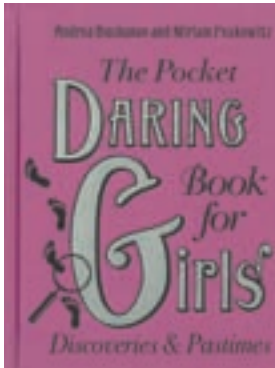


book reviews



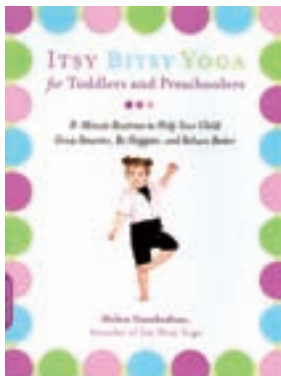
The Pocket Daring Book for Girls: Discoveries & Pastimes by Andrea Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz, HarperCollins Publishers 2008, RM44.90

This book mixes much-loved chapters from the popular *The Daring Book For Girls* with even more stories and fun facts. Perfect for girls on the go, this portable and pocket-sized book of discoveries and pastimes is just the thing for anyone who loves to discover new ideas and trade newfound knowledge with family and friends. It's the perfect companion for the adventures that come your way, and for the moments between them. ■ Recommended ages between 7+ onwards.

Super Skeleton, Written by Gaby Goldsack, Illustrated by Geoffrey Nicholson, Parragon Books Ltd 2008, RM25.90



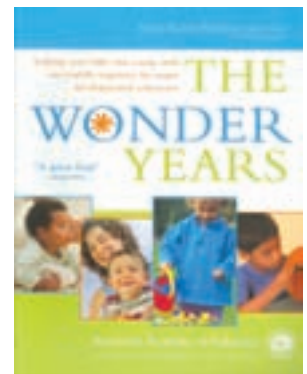
This book contains all the press-out model pieces you need to make a realistic human skeleton and a fact-packed display stand. PLUS inside the book you'll find loads of amazing, fascinating facts you never knew about your incredible skeleton. ■ Recommended ages 9+ onwards.



Itsy Bitsy Yoga for Toddlers and Preschoolers by Helen Garabedian, Da Capo Press 2008, RM66.90

If you've been looking for a fun and loving way to help you children learn and improve their development, look no further than *Itsy Bitsy Yoga for Toddlers and Preschoolers*. New studies show that young kids learn best through play and need at least 30 minutes of structured physical activity each day. There's no better way to engage your child than through the simple practice of yoga. ■

The Wonder Years by Tanya Remer Altman, Editor-in-Chief, Bantam 2007, RM64.90



From America's most trusted paediatric authority comes an indispensable, easy-to-use guide to helping your baby and young child flourish in the first five years of life – physically, mentally, and emotionally. The first five years of a child's life are filled with major developmental and behavioral milestones. During this period your infant becomes an individual who has mastered a range of skills – from walking to making conversation – that prepares him or her to enter the world beyond home and family. For parents, this wondrous time provides an opportunity to help children fulfill their potential. *The Wonder Years* shows you how to make the most of it. ■



Vegan Lunch Box by Jennifer McCann, Da Capo Press 2008

If you think vegan lunchtime means peanut butter and jelly day after day, think again! Based on the wildly popular blog of the same name, *Vegan Lunch Box* offers an amazing array of meat-free, egg-free, and dairy-free meals and snacks. All the recipes are organized into menus to help parents pack quick, nutritious, and irresistible vegan lunches. Ideal for everyday and special occasions, *Vegan Lunch Box* features tips for feeding even the most finicky kids. It includes handy allergen-free indexes identifying wheat-free, gluten-free, soy-free, and nut-free recipes, and product recommendations that make shopping a breeze. ■



log on



Understanding Childhood

www.understandingchildhood.net/leaflets.html

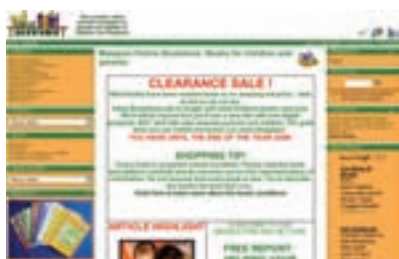
This sites provides free downloadable leaflets for parents and carers, to help with raising children. The leaflets include information about the first months of life, dealing with postnatal depression, how to avoid sibling rivalry, as well as supporting teenagers and coping with divorce and separation. ■



Malaysian Motherhood Forum

www.malaysianmotherhood.com/forum

Looking for other mums to talk to in Malaysia and Singapore? This site hosts a wide range of forums with mums discussing topics from pregnancy, infertility and family life to parenting styles and teenage angst. If you want to have your say and help other mums, then this is the site for you. ■



Value Bookshop

www.valuebookshop.com

Value Bookshop provides a great range of English-language books for children from pre-school to teens as well as parenting books at half the normal RRP. Value bookshop aims to make books more affordable by offering closeouts and used books that are of good quality. This provides parents an alternative to expensive new books. ■



Baby Loft

www.thebabyloft.com/catalog/index.php

The Baby Loft offers unique, baby-tested, parent-approved items, selected for the discerning parent. The Baby Loft is a specialty mother & baby resources online boutique, with unique keepsakes and signature parenting gems. You can find baby carriers, maternity wear, toys, supportive pillows as well as great gifts for first birthdays, christenings and baby shower. ■

cd/dvd reviews



WALL-E, DVD 98 minutes

As the last robot left on earth, Wall-E is one small robot – with a big, big heart – who holds the future of earth and mankind squarely in the palm of his metal hand. He’s outlasted all the “Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class” robots that were assigned some 700 years ago to clean up the environmental mess that man made of earth while man vacationed aboard the luxury spaceship Axiom. Wall-E has dutifully gone about his job compacting trash, the extreme solitude broken only by his pet cockroach, but he’s developed some oddly human habits and ideas. When the Axiom sends its regularly scheduled robotic EVE probe to earth, Wall-E is instantly smitten and proceeds to try to impress EVE with his collection of human memorabilia. EVE’s directive compels her to bring Wall-E’s newly collected plant sprout to the captain of the Axiom and Wall-E follows in hot pursuit. Suddenly, the human world is turned upside down and the Captain joins forces with Wall-E and a cast of other misfit robots to lead the now lethargic people back home to earth. Wall-E is a great family film with the most impressive aspect being the depth of emotion conveyed by a simple robot – a machine typically considered devoid of emotion. ■

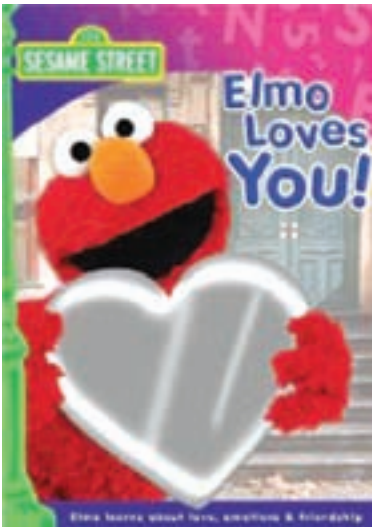
Recommended ages 3 and older



The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, DVD 149 minutes

More exciting than The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian continues the movie franchise based on C.S. Lewis’ classic fantasy books. The movie picks up where the first left off... sort of. It’s been a year since the Pevensie children – Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy – returned to England from Narnia, and they’ve just about resigned themselves to living their ordinary lives. But just like that, they’re once again transported to a fantastical land, but one with a long-abandoned castle. It turns out that they are in Narnia again – and they themselves lived in that castle, but hundreds of years ago in Narnia time. They’ve been summoned back to help Prince Caspian, the rightful heir to the throne who’s become the target of his power-hungry uncle, King Mraz. And he’s not the only one threatened: Mraz’s people, the Telmarines, have pushed all the Narnians – the talking animals, the centaurs and other beasts, the walking trees – to the brink of extinction. But of course they most of all miss the noble lion, Aslan, who would have never let this happen to Narnia if he hadn’t disappeared. Prince Caspian is epic and it’s appropriate for kids, though the tone is dark and there is a lot of death, albeit bloodless. ■

Recommended ages 5 and older



Elmo loves you, DVD 46 minutes

Elmo is making a very, very super special surprise card for someone he really loves but a gust of wind blows it away! Rosita joins Elmo to chase after the card but they can't reach it. Can Super Grover use his heroic skills to save the day? Will Elmo be able to give his surprise card to someone very special? Join Elmo, Rosita and Grover as they learn about love, emotions and friendship in this love-ly tale featuring the new song "Elmo Loves You" and a special music video about signing "I Love You". ■

Recommended ages Birth-2 years



High School Musical 3:Senior Year, Disney, CD

Disney's High School Musical phenomenon leaps onto the silver screen in HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR! Amidst a basketball championship, prom and a big spring musical featuring all of the Wildcats, Troy and Gabriella vow to make every moment last as their lifelong college dreams put the future of their relationship in question. For the first time, two versions of the soundtrack will be available. Featuring more songs than ever before, the HSM3:SENIOR YEAR includes all-new songs by the original songwriters and performances by the original cast, including Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale and more! ■

Recommended ages 7 onwards



Alvin and the Chipmunks:Undeniable, Razor and Tie, CD

Alvin, Simon, and Theodore are back in 2008 with their first new non-soundtrack album in over 15 years. 'Undeniable' features covers of major hits that have spent in excess of 100 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart (including six songs that broke into the top 20!), as well as four new Chipmunks originals. With the band's 50th anniversary, the Chipmunks deliver yet another hit record as the follow-up to last year's platinum-selling. With over 40 million albums sold worldwide, two #1 Billboard Hits, and 3 Grammy Awards, the Chipmunks are a phenomenon that just won't quit. To celebrate their 50th anniversary 'Undeniable' was produced by Ali Dee (Speed Racer, Transformers, Garfield soundtracks). ■

Recommended ages 5 onwards