

Bella

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Southwest & Central Virginia

Up

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HOLIDAY FASHION

SHOPPING+RETAIL

MIND+BODY+SOUL

BELLA EATS

HOME+FAMILY





Bella finds

ITTI BITTI

Be a new and stylish mommy on-the-go and introduce Itti bitti to your baby. Itti bitti offers it all - wet bags, cloth diapers, and matching changing mats. These waterproof products come in a variety of prints and every color of the rainbow. So soft, they are made of minkee and bamboo velour - perfect for those naps on the road! www.ittibitti.com

MY PRUDENT ADVICE: LESSONS FOR MY DAUGHTER

Give advice the cool way! This timeless treasure, by Jaime Morrison Curtis, is a journal for moms to record life tips. With prompts like "The best medicine for a broken heart is..." and "A woman is most beautiful when...", you can write as much (or as little) as you want. Inspire your daughter, help her learn from her mistakes, and teach her how to deal with the ones she will inevitably make - all in this wonderful journal.

SWEET DREAMS

Sweet Dreams, an adorable rhyming picture book, is the latest edition to your bedtime books collection. Rose A. Lewis writes about a mom and her ways to lull her little girl to sleep by talking about animals and what they do at night. Have your child dream about this wonderfully illustrated animal kingdom.

PANTONE: COLORS

Teaching your baby colors is important - so why not trust it to the experts! That's exactly what you'll be doing with this colorful board book by Pantone. It features nine different colors (with twenty shades of each) to start your children out slowly, helping them build up their color vocabulary for years to come. Enjoy learning with beautifully printed color pages.

THE FIFTH PAW

Need an extra hand while walking the dog? The Fifth Paw, made in the USA, is designed to serve you with an extra paw - to help hold the doody! The Fifth Paw keeps your hands clean and in control. Just attach the tangle-free, rotating ring to your dog's leash and put the fun (and freedom!) back into your walk. You can also clip your keys or your pup's treats to the attachment. It's practical and safe enough for anyone to use, and super easy to slide on and off. Enjoy happy trails with The Fifth Paw! www.thefifthpaw.com

Christmas is When?

THE BLUE SUIT MOMMY

Can someone explain to me why I wait to the last minute? I know I have a whole extended family and three kids to shop for. I can't even understand what half the things on their Christmas lists are. I also never like to pay for something that is not on sale, so add that to the mayhem. I'm like a broken record when it comes to the holidays and chaos. Actually I create chaos. Santa Claus is not on my payroll - I am on his.

With the work I do for my clients, you'd think I could start early at Christmas, and be like some of those Mom friends I have who finished their Christmas cards in October and have most of their shopping done before Thanksgiving. Talk about a side of guilt! I don't think I will get used to the competition I observe at school and at the extracurricular activities, or how I have yet another place I have to be or my poor kids will suffer at the hands of the Mommy brigade. Why do we do this? It's worse enough that Mommy drives her old "paid for" car after my accident last year because I chose to not buy a new one, but to have my kid point it out because his friend's Mom drives a _____, it's like thanks for throwing me under the bus, kiddo. (Does that get him on the naughty list?) He actually asked if Santa makes cars, too, and I replied that he probably does. He said "You should really ask Santa for a new car Mommy and make sure it has a video in it." (Sigh.) That's all I am now - a Mom who has no fancy new car. Instant identity crisis!

Of course, despite my old car, my lack of time, and the chaos I create before the night Santa takes off in his sleigh, I do love the holidays and sharing it with family. I love seeing the kids come down our stairs on Christmas morning, the joy on someone's face when you find them the perfect gift, or when everyone says how wonderful dinner was and how they are stuffed and happy. It is a magical time of year and one I cherish for months afterwards. Especially when all the toys Santa brought start getting broken or half the parts go missing or I am still driving my old "paid for" car with no video - but I will take what I can get. Truth is the kid comes out in me at Christmas. I could use a little more of that time all year long! I think we all could.

Written By: Jen K. Ward

Jen is the owner of Blue Filly Productions in Roanoke. As the Mommy of three boys (four if you count the husband of 18 years), five horses, two dogs, cats, chickens and more on her farm in Eagle Rock, she doesn't know what free time is. Jen loves to hear from other Mommies out there so chime in and share your Mommy drama! Find the Blue Suit Mommy at www.Facebook.com/TheBlueSuitMommy or send her an email at Jen@BlueFilly.com.