 5 to 8. Leap Frog; www.leapfrog.com; \$25.*

DORA THE EXPLORER: DORA SAVES THE CRYSTAL KINGDOM Help restore the color to the Crystal Kingdom by finding all of the color "drystals" throughout different locations like a butterfly cave, cloud castle, and dragon land! Dora and Friends jump, climb, swing, slide, and explore their way through the Crystal Kingdom! Featuring authentic character voices from the TV Show! Grown-ups can join in using the Helper Feature and a second controller. *Rated E. Wii platform; By 2K Play www.take2games.com; \$40.*

