

WORTH KNOWING ABOUT

Encouraging reading

Story Box, Adventure Box and *Discovery Box* (published by Bayard Press) are worth knowing about if your child loves to read. The box magazine collection is a mix of fiction, stories, factual information, games and quizzes. They are designed to bring children great pleasure in reading while learning, stimulating their curiosity and creativity and broadening their horizons.

Story Box, for 3 to 6-year-olds, is a read aloud magazine to share with young children (with CDs). *Adventure Box*, for 6 to 9-year-olds, is full of stories, illustrations, activities and games and *Discovery Box* is for 9 years and over, with a great variety of contents.

Animals, history, science topics with easy experiments plus stories, quizzes, fun facts, games, recipes, things to make and do, jokes, puzzles, cartoons and even more abound. The collection is available in different languages:

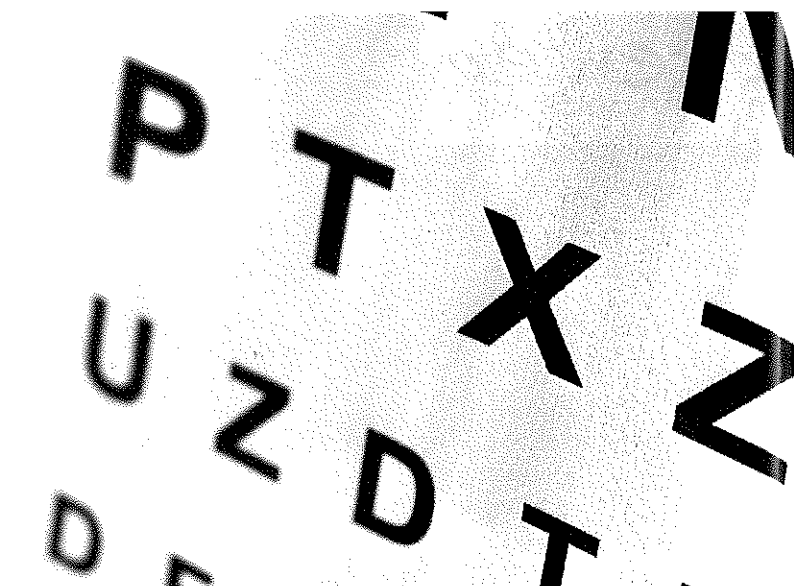
English: www.bayard-magazines.co.uk
French: www.bayard-jeunesse.com/monde
Spanish: www.bayard-revistas.com
German: www.sailer-verlag.de

By subscribing through local agent Isabelle Lopez, you can get the *Discovery Box* for only €58 (instead of €65 online). Bayard has a worldwide network, so the magazines can be sent everywhere. isabelle.lopez@bayard-mag.com or T: 06 13 02 54 73.

Contact lenses for children

Contrary to popular belief, children as young as 10 can wear contact lenses. According to MyVision, which specialises in the creation of contact lenses for children, in Holland people generally start to use lenses between 15 and 16 because it is believed eyes must be mature, when in fact by the time you are two-years old your eyeballs are fully grown. If children are good about hygiene and washing their hands, a 10-year old can wear day lenses, which are disposable and therefore carry practically no risk of infection, according to the company.

Research points to the fact that a child's quality of life can be improved simply



by opting for contact lenses over glasses. Findings show that some children fear their glasses will get broken during sporting activities, so 86 per cent take them off before playing, which could be dangerous for children with a greater degree of impaired vision. It is believed self-confidence amongst peers can also be increased by making the changeover.

www.wijwillenlenzen.nl



www.babylolly.com

Baby Lolly

Babylolly.com is a new online network that was started here in the Netherlands. Described by the founders as "a Facebook for babies and toddlers," it combines an online baby book with a social networking concept. Babylolly.com allows parents to share important moments in their baby's life with friends and family members anywhere in the world by posting pictures, videos, and baby journals on the website. Anyone can sign up, and the site is 100 per cent free of charge. The "invitation-only" criteria means that members can control who has access to the information they post about their children.

Canadian-born expat Collette, who has been living in Amsterdam for the last five years, came up with the idea out of sheer frustration. She found it increasingly difficult to keep abreast of developments with her many babies, friends and relatives. "I was losing touch with them at a very important stage of their life. They were sending me photos with photos attached and were sending me people's e-mails. So I thought I had to get to be a better way."

www.babylolly.com

ASH out in force for

Students from the American School in The Hague high school recently took part in a march through Wassenaar to get the public aware of the countless children who are suffering as a result of the Ugandan Civil War.

A swarm of teenagers carrying posters and banners, equipped with drums and loud voices, caused a stir when they took to the streets. The march was organised in support of the Invisible Children Inc, which was founded by three young American filmmakers on their trip to Africa. They witnessed the displacement of thousands of children who walk every night to safe places where they can avoid being captured by Joseph Kony's Lord Resistance Army. They subsequently created their documentary film *Invisible Children: Rough Cut* to share their story with the world.

www.invisiblechildren.com

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