

Parenting

november 2003

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parenting picks AGES+STAGES

This month's best books, music, and videos/DVDs



AGES BOOKS

0-1 Sam's
Yves Got

Chronicle) The four board books in the simple images of things—a banana, a cookie, a stroller, a dog—entertaining way their names.

Spot Goes Splash Bath Eric Hill (\$6 ea.) Every baby's dog is back in the

Bed, Bed, Bed They Might Be Giants (\$17 book and CD, Simon & Schuster) Everyday routines get quirky in this bedtime book and CD. Strange is good. We wish there were more of the drooping and music. Like any compelling volume story, this left us wanting more. —S.M.

VIDEOS/DVDS

Stinky Shoe and Coach LaRoo: The Fundamentals of Soccer (\$14 VHS, \$18 DVD, A.L.L. for Kids, www.stinkyshoe.com) An animated sneaker and his trainer host this tutorial about soccer and sportsmanship. Energized music will inspire viewers to join the fun—just make sure they do it outside!

Jim Henson's Storyteller: The Complete Collection (\$25 DVD, Columbia TriStar) The beloved European folktales in this nine-episode anthology

are told through live action and the puppetry of Henson. My daughters were spellbound. —B.K.

AGES BOOKS

3-12 Brundibar Tony Kushner; illustrated by Maurice Sendak (\$20, Hyperion) *Brundibar*, an opera performed at a concentration camp during WWII, tells the story of two siblings who defeat a bully in order to help their mom. Sendak's bitingly smart and Kushner's nursery-rhyme-style narrative convey both the tale's hopeful spirit and its darker historical background. —S.M.

MUSIC

The Powerpuff Girls: Power Pop (\$16 CD, Kid Rhino, www.rhino.com) Your tween wouldn't be caught dead watching the TV show, but the edgy sound track is supersonic cool. thanks

to acts like Bis and Sahara Hotnights. Girls and boys will love the lyrics about self-reliance and friendship—and the tough, driving beats. —S.M.

VIDEOS/DVDS

Little House on the Prairie: The Complete Season One (\$50 DVD, Goldhil) The thrilling frontier tales of Laura Ingalls Wilder come to life again in this 30th-anniversary collection. Our kid testers were completely captivated. —B.K.



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