

Move over Mom!!!

Inventive Dads Ready for the Spotlight with Parenting Solutions

Typically, mom skillfully orchestrates domestic chaos and takes the spotlight with a handy invention or cool idea. But mom isn't the only one looking for answers to some of parenting's biggest frustrations.

Just in time for Father's Day: Introducing 10 dads who are proving once and for all, they don't need to ask for directions...they have the answers in the form of some pretty ingenious inventions and ideas. And they're sharing them with moms and dads around the world.

1. THE AMAZING MIRACLE BLANKET® — Medford, OR

An exhausted father's frustration gave birth to the Amazing Miracle Blanket®. Michael Gatten decided he wouldn't settle for another colicky baby — and he didn't listen to professionals saying there is nothing to do about it. Following exhaustive research, cutting, stitching and testing of a blanket on his then four-week-old son, Michael created a simple and incredibly effective solution that greatly enhances the age-old technique of swaddling. The Miracle Blanket® calms fussy, colicky infants into a peaceful, extended slumber. Availability: Specialty retail, hospitals, pediatricians, mid-wives, doulas and on the Internet. Retail: \$29.95. <http://www.miracleblanket.com>

2. BABY SAFE FEEDER™ — Enterprise, FL

A near tragic event for father Donald Berry led to the invention of the Baby Safe Feeder™. Donald nearly lost his 9-month-old son when a teething biscuit completely blocked his airway. Berry was there and was able to save his son, but that near nightmare was a wake up call when he learned that far too many babies were choking to death on foods considered safe and soothing to their gums while teething. The Baby Safe Feeder™ allows babies to eat fresh foods using a simple drop-in mesh bag system and gives parents peace-of-mind. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: \$6.25. <http://www.babysafe feeder.com>.

3. MOTHER'S MILKIMATE — Chicago, IL

Fed up with the overflowing, cluttered "breast milk distribution center" that had commandeered his freezer, father Cary Weinstein set out to straighten things up. He developed Mother's Milkmate Breast Milk Storage System capitalizing on the "first-in-first-out" rack method. Mother's Milkmate provides a more convenient, less expensive, environmentally -friendly alternative to using plastic bags for storing and freezing breast milk for baby. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: \$24.00. <http://www.mothersmilkmate.com/>

4. TOILET TIME TARGETS® — Orange, MA

Mark and Tom LeBoeuf weren't really looking to solve a toilet training problem; rather it was about filling a void in their die cutting business. The result: fun colored animal-shaped targets that are made of biodegradable tissue paper and septic system safe, unlike other similar products on the market. Toilet Time Targets® motivate and capture the attention of a child helping him/her focus and improve their aim. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: 100/pkg. \$5.99. <http://www.toilettimetargets.com>

5. FLIP-N-FLUSH — Mt. View, CA

It was Petr Skoda's three-year-old daughter Anette needed a potty—but Skoda's town home bathroom was quite small, and a toddler toilet would take up a lot of room. The Czech hardware engineer then got the idea to create a seat that permanently attached to the bigger seat and lifted out of the way when it wasn't needed. The result, a new and revolutionary potty seat aptly named the Flip-n-Flush. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: \$11.99. <http://www.flipnflush.com/>

6. WEEMOTE™ — Miami, FL

Four-year-old Eli Stephen's frustration and curiosity with the television set's hi-tech remote, and the consequent stumbling over inappropriate programming, had his parents concerned. Eli's dad, John Stephen, searched to no avail for a kid-friendly remote control that would also allow a parent to pre-set appropriate channels. With a career in the hi-tech industry, John felt the only way to get what he and his wife jokingly referred to as a "weemote" was to design it himself. Eli's elementary school classmates were the testers and sharpest critics, lending their insight along the way to the eventual birth of the simple-to-use, brightly colored weemote™ that features fun geometric buttons. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: \$24.95. <http://www.weemote.com>

7. BOOT CAMP FOR NEW DADS™ — Irvine, CA

When it came to fatherhood, Greg Bishop was a champ having had twelve brothers and sisters. But Greg realized how little confidence other fathers had in caring for their infants. Believing a little guidance would go a long way, he launched the first Boot Camp for New Dads™ on Fathers Day in 1990 with the help of other veteran fathers and their babies. Six years later, Greg's so-called "hobby" was so successful that he began offering the program in hospitals around the country. Today, Boot Camp for New Dads™—said to be the premier introduction to fatherhood—operates in over 250 locations. Availability: 250 hospitals and various locations in the U.S. Cost: Varies. <http://www.bcnd.org/public/>

8. DADDY'S TOOL BAG™ — Sacramento, CA

The startling reality hit Ted Hendricks when his son arrived...he didn't have a clue about caring for an infant. There were books around the house, but they addressed things from a women's perspective. And worse yet, Ted wasn't about to carry around that adorable "pink and yellow" diaper bag his wife received as a shower gift. To preserve the masculine integrity of fathers to follow, Ted set out to create a practical product. The result: Daddy's Tool Bag™, newborn care "home improvement" style. The stylish, manly diaper bag comes with a changing mat, information card and packing list. And best of all, an instructional video—featuring two "Do-it-yourself" dads—introduces everything from bathing and diapering to nasal aspiration and swaddling. Availability: Specialty retail and the Internet. Retail: \$39.95. <http://www.daddystoolbag.com/>

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