



### MEDICAL ID BRACELETS

Camp season is fast approaching so it's important to get all of the necessities in order. To add a level of comfort when you send your child to camp, arm him with his own bracelet, which suits his style and alerts others of his condition. You can purchase bracelets in a variety of colors and styles including rope bracelets and silver bracelets with charms. For more information, visit [www.hopepaige.com](http://www.hopepaige.com).

### POISON PREVENTION WEEK

When kids make it past the toddler years, parents feel that they can relax the supervision a little. However, it's a good idea to keep a sharp eye on young children when they are in the bathroom and around the kitchen cabinets as children are often poisoned by make-up and cleaning products. National Poison Prevention Week is March 18-24 and it's an opportune time to note the nationwide toll-free number of your local poison control center. So grab a brightly-colored piece of paper, write down (800) 222-1222 and place it on the fridge where everyone can see. No matter where you are this number will connect you to the local poison control center.

### COMIC CRAZE

Parents can encourage reading in many ways. Reading to your kids from an early age, visiting the library, modeling reading and analyzing stories will all help in the lifelong discovery of books. Another way to encourage reading is through visual storytelling and that is where comic books come in handy. At first glance, you may think that the excess of pictures is a bad thing when developing reading comprehension skills but it is actually helpful in encouraging reluctant readers. Plus, when the material is visual, it's more interesting and allows kids the freedom to try something beyond their reading level. But, steer clear of the violent and graphic material and opt for something where the good wins over the bad.



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### HEALTHY CONNOISSEUR

*Veggie Friends and Fruits Too!* by Anne Legge. This cookbook gets young children interested in healthy snacks by showing them how to assemble those not-so-favored fruits and vegetables into fun characters.



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### NEW GUIDELINES FOR ADHD IN KIDS

For the first time in a decade, the American Academy of Pediatrics has revised the guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The new guidelines encourage pediatricians to consider a diagnosis of ADHD in children ages four to 18 who have symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity and being impulsive along with behavior problems or difficulty in school. The former guidelines only addressed children ages six to 12.

Pediatricians can initiate an evaluation of ADHD for any child who has significant academic or behavioral problems and symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity or impulsivity. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder often becomes apparent when a child enters a structured school setting, but symptoms can emerge before entering kindergarten.

### GIFTED AND TALENTED

Is your child gifted, talented or both? Naturally, everybody thinks their kid is the smartest on the block but is your inclination really correct? The Gifted Program is for students identified as gifted based on a standard set by the parish and their classes provide individualized instruction beyond the prescribed curriculum. Screening for Gifted and Talented services may take place throughout the year. If you need assistance or have questions about screenings in your parish, contact your school counselor. If you need further assistance in East Baton Rouge Parish, contact (225) 929-8642. Private, parochial and home schooled students can contact the local Pupil Appraisal at (225) 929-8600.