

Children's notebook by Daisy Bridgewater



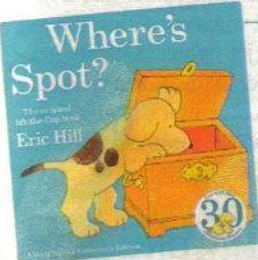
SILENT ROCK These hand-painted wooden guitars work as well for wannabe Angus Youngs as any battery-operated version, and are far easier on the ears of everyone in the house. They look good hung on the wall, too. From £30 (air-axe.com).



PURE AND SIMPLE For Julia Yule, the creator of Bloom and Blossom, a chemical-free skincare range for mothers and babies, less is definitely more. Every ingredient in this elegantly packaged range of balms, oils and creams is displayed like a badge of honour, and there are comfortingly few. The Baby Balm has only seven, the Mother and Baby Oil a mere five. A 50ml jar of Baby Balm costs £10; a new mother's gift set costs £38 (bloomandblossom.com).



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HUNTING DOGS While today you cannot pick up a baby book without it rustling or squeaking at you, *Where's Spot?*, originally published in 1980, with flaps to lift on every page to find the naughty puppy, was the first interactive baby book of its kind. In this new edition to mark the book's 30th anniversary, Spot is still not hiding in the pink piano, or under the gaudy scalloped valance, or inside the grandfather clock, but is still as charming as he was when I first read it to my baby brother. *Where's Spot?* 30th Anniversary Edition, £7.99 (penguin.co.uk).

GIRL POWER The designer label Paule Ka is the latest in a stable of fashionable names to be signed to La Redoute and tasked with producing affordable and stylish clothes for children. The offering for girls (aged 2-13), which picks up on next season's trend for simple monochromes and nautical styling, is well worth a look. Dress, £39; T-shirt, £28; and cropped trousers, £55 (laredoute.co.uk).



BOTTOMS DOWN I wonder whether a visit to the Museum of Childhood's next major exhibition will improve my children's attitude to staying in their chairs while eating. Taking the chairs from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* as a starting point, *Sit Down: Seating for Kids* explores what it is that makes a successful child's seat. The exhibition runs from February 6 until September 5; admission free. Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (020-8983 5200; museumofchildhood.org.uk).



THERMAL VESTS

Fuchsia pink Manbi Supertherm long-sleeve top, £24.99 as part of a set (littletrekkers.co.uk); polyester long-sleeve top, £15.95 (snowandrock.com); red merino wool long-sleeve vest, £16.50, also available in navy blue (polarnopyret.com).