



Baby Steps

Nervous about what the stork's arrival will

The average American family spends more than \$7,000 on baby-related goods and services during the child's first two years. April Beach wants that money to work for you—not against you. The founder of Denver-based Sweet Pea Baby Planners, vice president of the National Baby Planners Association, and mother of three, Beach partners with local retailers such as Real Baby (www.realbabyinc.com) and Becoming Mothers (www.becomingmothers.com) to help new parents and growing families assess their lifestyles and budgets before baby arrives. "For some people, less is more," Beach says. "They may not want their house full of baby gear. My vision is to empower parents to make the best decisions for themselves. I just handle all the details and take the



stress away so you can focus on the process of welcoming your new baby. Sweet Pea's services range from curating a nursery and help finding the best baby gear to Denver's best child care. "It's not about saving money; it's about wisely, which means items aren't met before baby arrives," as in, do you have that Bugaboo stroller? "I'll give you five basic infant necessities to fit your budget on things you think you need, check out this sample priority list. *Sweet Pea Baby Planners*, 303-522-4334, www.sweetpeababyplanners.com —ASHLEY INMAN

Baby Needs

1. LZZZS
The Kanoe Baby Hammock soothes colicky babies. \$290, www.kanoe.us

2. EATS
Green to Grow bottles are BPA- and phthalate-free. \$9.99-\$10.99, Bugabee Baby Boutique, www.mybugabee.com

3. WARMTH
Aden + Anais Muslin Swaddling Wraps are giant and breathable for cozy comfort. \$30/two-pack, Real Baby, www.realbabyinc.com

4. SAFE RIDE
The Peg Perego Primo Viaggio SIP 30/30 Infant Car Seat is side-impact protected. \$249.99, Right Start, www.rightstart.com

5. CLEAN-UP
Try gDiapers for an eco-friendlier (cotton-shell, plastic-free refill) alternative to disposables. \$26.99/starter kit, www.gdiapers.com.

TREND WATCH Surprise Delivery

Parents-to-be these days are reembracing the unexpected and waiting until the big day to find out their baby's sex. Whether you're pondering a shower gift or thinking ahead for your own nursery, here are a few local baby-gear companies with adorable gender-neutral finds. —NATALIE VILLARREAL



▲ Ambajam

The soft and snuggly Cuddle-Up baby blanket has become a favorite among new moms, local and beyond. Available at Pomme on South Gaylord and Poppy in Boulder. www.ambajam.com

Baby Candy

Denver native Olivia Omega Logan's candy-themed baby duds are too sweet to pass up. Try the "sugar-free" organic cotton line. Available online and at the Children's Hospital. www.babycandystore.com

Monkey-Toes

Local mom and designer Jenny Ford's handpainted children's footwear captures a full range of childlike whimsy with leapfrog and bumblebee designs. Available online. www.monkeytoes.com

Lilly Pad

Inventor-mom Heidi Humber designs car-seat covers sans princess and fire truck patterns, opting for stylish Serengeti or striped motifs instead. Available at Firefly Furnishings in Lowry. www.lillypadcompany.com