

BEST bets

- Limit use; pare it down to naps and nighttime, then evenings only, then nada.
- Throw a “bye-bye binky” party and ceremoniously toss all the binkies in the trash. When he asks for one, politely tell him they’re gone.
- If the timing is right, say “Santa’s giving it to a baby who needs one.” Praise her for doing without it.
- Swap it for something he wants more, but don’t give in when he wants to trade back!

Ditch that pacifier

If your baby’s a binky junkie, consider this: At 6 months those suckers can be pretty hard to get rid of, and past age 1, a paci problem can even interfere with learning to talk. How to kick the habit?



WORST ways

- Dip the paci in something he thinks tastes bad; then give it back. Bring on the mushy peas!
- Give him a bottle instead; a little orange juice will keep him quiet. (Never mind, you know this is a no-no.)
- Hide them all in the couch cushions. Don’t forget the ones on the floor of the car.
- Cut off the tip and pretend “it’s broken.” Alert: This is a major choking hazard!



Momprenneur of the month

Once upon a time, Richelle Nassos’ toddler son, Cody, now 9, feared first aid. And there was no first-aid product geared toward kids on the market. She thought up a company name—Me4Kidz, fun shorthand for “medical emergencies for kids.” Husband Peter quit his job and worked on development; after hours, Richelle did her part: PR, sales, accounting. In 2006, they released Medibag 4 Kids, a full-size first-aid kit that’s too cute to be scary.

“We’ve been kid-friendly from the beginning: latex, lead, and phthalate free, 100% recycled plastic.”

A mother of two boys, Richelle jokes that there’s “a product for every kid,” which includes their dog (there’s a pet kit, too). So it’s entirely appropriate that the latest product, the Diaper Bag Buddy—a mini-kit of natural baby basics that sells for \$5 at Babies“R”Us stores—coincides with Richelle’s third pregnancy.

The couple also committed to giving back from the start, making the kits entirely in the United States and hiring local disabled adults to assemble them. Staying true to their values, “has made our work lives smoother,” Richelle says. “if there’s anything smooth about working 70 hours a week, raising two kids, and having a third on the way!”



Wish we invented it

Fact: Hormonal fluctuations of pregnancy cause women to misjudge household spacial constraints. This often leads to marital stress caused by the over-purchasing of nursery furniture. OK, not really, but Baby Spaces gives you a simple way plan what you can (and cannot!) fit in the room and where it should go. The kit includes life-size paper footprints for a changing table, crib, chest, and glider that you can easily shuffle around until you find the right mix. There’s also set-up and safety advice perfect for first-time parents. \$20, designyourselfinteriors.com