Advice for Smooth Transitions

Parents who will be sending a child for the first time through the major school transitions—preschool, kindergarten, middle school, high school and even the fresh-year of college—are anticipating changes for their children and with their own parenting. To help families prepare, Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) offers the Parent Guide to Major School Transitions, a set of short, practical articles packed with tips from social workers. jssa.org/jssa-expert-tips-strategies

Handcrafted and Huggable

Looking for one-of-a-kind baby items for your own, a grandchild, a friend’s newborn? Look no further than Blabakids. You can’t go wrong with their adorable fruits and veggies rattle sets and bird rattles. All products are knitted by Peruvian artists of hand-picked cotton, meeting U.S. and European safety standards. They’re hand- or gentle-cycle washable. Check out their unique dolls, like the Boogaloos, as well as mobiles, blankets, pillows and more. blabakids.com

She Knows Babies

The Baby Nurse Bible: Secrets Only a Baby Nurse Can Tell You About Having and Caring for Your Baby is an essential new guide to pregnancy, postpartum and newborn baby care. Author Carole Kramer Arsenault, RN, IBCLC, has more than 20 years experience as a labor and delivery nurse and is president and founder of an organization providing lactation and postpartum services to new parents. She answers questions she’s fielded over the years and offers 125 “Baby Nurse Tips” addressing experiences and challenges through baby’s first three months.

Fun at The Family Room

The Family Room is an indoor play area for children—and adults! For the kids, there’s a climbing structure, toys, art supplies and children’s books. Regularly scheduled activities (included in admission fee) include craft, music and story times. Classes are also offered (for an additional fee) in language, music, crafts and more. For the adults, there are magazines, a lending library, free Wi-Fi and a space that you don’t have to clean up at the end of the day. 411 8th Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 202-640-1865, thefamilyroomdc.com

Amish Country Amenities

Lush Amish farmland, cows grazing in a nearby pasture and a one-room schoolhouse on the horizon. Sound like your kind of vacation spot? AmishView Inn & Suites gives you bed-and-breakfast comfort in Lancaster County, Penn. There’s an indoor pool for relaxing after a day of sightseeing and a great room for reading, checking your emails or movie nights. Guests can also buy discounted tickets through the inn for Dutch Wonderland, Hersheypark, American Music Theatre and Strasburg Rail Road. 3125 Old Philadelphia Pike (Rt. 340), Bird-in-Hand, Penn., 866-735-1600, amishviewinn.com