

EARTH MAMA

I especially enjoyed "Raise a Kid Who Loves the Earth" [March 2009]. As a mom and an elementary-school teacher, I can tell you that most children enjoy being outside. Yet we parents get caught up in what to buy for our children to best educate them, rather than what to do with them. The happiest times of my childhood were spent outside doing nothing but riding my bike or exploring my own backyard. And now my son, 2, already shows a strong preference for the outdoors. If the sun is up, he wants to be out there. My husband and I plan to nurture that as much as we can while he grows.

Melissa Y. Hinson
Lancaster, South Carolina

POST-BABY SEX

I wish to remind "Jonathan Ridgewood," author of "And Baby Makes Birth Control" [March 2009], that his wife carried and nurtured their baby for nine months and endured the painful, traumatic event of labor and childbirth. I'm willing to bet that she is also now shouldering the majority

A Big Thank-You

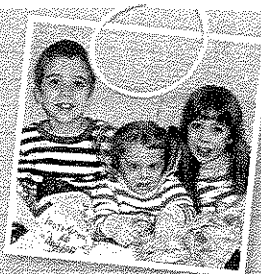
We want to give a special shout-out to all the readers who purchased our charity edition of the Little M.D. Kit, a compact doctor's set for kids (November 2008's "The Ultimate Toy Guide"). Thanks to your support, *Parents* and the toy manufacturer, Battat, recently donated \$30,000 to CARE to fight global poverty. If you still want to help this great cause, visit care.org or pick up the toy at your local Target store.

of the burdens that come with caring for a newborn, including all those late nights and endless diaper changes. She surely feels the disappointment of realizing that her body will never be quite the same. It will take a huge effort to restore it to even a semblance of its former self. So, Mr. Ridgewood, you're going to have to look elsewhere for sympathy over your ambivalence toward sex.

Kate Eich; Strongsville, Ohio

POWER OF PARENTS

Wendy Berezovsky always found it hard to see her daughter in hospital pajamas. "It was a reminder of sickness," says the mom of three. Chaya Dalya, 4, was diagnosed at birth with a rare soft-tissue cancer, and often visits the Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in Minneapolis for monitoring. Wishing all the kids there had new cozy pajamas, Berezovsky began collecting pj's for donation from clothing store Hanna Andersson. She then formed a nonprofit pj fund for the hospital called Sweet Dreams for Kids. For more information, visit sweetdreamsforkids.org.



Berezovsky's three kids love to sort and count pj donations.

* *Parents* donated \$500 to Sweet Dreams for Kids. To nominate your organization or community-service project for Power of Parents and be considered for a donation, e-mail us at advocacy@parentsmag.com.

Send your comments to *Parents*, 375 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, or e-mail us at inailbag@parentsmag.com. Include your daytime phone number, city, and state or province. Submission of photos and letters constitutes permission to Meredith Corporation, publisher of *Parents*, to use them in all media. All submissions become Meredith property and will not be returned. Want your child's picture in Caught on Camera? Log on to parentsmag.com to enter our Kid of the Day contest.



Here's our two cents for a deli fresh meal.

The credit crunch is on, but that doesn't mean you should sacrifice a fresh meal.

Try *Oscar Mayer* Deli Fresh Shaved Meats — they cost 25% less than the leading brand of deli counter meats, with a taste your whole family will love.

Brown Bag It!

Grab a pita or wrap, throw in your favorite condiments and switch it up using *Oscar Mayer* Deli Fresh Smoked Turkey to bring the fresh taste of the deli case right into your home.

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Let the kids choose their favorite *Oscar Mayer* Deli Fresh Meat, like Brown Sugar Ham, cheese and veggies, and twirl it together to create their very own Deli Fresh roll-up!

