

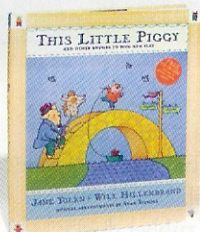
parenting picks

Best books, music, DVDs/videos, and software

Birth to 18 mos

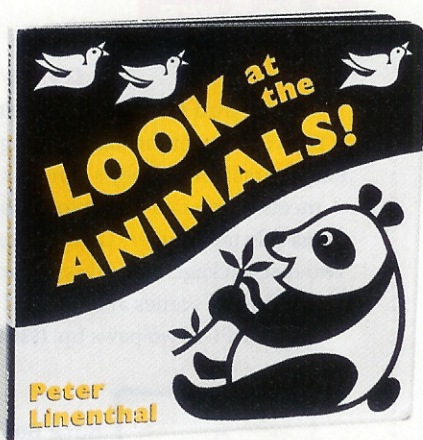
BOOKS

Look at the Animals! Peter Linenthal
Boldly silhouetted black-and-white graphics make for an eye-catching board-book intro to pandas, bunnies, birds, and more. (\$7, Dutton)



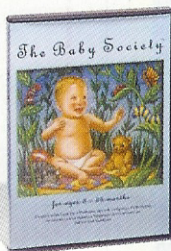
This Little Piggy edited by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Will Hillenbrand;

musical arrangements by Adam Stemple
Get hands-on with the clapping games, fingerplay, and other easy-as-pie activities that accompany these 59 traditional songs and rhymes. Sprightly watercolors and a fun bonus CD add to the festivities. (\$20, Candlewick) —LEONARD S. MARCUS



DVDS/VIDEOS

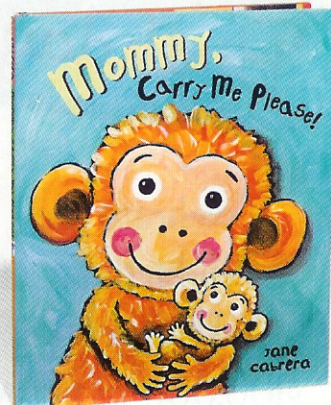
The Baby Society Teddy bears, nursery toys, and baby animals share screen time in a vibrant and stimulating parade of up-close images. A narrator clearly pronounces the name of each object on display, and the music—from bubbly to twinkly—is especially engaging. (\$20 DVD, \$15 VHS, thebabysociety.com) —BRUCE KLUGER



3 to 5 yrs

BOOKS

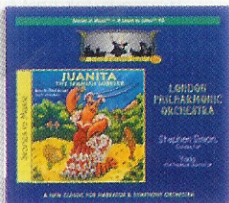
Mommy, Carry Me Please! Jane Cabrera
A mother crocodile, penguin, kangaroo, and more give comforting lifts to their little ones in their own special way. Playful paintings invite kids to open their eyes wide to unique behaviors across species. (\$17, Holiday House) —L.S.M.



5 to 8 yrs

MUSIC

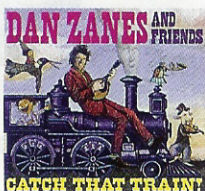
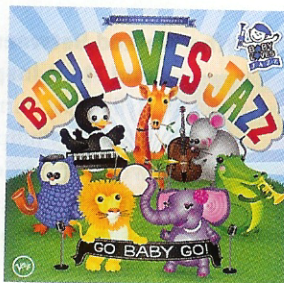
Juanita the Spanish Lobster
Laughter and lessons abound in this latest offering from the *Stories in Music* series. A haughty diva of a lobster learns to appreciate the life aquatic in a witty and comic opera, infused with a saucy flamenco flavor. (\$17, Magic Maestro Music, magicmaestromusic.com) —E.M. >>



18 mos to 3 yrs

MUSIC

Baby Loves Jazz Go Baby Go These jazzed-up tot tunes are miles above the typical parent-friendly kid fare. Some of the hottest names in jazz help generate authentic funk on favorites like "Banana Boat Song." **Best download for you:** "Paw Paw Patch." (\$13, Verve) —ERIKA MILVY



MUSIC

Catch That Train!
Dan Zanes and Friends This truly joyous jamboree is a clamorous mix of world music, folk, spirituals, and old-timey Americana. Nostalgic, fresh, and festive. (\$14, Festival Five/Starbucks Hear Music) —E.M.



MUSIC

Hot Peas 'N Butter, Volume 3: Mo Hotta, Mo Butta The sizzling percussive beats will put even the gloomiest kid in a party mood. Bilingual lyrics take listeners from a dip in a wild watering hole to a tour of world flags. (\$15, Hot Peas 'N Butter, hotpeasn butter.com) —ERIKA MILVY >>



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