

window on the baby world



STORE SPOT: HATCHING HOUSE

While she was pregnant, Sarah Lloyd grew increasingly frustrated with the lack of products available for pregnant moms and babies in Durban. "I found it very frustrating – from trying to find stylish clothes to wear myself to trying to do up the nursery," says Sarah. "All the lovely things were only available in Johannesburg and Cape Town."

Not one to let pregnancy stand in her way of doing things, Sarah signed the lease on her shop premises for Hatching House when her son, Jack, was just two weeks old. Since then, she's been developing the business and it's now a haven for the mom-to-be. The store is divided into three: the first area stocks maternitywear (Linda O, Label Of Love, Meteor Rose, Bellyssimo and Yummy Mummy Tummy maternity); the second contains must-have goodies, including linen, gifts, toys, books, nappy bags and mozzie nets; and the last part is taken up with beautifully laid-out nursery items, from cots and compactums to curtains and cushions.

"I have loved every minute of setting up Hatching House," says Sarah. "I want to make the lives of moms in the area a little easier by having a one-stop shop for them." We think she's done that!

Visit Hatching House at 100 Clarence Road, Berea, Durban (031-303-8824).

here's looking at you, kid

Digital cameras mean it's so much easier to get good pictures of your growing family – but it's also so much easier to leave them "sitting" in the camera. This Hello Baby Photo Album (R159) from Struik will encourage you to print them out and make a lasting record of your baby's development and early years. It comes with cute and witty captions and is also available in Afrikaans. A great baby shower gift.



magic of africology

Pregnancy really is the time to indulge and relax yourself; there won't be as much time after baby arrives. If you can't make it to a spa, give yourself time to unwind at home with these safe aromatherapy pampering products from Africology: Cleansing Gel (R260), Chamomile Body Balm (R300), Body & Bath Soak (R270) and Rose Serum (R430). For stockists, visit africology-sa.com.

bags of promise

These Momi nappy bags (R1000) are for the yummiest of mummies; they're strong enough to carry all the gear needed for baby and stylish enough to be carried anywhere. They're the brainchild of Knysna-based Jackie Wilson, who wanted to bring style and sophistication to the parenting world. Available at Ali Ponkles (aliponkles.co.za) and Kids Emporium or call Jackie on 083-353-5399.



lotta bottle

Bottle companies have been quick to respond to the concern about bisphenol A (BPA), an ingredient found in some plastics that is believed to be harmful, by manufacturing new BPA-free ranges. Chicco has introduced two. Nature Glass is made from pure, natural glass and the Plastic Evolution Range 0% BPA is made from PES, a plastic completely free of BPA. The Newborn Evolution angled feeding bottle also helps prevent colic and regurgitation. Visit chicco.co.za.