

# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

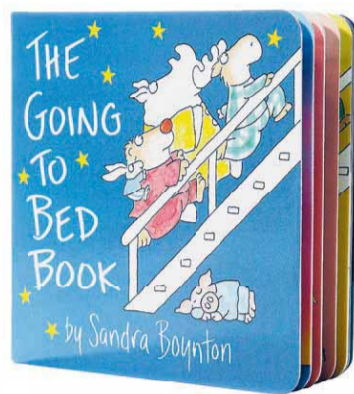


**12** SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

## WHAT TO BUY FOR INFANTS

So that little guy or gal isn't talking about what they want under the tree? Here are some gifts likely to brighten their eyes and perhaps make mom and dad's life a little easier too.

— Tony Cook  
Blade Staff Writer



▲ **The "Going to Bed Book"** — Reading to your baby is a great way to kick off a lifetime of literacy, and it can be fun for mom and dad too. The silly, witty rhymes in Sandra Boynton's colorful, durable board books are likely to become favorites in your baby's reading repertoire. It's a great place to start. Available at **Barnes and Noble**. **\$5.99**



▲ **Engraved Ornament** — A baby's first Christmas is special. Why not commemorate it with an engraved ornament? Things Remembered at Westfield Franklin Park Mall offers a zinc-plated baby block that opens up to reveal a photo of your baby and a personalized, engraved message. Engraving costs extra, but not much: \$3 a word for a minimum of \$6. Available at **Things Remembered**. **\$19.99**

▲ **The Braun ThermoScan 5 ear thermometer** — When a baby is sick, the last thing you want is a battle over taking his or her temperature. This is a fast, accurate, and clean thermometer. There's a good chance it's the same thermometer your doctor uses. The only downside is that it requires disposable covers, though they aren't expensive. Available at **Walgreens**. **\$49.99**



▲ **Keep your baby warm this winter with a Halo SleepSack.** The newborn version is made of microfleece and comes with a Velcro wrap, making swaddling easier and reducing concerns about unraveling blankets. Baby and parents will both sleep better. Available at **Target**. **\$19.99**

▲ **Munchkin Snack Catchers** — Let's face it. Babies are messy eaters. These are a great solution for parents tired of vacuuming up those Cheerios and Goldfish. They also make the baby feel like a big boy or girl. They're especially nice in the car. Two-packs are available at **Kroger**. **\$7.59**



▲ **Ohio Tuition Trust Authority CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan** — The infant in your life might not appreciate this gift until he or she is a teenager, but setting up or contributing to an Ohio Tuition Trust Authority CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan can have a real impact on the baby's future. Contributions are tax deductible, earnings are tax free if used for college, and the savings can be used at any college in the country. Ohio's plan allows anyone to contribute to an account, not just parents, and you can start a plan with as little as **\$25**.



▲ **Playskool's air-powered Poppin' Park Elephant Busy Ball Popper** shoots balls from an elephant's trunk. It's a frenzy of fun for crawlers and walkers alike. Available at **Walmart**. **\$24.88**.



▲ **Fisher-Price's Laugh & Learn Fun with Friends Musical Table** — is a great motivator for babies who are just learning to stand up. And with an interactive table top that includes a toy phone and laptop, your baby will have fun imitating mommy and daddy while setting off educational sounds and songs. Available at **Toys-R-Us**. **\$44.99**



▲ **Sony's 900 MHz BabyCall Nursery Monitor** — Finding the right baby monitor is tricky. Many are overpriced, but cheap ones are subject to static and interference. Unless you want to spend an arm and a leg, this one is about as good as it gets. Available at **Walmart**. **\$34.24**