

Extra Credit | We always check urbanoutfitters.com for cool, inexpensive (\$10 to \$28) lamp shades like this one.



| downtime |

stuff we love

BACK TO SCHOOL


9 | Lookers rainbow bureau | Because even paper clips and rubber bands need a little color in their lives. (\$33, designideas.net)



1 | Old-school reference books by Federal Street Press | They look good while you look up stuff. (\$4 each, borders.com)

2 | Triceratops pencil sharpener by Kikkerland Design | He makes a point, gets all wound up, then walks away. (\$8, kikkerlandshop.com)


3 | Wooden stapler by Tatiri | Comes with flowers, cars, fish, or butterflies. Just add staples. (\$9, thesatinbutton.com)

4 | Ecojot notebooks by Workbook-Cahier | 100 percent recycled paper to jot down 100 percent original ideas.  (\$11 for 2, delight.com)

5 | Clear calculator by Decor Craft | We think it's cool, clearly. (\$11, weecanshop.com)

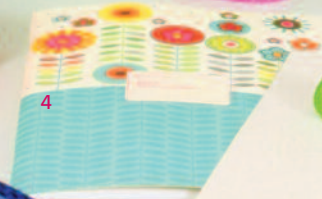
6 | Retro Block iPod speaker by Homade | This block lets you rock. (\$25, fredflare.com)

7 | Mr. P tape dispenser | He's a stable guy: no tipping when tape is pulled. (\$18, bitwisegifts.com)

8 | Pot set with tray | Plant all your stuff in these. (\$6, galvanizedpail.com) 

10 | Spanish-speaking Lizzie by Language Littles | So your child can say "I want to stay up and play at my desk" in a second language. (\$40, toys4minds.com)

iHola!



11 | Compass pencil by Haba | Gives writing plenty of direction. (\$3 for a variety pack of 5, oompa.com)



12



12 | Techno pneumatic lift chair | Who wants a bad back at age 10? (\$79, containerstore.com)

Wall decals by dVider

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AT HOME



Hang Out

| Swing chair by Gecko Traders | Who says swings are just for kids? (\$140 including pillows, acaciacatalog.com)



Drink Responsibly

| WeeGo glass baby bottles by Babylife | Free of anxiety over toxic plastic, you're now worried about breaking glass. Relax. A staffer dropped one—he claimed on purpose, as a durability test—and the silicone sleeve saved the day.



It's a Wrap

| Reusable sandwich bags by Happy-Sacks! | Make a dent in your plastic bag consumption while (hopefully) upping your child's sandwich consumption. (\$6 to \$10, happy-sacks.com)



Standing Tall

| Giraffe bookends by Streamline | You may think your child is dawdling while picking out a bedtime story, but she's really just saying goodnight to the giraffes. (\$50 each,



Durable Goods

| Laundry bag and waste-basket | These sturdy fabric rice and feed bags from Cambodia lend your home international flair and stand up to domestic needs. (\$20 to \$36, vivaterra.com)

Face-lift

| Tile tattoos by Mibo | Your choice: You can get out a hammer, chisel, and grout to replace the bathroom tile, or you can stick these on to perk up the old ones. (And they *really* stick, even in the shower.) (sets of 6, \$16 for 4¼ inches; \$18 for 6 inches, 2jane.com)

Rice bag photograph by Keller + Keller



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STYLE



Spot On

| Nadia dress by Jen Jen |
One look at your girl in this dress and you'll be the parent with kaleidoscope eyes. (\$48, 6 months to 8 years, shop.jenjenkids.com)



Soft Shoe

| Booties by Evie Lala |
A comfy nest for feet. And they're reversible, which means looking at them is twice the hoot. (\$34, infant to 6 months, evielala.com.au)



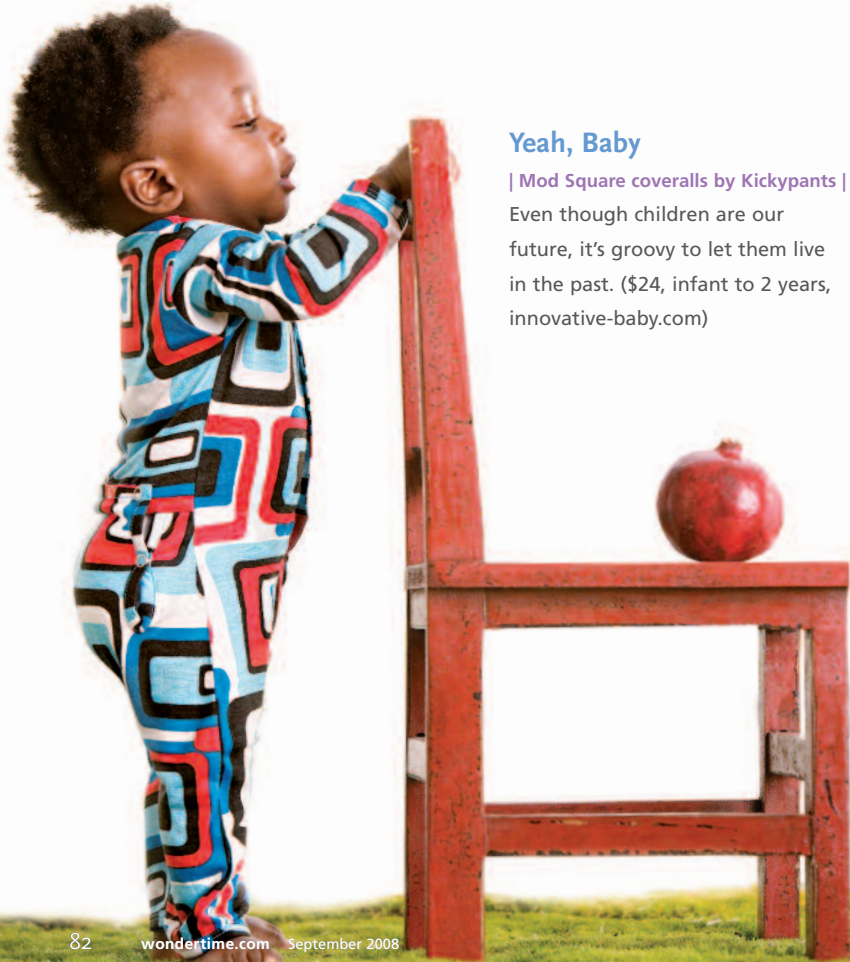
E-I-E-I-O

| Corduroy overalls by Plastisock and tractor shirt by Smafolk | Running around the yard/park/farm in these, your Young MacDonald will look like he owns the place. Well, he is very bossy. (overalls/jumper, \$52, 1 to 4 years; shirt, \$36, infant to 6 years, ittikid.com)



Pack Mentality

| Backpack by Dante Beatrix | A kid can fit the lion's share of his belongings into this. (\$36, dantebeatrix.com)



Yeah, Baby

| Mod Square coveralls by Kickypants | Even though children are our future, it's groovy to let them live in the past. (\$24, infant to 2 years, innovative-baby.com)



No Bull

| Rodeo boots by The Children's Place | These are made for a whole lot more than walking. (\$23, whole sizes toddler 3 to 11; \$25, youth 12 to 4, childrensplace.com)



Under Cover

| Small Paul boys' boxer briefs by Paul Frank | Boys should have a few years of simple comfort before being confronted with the underlying question of manhood: boxers or briefs? (\$29 for 3, 2 toddler to 7 years, littleboychic.com)

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TOYS



Wood You, Could You? | If I Had a Hammer workbench set | A kid with this set could give new meaning to the edict, "Make your bed!" (\$79, landofnod.com)



Get Your Kicks | Soccer Guys and Soccer Girls by Kaskey Kids | Here's a version of the game that engages a kid's noggin for more than just a header—like thinking up those one-word soccer names, like Pelé. Or Cher. Or Divine. (\$20, kaskeykids.com)



À La King | Crown by Pakhuis Oost | This is not what you'd call everyday wear . . . unless your child feels he's *always* deserving of the royal treatment. (\$13, sonsanddaughtersinc.com)



Special Delivery | Let's Play Stamp & Mail by Cranium Bloom | That *ding!* is so satisfying when mail arrives and you find one of the reusable postcards (with reusable stamps). To make it more realistic, slip in some of the neighbor's mail. (\$15, hasbrotoyshop.com)



Ears to You | Bunny or elephant doll by Manuella Design | Check out tutu girl on the left. See how calm she looks? You should have seen her just moments later, when we asked if we could have some squeeze time with bunny. (\$40, i-design-shop.com)



Accelerated Learning | Activity bus by Plan Toys | It opens into a yellow wooden classroom. Now that's a *school* bus. The thing your child rides in the morning is just a bus to school. (\$38, momastore.org)

Girl with doll photograph by Thomas Skiffington