

NOVEMBER 2020



Life With a Baby
**HOLIDAY
GIFT
GUIDE**

2020 TOY WISHLIST

From the educational to the zany, we've got the lowdown on this year's most-wanted toys.

DELICIOUS EATS

Delectable eats you can prep, serve - and still put your feet up.

**THE FRUGAL
HOLIDAY**

Tips & tricks to decorate, entertain and make merry - on a budget

MERRY & BRIGHT

GIFT GUIDES

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MAKE A NO-SEW SOCK
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GREAT FINDS FOR YOU





“FOR IT IS IN
GIVING THAT
WE RECEIVE.”

Finding the gift that gets **that** reaction is everything. Showing your love through lending a hand, your time or meeting a need is the real secret to unlocking the magic of the season.

In this guide, you'll find gift options and ideas for babies to tweens, for every budget. Plus, we've got you covered with food, entertaining and decor ideas that won't break the bank - or you!

We can't think of a better way to support local businesses and spread joy. **Cheers!**



Babies & Toddlers

FIND THE ONE THEY'LL PLAY WITH INSTEAD OF **THE BOX**

When it comes to our tiniest sources of joy, we're extra picky about what toys make the cut. Lucky for us, every choice here is safe, fun and built to last. Now, if only they'd put the packaging down....



alilo Honey Bunny

Suitable for all ages, the Honey Bunny grows up with your child. Preloaded with stories, soothing music and popular nursery rhymes with the capability to upload much, much more from a vast library of content. Honey Bunny's ears are chewable, and it's also a nightlight to comfort your child as they go to sleep.

Perfect For: 0+

MSRP: \$59.99

Visit ejoyshopping.com to find this and more!





VTECH EXPLORE & CRAWL ELEPHANT

VTECHCANADA.COM

PERFECT FOR:
6-36 MONTHS

MSRP: \$34.99



MARY MEYER - BABY EINSTEIN HAND PUPPET PAL TINKER TIGER

FIND IT AT
WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
0 TO 2

MSRP: \$29.97



FISHER-PRICE WALK, BOUNCE & RIDE PONY

FIND IT AT
WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
9-36 MONTHS

MSRP: \$69.97



FISHER-PRICE LITTLE PEOPLE LAUNCH & LOOP RACEWAY

FIND IT AT
WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
24 - 60 MONTHS

MSRP: \$79.99



LEAP FROG SPEAK & LEARN PUPPY

FIND IT AT
MASTERMINDTOYS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
12 MONTHS +

MSRP: \$39.99



LANKA KADE DINOSAUR A-Z WOODEN JIGSAW PUZZLE

FIND IT AT
MASTERMINDTOYS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
3+

MSRP: \$29.99



**PAW PATROL DINO TEAM
VEHICLE PATROLLER**

FIND IT AT
CANADIANTIRE.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 3 - 5

MSRP: \$79.99



**BABY EINSTEIN STRUM
ALONG SONGS MAGIC
TOUCH GUITAR**

FIND IT AT INDIGO.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 0-2

MSRP: \$34.99

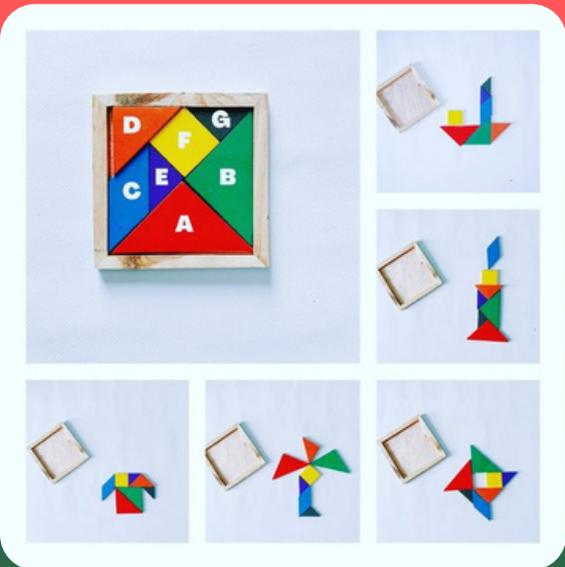


DIMPL DIGITS

FIND IT AT
MASTERMINDTOYS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
12 MONTHS+

MSRP: \$29.99



**LIFEBITS EDUCATIONAL
WOODEN TOYS**

FIND THIS & MORE AT
LIFEBITS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
ALL AGES

MSRP: ITEMS
STARTING AT \$9



**OWL TOYS CIRCUS
ACTIVITY TROLLEY**

FIND IT AT
MASTERMINDTOYS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
12 MONTHS +

MSRP: \$89.99



**FISHER-PRICE GROW-
WITH-ME TUMMY TIME
LLAMA**

FIND IT AT WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
0+

MSRP: \$19.88



NO-SEW SOCK SNOWMAN!

FROM EASYPEASYANDFUN.COM

Forget the needle and thread—grab some socks and buttons instead! This is an easy and fun craft that just about any age can do. The best part is the time you get to spend time making, and then staring adorably at your creation together.



YOU'LL NEED

- 1 White sock
- 1 Sock in chosen hat colour
- Rice
- Rubber bands (or thread)
- Colourful buttons
- Ribbons
- Glue gun
- Markers or Paint
- Orange pom poms

Instructions:

1. Start by filling your white sock with rice. You will need a hefty amount (we were quite surprised to see how much rice can go into one sock).
2. Once you are happy with the amount (and size) of your sock snowman tie the top with the rubber band.
3. Take another rubber band and place in the middle – more to the upper side – of the rice filled sock to form the head shape.
4. Now glue the buttons to the bottom side by using a glue gun (glue dots do a fairly good job too).
5. Draw the mouth and eyes with a black marker or with black paint.
6. Add pink cheeks and make the nose out of two orange pom poms.
7. Add a ribbon for the scarf (glue dots and glue gun work best for ribbons, while other glues kind of fail miserably). You can cut off excess white sock (or you can tuck it in the hat we will be making next).
8. Cut the coloured sock (we cut the foot part, without heel). Roll it a bit and place it on the head of your snowman. You can leave it as it is or you can secure it with some glue. This sock snowman is ready to rock!





Ages 4 to 8

KEEP THEM **CURIOUS**

Let their curiosity and imaginations soar with books, toys, games and learning resources made to nurture wonder.



Squeakee The Balloon Dog Interactive Robotic Toy

Meet Squeakee! The first ever balloon pet inflated with personality! He comes to life just like a real pup! This very playful toy features sound, movement and responds to your voice. Watch him sit and stand as you pet his head or tickle his tummy to make him happy!

Perfect For: Age 5-8

MSRP: \$79.99

Find it at [CanadianTire.ca](https://www.CanadianTire.ca)





KINETIC SAND

FIND IT AT WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 3+

MSRP: \$19.97



POLLY POCKET™ SURPRISE UNICORN PINATA PLAYSET

FIND IT AT
CANADIANTIRE.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 4+

MSRP: \$34.99



BATMAN 3-IN-1 BATCAVE PLAYSET

FIND IT AT WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
3+

MSRP: \$49.97



GROUCH COUCH, FURNITURE WITH ATTITUDE GAME

FIND IT AT
WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 5+

MSRP: \$16.93



HEXBUG JUNKBOTS

FIND IT AT TOYSRUS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 5 - 8

MSRP: \$26.99



KIDIZOOM SMARTWATCH DX2

VTECHKIDS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 4+

MSRP: \$69.99

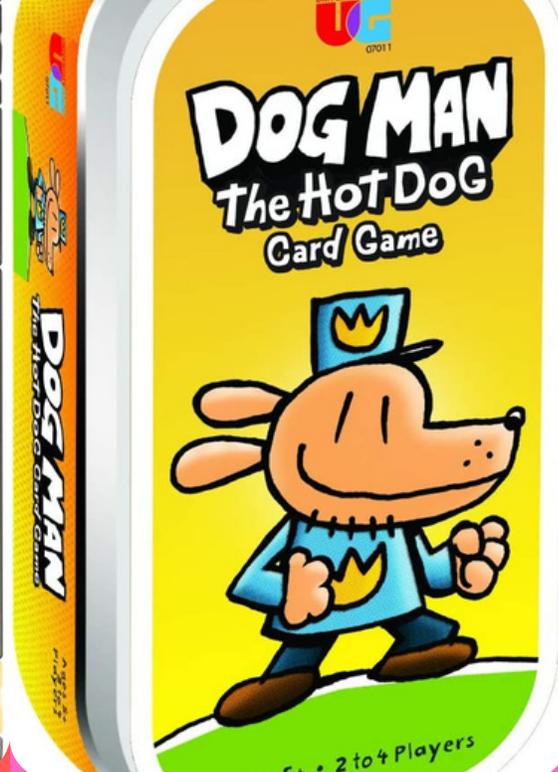


KIDIBUZZ™ G2

FIND IT AT VTECHKIDS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 4 - 9

MSRP: \$119.99

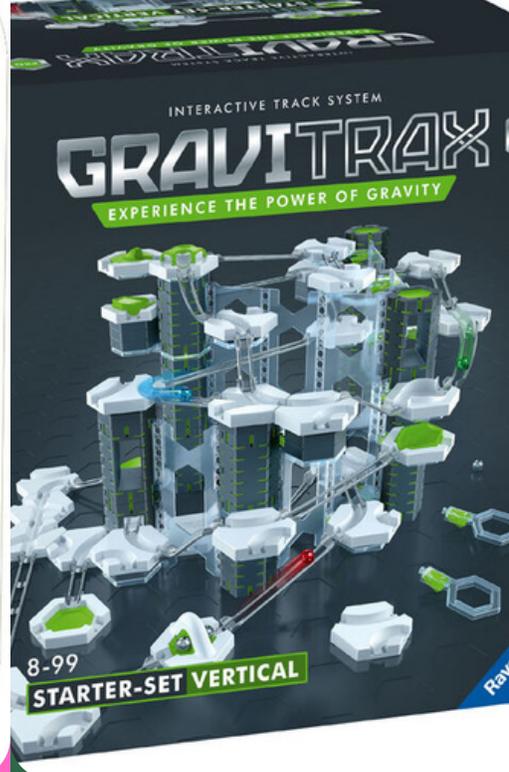


DOG MAN: THE HOT DOG GAME

FIND IT AT INDIGO.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 5+

MSRP: \$16.99



GRAVITRAX PRO STARTER SET

FIND IT AT TOYSRUS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
8+

MSRP: \$99.99



LEGO SUPER MARIO ADVENTURES WITH MARIO STARTER COURSE

FIND IT AT LEGO.COM

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 6 - 10

MSRP: \$69.99

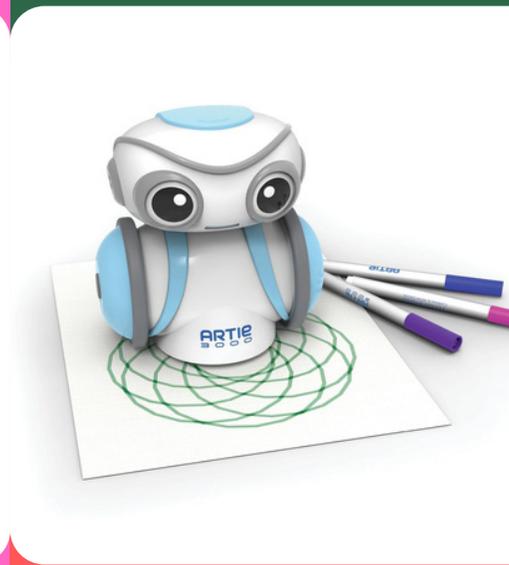


CRAYOLA PAPER FLOWER SCIENCE KIT

FIND IT AT WELL.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 6 TO 12

MSRP: \$21.24



ARTIE 3000 CODING ROBOT

FIND IT AT MASTERMINDTOYS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 7 - 12

MSRP: \$89.99

MAKE THE HOLIDAY EASY

Yeah, this year is a tough one, to say the least. But you know what? We can still have a wonderful holiday season, one full of gratitude, intention, community and hope. Here are 8 tips to help you manage a holiday season like no other.

1

PLAN AHEAD

Include menu items that can be fully or partially prepped in advance. Things that freeze, refrigerate, bag and can are your friends! Use frozen veggies for 'fresh' dishes, canned for baked. Start early on the day of, so you don't feel rushed.

2

LIMIT THE GUEST LIST

For your sanity and safety, be rigid with the guest-list. Think about the room you have, so everyone can be seated comfortably and not too close, and keep regional health and safety guidelines in mind as you plan. Preparing for a controlled group is a whole lot easier!

3

MIX SELF-SERVE COCKTAILS

Choose one or two festive hits, make large batches and place in a serving bowl with a spoon or a pitcher and voila - everyone is their very own bartender (meaning it's not you!).

4

USE NO-COOK APPS

Sliced cheese, crackers, nuts, fresh and dried fruit and veggies - honestly, the possibilities are endless when it comes to options for appetizers and snacks. Things you can cut up, cover, and pull out when guests arrive are lifesavers. Besides, now the oven is free for your showstoppers!

5

DELEGATE

Learn to delegate. Whether you need help cleaning up the yard, scrubbing the guest bathroom, or making a playlist, ask your spouse or child to pitch in, so you aren't doing it all.



6

SET-UP THE NIGHT BEFORE

Do as much as you can the night before. Rearrange furniture or gather extra seating; restock the restroom with toilet paper and clean towels; decide where to put the drinks; make or choose the music playlist. Set the table and decide what food will go in what dish for serving.

7

PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT

To reduce the pressure of having to 'entertain' everyone at all times, consider putting a few things out that people can use to conjure up some fun on their own such as board games, dominoes and picture albums.

8

SURRENDER

Hey - there's no such thing as the perfect function - for anyone. So turn off the oven, give yourself a pat on the back, and go join the group, laugh and be merry.



PRETEEN (9-12)

KEEP THEM ENGAGED

Unpredictable and totally loveable, Preteens (a.k.a. Tweens or Adolescents) are among the most challenging groups to buy for. Our advice? Look for gifts in line with their natural curiosity and interests.

Sony SRS-XB12 Extra Bass Portable Bluetooth® Speaker

Compact yet powerful, the Sony SRS-XB12 portable wireless speaker features EXTRA BASS for deep, punchy sound and a battery life of up to 16 hours—plus, it's waterproof and dust-proof. Wherever you go, EXTRA BASS™ can go with you, thanks to the compact and easy-to-carry SRS-XB12.

Perfect For: 10+

MSRP: \$49.99

Find it at [TheSource.ca](https://www.thesource.ca)





KIWI CO AT-HOME STEM MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION

KIWICO.COM

PERFECT FOR:
OPTIONS FOR ALL AGES!

STARTING AT 19.95



WRECK THIS JOURNAL

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AMAZON.CA

PERFECT FOR:
ALL AGES

MSRP: \$14



BLUE MICROPHONES SNOWBALL ICE USB MICROPHONE

FIND IT AT BESTBUY.CA

PERFECT FOR:
10+

MSRP: \$69.99



KLUTZ: LEGO® MAKE YOUR OWN MOVIE: 100% OFFICIAL LEGO

FIND IT AT INDIGO.CA

PERFECT FOR:
4+

MSRP: \$20.99

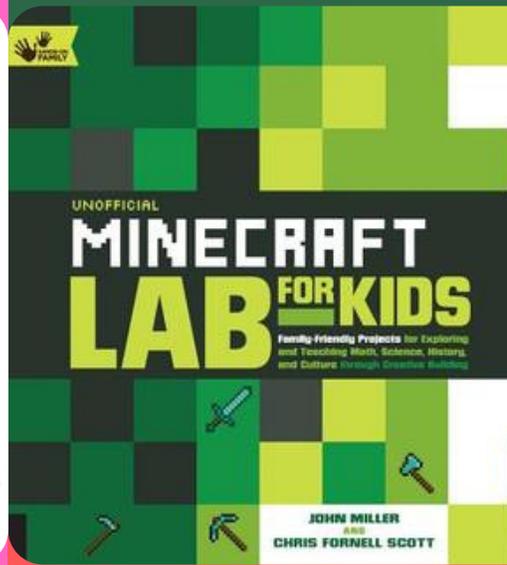


BEYBLADE BURST RISE HYPERSPHERE VORTEX CLIMAX BATTLE SET

FIND IT AT TOYSRUS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 8+

MSRP: \$79.99

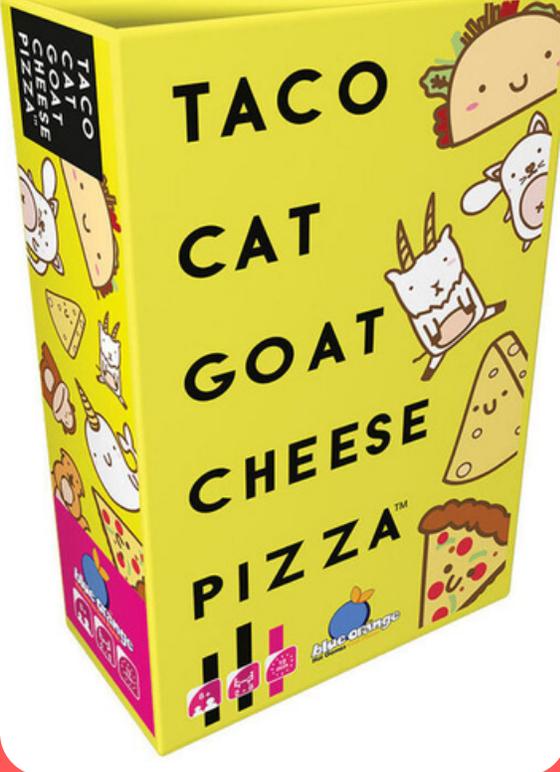


UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT LAB FOR KIDS:

FIND IT AT INDIGO.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 6+

MSRP: \$20.22

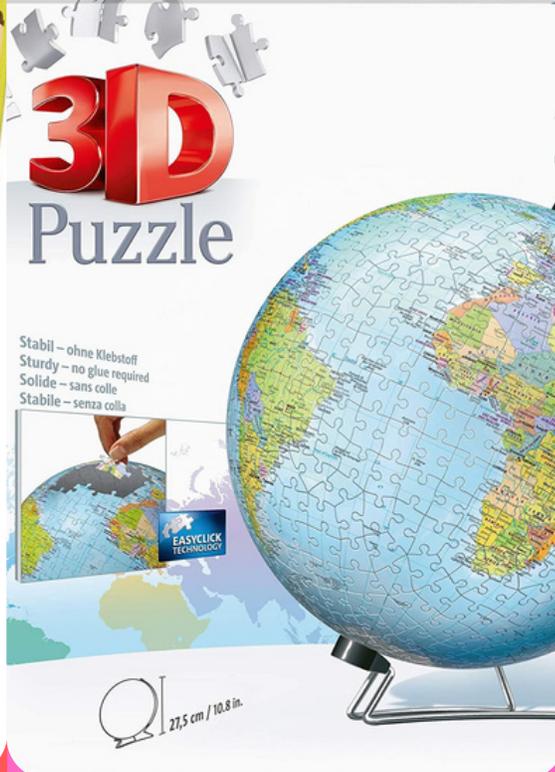


TACO CAT GOAT CHEESE PIZZA

FIND IT AT TOYSRUS.CA

PERFECT FOR:
8 TO 12

STARTING AT 12.99



THE EARTH 3D PUZZLE (540 PC)

FIND IT ON AMAZON.CA

PERFECT FOR:
12+
MSRP: \$57.99



ALEX TOYS SPA HAIR CHALK SALON

FIND IT ON AMAZON.CA

PERFECT FOR:
8+

MSRP: \$19.93



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SHARK DIG KIT

FIND IT AT INDIGO.CA

PERFECT FOR:
8+

MSRP: \$14.99



3DOODLER START HEXBUG PEN SET

FIND IT AT WALMART.CA

PERFECT FOR:
AGE 8+

MSRP: \$69.97



GIVE A YEAR OF DISNEY+

DISNEYPLUS.COM

PERFECT FOR:
ALL AGES

MSRP: \$89.99

Hosting or not, you deserve a treat.

Now that the work is all done, how about some mulled wine? Yeah, we thought so. (Don't worry we have options for non-alcoholic too)

From [GimmeSomeOven.com](https://www.gimmesomeoven.com):

Homemade mulled wine is incredibly easy to make on the stovetop (or simmer in the slow cooker), it's easy to customize with your favorite spices and add-ins, and it is SO cozy and delicious. Perfect for winter and holiday entertaining!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (750 ml) bottle of dry red wine OR your favourite cranberry or grape juice to make it non-alcoholic!
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds (also peeled, if you would like a less-bitter drink)
- 8 whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 2 star anise
- 2–4 tablespoons sugar, honey, or maple syrup to taste (or your desired sweetener)
- Optional add-in: 1/4 cup brandy (or your favorite liqueur)
- Optional garnishes: citrus slices (orange, lemon and/or lime), extra cinnamon sticks, extra star anise

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Combine ingredients.** Add wine (or juice), orange slices, cloves, cinnamon, star anise, 2 tablespoons of sweetener, and brandy to a large saucepan. Stir briefly to combine.
- **Simmer.** Cook the mulled wine on medium-high heat until it just barely reaches a simmer. (Avoid letting it bubble — you don't want to boil off the alcohol.) Reduce heat to low, cover, and let the wine simmer for at least 15 minutes or up to 3 hours.
- **Strain.** Using a fine mesh strainer, remove and discard the orange slices, cloves, cinnamon sticks, and star anise. Give the mulled wine a taste, and stir in extra sweetener if needed.
- **Serve.** Serve warm in heatproof mugs, topped with your favorite garnishes. **Enjoy!**



Take Care

FIND DELIGHT

When all is said and done, don't forget yourself when it comes to creating peace and joy.

To that end, we've found some gems *just for you.*





Temperature Control Smart Mug 2

Because nobody should have to
rewarm coffee 8 times.

\$149 [BESTBUY.CA](https://www.bestbuy.ca)



Custom House Portrait

Next level.

\$55 and up [ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com)



Custom Handwriting Bracelet

(Good) Tears guaranteed

\$48 and up [ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com)

PRE-PACKED MATERNITY DIAPER BAG



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AMAZING GIFT
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Lifebits specializes in providing a complete selection of products from birth to toddler stage to encourage healthy growth and development! Find great tools to support moms like pre-packed hospital bags, nursery decor, educational toys and more. With 4 collections and a special Holiday Home Decor Collection to choose from, you're sure find the perfect gift!

Visit [lifebits.ca](https://www.lifebits.ca) Today!





Personalized Birthstone Necklace

Sentimental gems.

\$44 and up [ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com)

Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer

You had us at "one-step".

\$54.96 at [WALMART.CA](https://www.walmart.ca)

Personalized Throw Pillow Covers

For when you just can't
remember their names.

\$23 and up [ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com)

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MEMBERS**

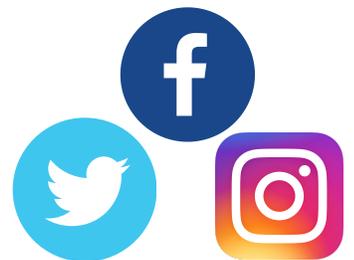
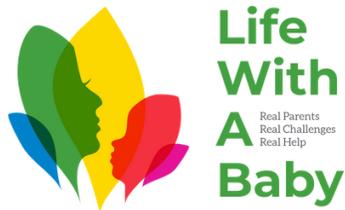
**ENTER COUPON
CODE 'LIFE WITH A
BABY' AT
CHECKOUT FOR
15% OFF**

*Not applicable on
clearance items

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It's better with a village.

Welcome to yours.



LifeWithABaby.com

