

Oh baby! Gifts for new beginnings

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The holidays bring joy and new beginnings, and what better way to celebrate those new beginnings than getting the newest addition on your list a little something special. Newborns, infants, toddlers, and even mom and dad can be fun to shop for if you know what new items are available.

Here's a few gift ideas to kick off your holiday shopping.

Healthy, Happy Baby

Baby's well-being is of utmost importance to parents. That's why providing them with new health-focused gadgets is a great gift idea. EarCheck (\$49.95) is an easy way to detect and prevent ear infections that are so common in children. Designed like an ear thermometer, the device works by emitting several soothing chirps into the child's ear. Within seconds, a digital, one to five reading lets

parents know the degree of fluid build up in the child's middle ear and provides

suggestions as to what to do about it. Available at Wal-Mart and Babies-R-Us stores nationwide.

Sleep is a vital part of a baby's growth and something new parents are often in need of. The Original Slumber Bear (\$26.99) by Prince Lionheart produces intra-uterine recorded womb sound to help lull Baby to sleep. Motion sensors re-activate the sound when the child cries or jostles around. Available at Toys-R-Us, Babies-R-Us and PrinceLionheart.com.

Allergies are a common occurrence among children and adults today. Protect-A-Bed mattress covers provides an allergy-fighting, bacteria-killing, and stain-repelling barrier between sheets and mattress to help reduce illness and irritants. Covers are offered in hard-to-find crib sizes (\$29.99) through California King (\$89.99). Visit MyProtectABed.com for retailer listing.

Simon Pearce's 100 percent Alpaca wool throws (\$185 to \$195, depending on style) provide endless comfort and

warmth for both child and parent. Fine, thin fibers create an exceptionally soft material. Available at SimonPearce.com and various retail stores nationwide.

One of the big decisions new parents must make is choosing between disposable or washable diapers. Environmentally speaking, washables a great way to reduce waste and save money, but they often are not as effective or cute as their disposable counterparts.

Happy Heiny's reusable cloth diapers (\$10.50 to \$15.95), diaper covers (\$21.95) and inserts (\$2 to \$20) are a fashionable and gentle alternative to traditional diapers. Available at HappyHeinysStore.com.

You can help the parent on your list with the Ubi Deluxe changing table (\$119). The raised table features an anti-microbial surface, hypoallergenic upholstery that easily wipes clean, and a curved design to help Baby stay in place. Parents will also enjoy the spring-loaded diaper dispenser that is built right in to the unit for fast changes. Available at Ubi-Baby.com and other retail locations nationwide. ♦



The Ubi Deluxe changing table (\$119) features a spring-loaded diaper dispenser.

