

Behold the Baby Bargains

Buy or Sell at Area Consignment Shops

By LIBBY CARTY MCNAMEE

Who doesn't love a bargain, especially when kids seem to sprout a few inches overnight? I don't know about you, but my precious bundle o' joy often outgrows outfits before I even get a chance to put him in them.

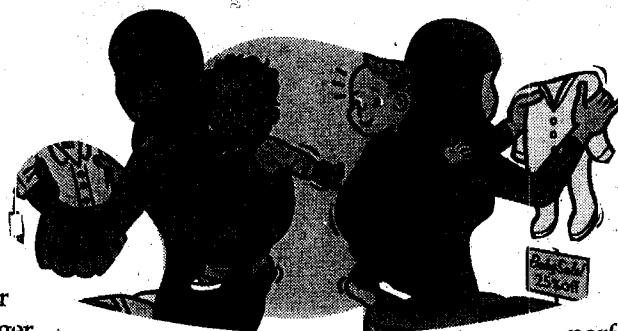
All the more reason to scout around Richmond for "gently used" baby bargains at consignment shops where prices are a fraction of the original cost. I found that it pays to shop often, especially if you are looking for certain brands, because the inventory changes daily.

Many of these stores will offer you cash and/or store credit for those items that your child no longer needs, giving you some extra play money and precious storage space. Others will consign items for you and then give you a percentage of the sales price of each as it sells.

Better Than New Kids is a goldmine for clothes, toys, books, furniture and baby equipment. In addition, they sport brand-new baptism/communion apparel as well as formal wear.

Noting her rock-bottom prices, owner Loraine Patten stresses, "I try to buy things at a low price and pass that savings along to the customer." Indeed she does. Another handy feature of this kid-friendly shop is that if they do not have an item that you are looking for, they will call you when they get it in.

Children's Market & Exchange stocks up with clothes, toys and books, all of which are worthy of a close look, for there are gems to be found! I walked away with several. If you are interested in selling items, Children's Market often buys at the highest prices.



Children's Orchard had a big opening on March 18 with some fabulous buys on brand-name clothing, toys, and equipment in remarkably great condition. My little guy is going to love his wooden Radio Flyer tricycle, and I love the price of \$19.99. You just can't beat \$1.99 for a Polo-style shirt and \$4 for an adorable bathing suit!

Kid to Kid sells a wide range of high quality products—like-new kids' clothes, toys, cribs, strollers and other equipment. I picked up a wooden baby gate in primo condition for less than \$20.

This growing franchise sticks to reselling more reputable, durable, expensive brands such as Gymboree, OshKosh B'Gosh and Baby Gap. Kid

to Kid also offers an impressive maternity department with both work and casual clothes. Be sure to get a frequent shopper card!

Once Upon a Child has one of the largest selections of "kids' stuff with previous experience," running the gamut from clothes and toys to all sorts of equipment.

Everything is well organized. They do not sell car seats, recalled items or products that are more than five years old or do not meet current safety standards.

I happened to hit it at the perfect time: the end of season sale! Winter clothes were all marked down to—drumroll, please—\$1. Even though my babe has more clothes than I do (that are much more fashionable, might I add), I could not resist a few precious items. And don't forget to ask about their customer appreciation card for 20% off.

The Hall Tree has a wonderful collection of top-quality clothes in pristine condition. Depending upon how long the item has been in the store, there may be further markdowns at the register. Although The Hall Tree does not have furniture, toys or equipment, it has a great maternity section, including business, cocktail and casual attire. **RPM**

The Details

Better Than New Kids
1244 Sycamore Square,
Midlothian · 378-0678

Children's Market & Exchange
2926 W. Cary St., Richmond
359-6950



Children's Orchard
www.childrensorcharard.com
2280 John Rolfe Parkway,
Richmond · 364-5683

Kid to Kid
www.kidtokid.com
10953 W. Broad St., Glen Allen
290-0441
4800 Commonwealth Center Pkwy.



Once Upon a Child
9111 Midlothian Tpke, Richmond
272-2229
8030 W. Broad St., Richmond
346-5552

The Hall Tree
12 S. Thompson St.,
Richmond
358-9985

