

Peapods

Natural Toys & Baby Care



Welcome to our first newsletter! Although this is dated June, 2002, it began as November, 2001, and then spent some time as February, 2002. It wasn't that we didn't have anything to say, we just didn't find the time to say it. Hopefully, our efforts have improved with age. We hope this will become a quarterly publication, but that may be overly ambitious.

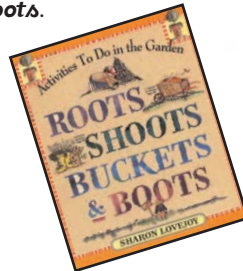
In this issue, you'll find a pull-out map that highlights some of our favorite things to do with kids in our neighborhood. Most of the places we listed are not well known but nonetheless worth checking out. Our hope is that you'll be able to build "enhanced outings" with

your kids, stopping by our store or Essence of Nonsense or Brewberry's Coffee Shop and then taking a short walk to check out another interesting attraction. We think it's a neighborhood well worth exploring.



By the way, ours is by no means a comprehensive list—I'm sure we missed some things that others love. If so, please let us know!

With Summer finally arriving in fits and starts, we hope you'll dig a short excerpt from one of our favorite kids' gardening books, *Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots*.



As a small independent shop, we have the opportunity to work with many other interesting small businesses. This issue, we profile Kissaluv's, the makers of wonderful fitted cotton diapers.

Finally, thank you to all of our customers, friends, and suppliers who have helped us grow our business in the past year. Our family appreciates your business and your enthusiasm for our store!

Thanks,

Millie, Dan, Jule, Abby, and Riley



P.S. Thanks to everyone who voted in the 2002 *CityPages* Favorites poll. Thanks to you, we've been designated as this year's **Best Baby Goods Store!**

New!

We now carry
Bravado nursing
bras.

bravado!
designs®



Supplier Profile

Kissaluvvs™
Beautiful · Practical · Easy-to-Use

We started offering Kissaluvvs diapers in the store about six months ago. We were a bit nervous at first—these are a bit more expensive than your average diaper (\$8.95-9.95 each). But, we've been overwhelmed by your response. Everyone who tries them just loves them.

For those of you who haven't seen them, Kissaluvvs are just the most decadent diaper you will find. They are a snap on, fitted diaper, made out of wonderfully soft cotton fleece. The fabric is so soft and absorbent, you'll wish you could wear them.



We've also recently added the Kissa-sling baby carrier from Kissaluvvs. It's a padded sling with an open tail.

Kissaluvvs is owned by Dianna Coldiron. She lives with her husband and two daughters outside of Houston, Texas. We talked with her on the phone recently about Kissaluvvs, diapers, and parenting in general.

How did you get involved in Kissaluvvs?

"When I was a new mom, a friend started making Kissaluvvs for baby Kissa in her dining room. The diapers were wonderful, she started selling them, and her business grew. But she began to have some health problems, and was going to close the business. I was saddened that such a great product would disappear, so we decided to buy the company.

Kissaluvvs are now made in the USA by professional sewers. That's important to ensure both my sanity, and high quality and consistency in the diapers. It used to drive me nuts to buy a diaper once, go back to get more, and the product had totally changed—fabric, sizing, design...everything. I want people to always know what they are getting when they purchase Kissaluvvs."

What's so great about Kissaluvvs?

"Basically, the simplicity. They are so easy to use. You just snap them on and go—you don't have to make any

adjustments or resnap them in any way. (Some snap-on diapers have these cryptic snap patterns.) Dads and babysitters love them. The size ranges are very easy to understand. Because the fabric has a little bit of stretch, they will fit any baby, whether long and thin or short and stocky."

What advice would you give to new parents?

Regarding diapers: "Don't worry about the washing. Modern washing machines do a good job, and washing diapers is really a no brainer. Concentrate on finding diapers and covers that work for you, and the rest will take care of itself."

In general: "Get a sling. It will just make life so much simpler and stress free and give you your hands back."

"Also, with your first and particularly your second child, anticipate that everything will take three times longer than you think it will. It might only take twice as long, but if you anticipate three times longer, you'll still come out ahead."

New for Summer!

Flap Happy sun hats and swim diapers, starting at \$10.



Kid's Gardening



The following is an excerpt from **Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots—Activities to do**

in the Garden, by Sharon Lovejoy. Workman Publishing, 1999. \$13.95.

This book and many other wonderful children's gardening books are available at Peapods. We also have a full selection of European children's garden tools (\$9.50), watering cans (\$8-\$20), magnifying glasses (\$8.95), and other outdoor toys.

Gardening with kids can be educational, fun, beautiful, and tasty. Try giving your child their own small garden plot. You may be surprised by how hard they'll work and how much they'll learn.



The Underground Connection

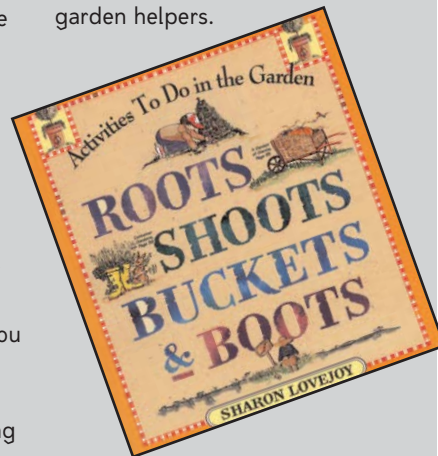
—excerpt from **Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots—Activities to do in the Garden**, by Sharon Lovejoy.

Dig a 10-by-10 inch test hole in your proposed garden site. The side of the hole offers you a window on the underground world. Crouch down to inspect the layers of the earth. The top 6 inches should contain dark organic matter and loads of wriggling critters.

Use your magnifying glass to look for sow bugs, worms, larvae, centipedes, millipedes, and insect eggs in both the hole and the soil you removed. All the organisms you see serve a purpose. Worms and other critters do important jobs, such as consuming pests, tunneling and aerating the soil, and enriching it by redepositing everything they eat in their wanderings.

Unseen by the human eye are billions upon billions of microorganisms—bacteria, fungi, and algae—who do the most

important jobs of all. This invisible army of soil workers breaks down the complex molecules of organic matter and turns them into nutrients that plants can absorb. When we feed our soil organic fertilizers and protect it with coverlets of mulch, we send an invitation of welcome to these hungry underground garden helpers.



Does your child have a connection with the outdoors?

Peapods Online

www.peapods.com

- product information
- attachment parenting resources
- easy ordering

Kid's-eye map

Since we've been here, we've noticed that there are a lot of fun, kid-friendly places to hang out in our area. We'd love to share them with you; that's why we included this kids-eye view

of our neighborhood. We hope you'll use the map and the notes on the reverse side to explore the area—maybe you'll discover some gems of your own!

**Map notes
on page 4!**



Map Notes

Izzy's Ice Cream



(Marshall & Cleveland Ave)
Quite simply, the best ice cream available in the Twin Cities.

(Trust us—we know ice cream.) Abby's favorite flavor is cream cheese; I'd recommend anything chocolate. Sherbet and vegan ice cream also available. About \$3 for an adult cone, less for children's. Count on a line out the door in the summer.

St. Paul Corner Drug

(Formerly Sundbergs, NE corner of St. Clair & Snelling)
An old-fashioned drug store with a fabulous soda fountain. Five cent a cup coffee, as well as ice cream cones, sodas, and sundaes. Now, I need to warn you: they did just double the cost of their ice cream cones—they are now 50 cents a cone, instead of the 25 cents they formerly were! Also a cute selection of gifts including Beanie Babies.



Brewberry's

(Randolph & Fairview Ave) Good, family friendly coffee shop. Strong, dark roast coffee, a good selection of snacks, and a shelf full of toys make this a good choice for us caffeine-addicted baby toters.

Stump Art

Now I have to admit, I am not usually a fan of stump art. But I think these two really excel in the genre:

1) **Winnie the Pooh and all his friends**
(Benhill Road, 1 block south of St. Clair) and a really cool,



2) Zen-style water fountain.

(Berkeley Ave, just east of Fairview)
Now, I happen to think that carving a life-size Winnie the Pooh in the front yard invites a certain amount of public observation, but please keep in mind these are private homes.

Essence of Nonsense

(St. Clair, 1 block east of Fairview)
We are proud to share a neighborhood with one of the most unique toy stores in the Twin Cities. Tom and Barbara, the proprietors of Essence of Nonsense, offer stuffed animals, dolls, books, stickers, and lots and lots of marbles. In fact, Tom hosts weekend marble tournaments and offers free lessons and lore. Thanks to Tom for his ideas for this map!

Weasel Pop

Toree Weleczki's studio on Snelling and Jefferson offers whimsically painted furniture for kids and adults. Stop in and see her at work!

Ace Grand Avenue Hardware

(Grand Ave & Cambridge)
This is our favorite hardware store because, among other things, they have friendly store cats like we do.



Matlocks Park

(Davern & Palace Ave) This park is actually under construction right now, but it will soon be a brand new neighborhood park. Until then, Abby likes climbing on the dirt piles.

Treasure Island Park

(South Side of the Cretin-Durham campus, next to Expo school.) A very fun, all-wood park built like a castle with lots to climb, balance, and swing on.

Macalester Commons



We often take walks here to swing on the old-fashioned swing set, play in the

sand around the swing, run in the large open field, or watch students play softball or frisbee. Visit the ground floor of the building immediately west of the swingset to see Dinosaur bones, a three-story pendulum, and a bicycle with square wheels.

The nearby **Macalester track & field** is also a great source of interesting activities to watch.

Acme Deli

(St. Clair, 1 block east of Snelling)
Best cheap eats in the neighborhood.



Made-to-order sandwiches with a wide variety of toppings, for about \$3. The egg salad is our favorite. The usual accompaniments—chips, soda, a couple of soups, really good brownies. Limited indoor seating, or take it to go and have an impromptu picnic in the park.

Peapods, Inc.
www.peapods.com
251 Snelling Avenue South
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(651) 695 5559

Natural Toys & Baby Care
Peapods

Peapods
Natural Toys & Baby Care

Riley's sidewalk sale

June 21 & 22

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Bigger and better than ever, we have tons of overstocks, odds and ends, and especially, scratch and dent merchandise. It's the **RILEY SALE**, in honor of all the stuff our son Riley has damaged over the past year. This will be the only notice we send out, so mark it on your calendars and tell your friends!

Note: Our sidewalk borders on Snelling Avenue (which is quite busy) so you might want to leave small children at home.

30-70% off all kinds of stuff