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a natural approach to family life

Summer 2012



Yurt Living

How yurts bring us closer to nature

Taking Culture Outdoors

Sarah Bird explains what she's learnt

Screen Control

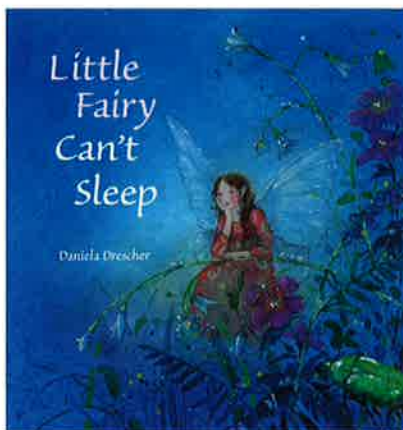
Would you switch it all off?

Exploring Independent Midwifery



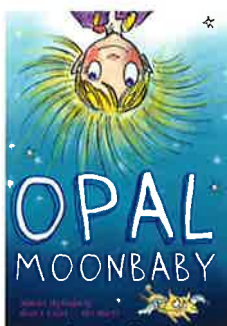
Ina May Gaskin • Hollie McNish • Steve Biddulph

books for children



Little Fairy Can't Sleep by Daniela Drescher, Floris Books

We've probably all felt the magic of warm summer nights; the twilight, sultry air and night sounds that keep us awake at the wonder of it all. In this story, Faith the Fairy cannot sleep and flies around meeting others who are also wakeful. It's a beautiful hardback book with wonderful watercolour illustrations, reminiscent of the *Flower Fairies* series. My daughter loved the animals and insects and I loved the soft night colours of the flowers: daisies, honeysuckle and pink and white bindweed. This is a magic book of fairies and elves, a wonderful midsummer night story.

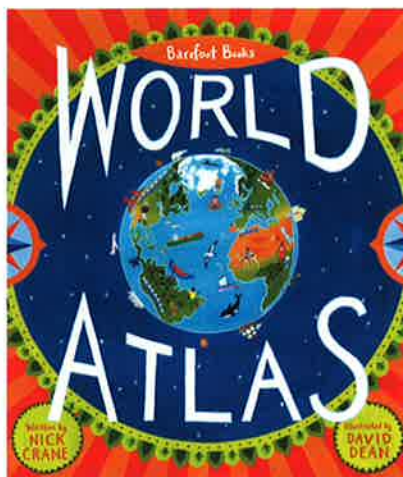


Opal Moonbaby by Maudie Smith, illustrated by Gillian Johnson, Orion Children's Books

Opal Moonbaby tells the story of Martha, who is having problems with friends who are leaving her out and telling her that things she is interested in are "babyish". Charlotte Lambie, aged 7, read the book and commented: "Martha met an alien called Opal Moonbaby. They did a lot of things together and it was exciting wondering if Martha could help Opal get her Carnelian Independence Award. Their visit to Pirate Planet sounded fun to me. I did enjoy this book."

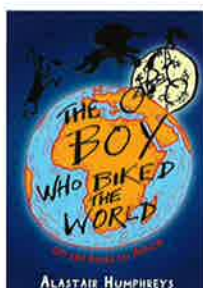
Charlotte's mum, Caroline, comments on the 'cliques' theme. "This year at school Charlotte has encountered

cliques, or at least the beginnings of what I think may become cliques. They were of concern to her and she and I discussed them. But clearly this story hasn't raised cliques in a way that bothered her as she didn't mention it. Maybe it was just so like everyday life as an 7-year-old that it didn't warrant highlighting? She was really engaged by the book. Read it in 3 days."



World Atlas by Nick Crane, illustrated by David Dean, Barefoot Books

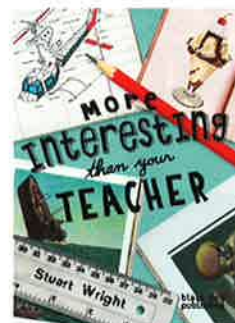
This is more than just an atlas. It's a large hardback book with pages that fold open to reveal facts about places, their history and people, and birds and animals found there. Beautiful illustrations bring the countries to life. For example, on the map of North and Central Asia there's a Mongolian camel, the Trans-Siberian Railway, Genghis Khan, and a space shuttle blasting off from Baikonur Cosmodrome. There's also lots of information under headings such as Physical Features, Land Use and Natural Resources. The atlas comes with an attractive World Map poster. This is a book with a lot packed into it.



The Boy Who Biked the World: On the Road to Africa by Alastair Humphreys, illustrated by Tom Morgan-Jones, Eye Books

Alastair Humphreys spent the first two months of 2012 rowing across the Atlantic, and four years cycling around the world, so he knows a bit about adventure. This version of his

trip is from a boy's point of view: Tom, always daydreaming about countries he wants to visit, stands up to the laughter of his classmates and sets off on an epic journey to prove them wrong. My 8-year-old was hooked, reading out facts he was interested in. He said: "I would definitely call it a good book. It gives you lots of information. It tells you what you need to do if you really want to cycle round the world. It tells you what you need and the cheapest food with recipes." The story zips along as Tom encounters the kindness and bemused reactions of many different people and learns to trust that he can achieve his goal. A great book to inspire adventure.



More Interesting Than Your Teacher by Stuart Wright, Black Dog

This is a small book packed with fascinating information. There's lots of great general knowledge, but packaged from a slightly different angle. The introduction explains that the idea is to have "bite-sized chunks of interesting information without getting bored and bogged down in minute detail" and to be able to learn something without having to read a whole textbook. Each page has a different style of fonts, illustrations, graphics, diagrams and photographs so that it feels new every time you turn a page. A lot is packed in and the information is written in a way that is very accessible and understandable. There's a listing of contents at the front, but no index, so it's for picking up when you want to learn something new or a bit different rather than reference. I will enjoy taking my time to absorb all that is here.



Me and My Family: A Book for Adopted Children and Their Families to Get to Know Each Other by Jean Maye, BAAF

Me and My Family has been designed to act as a bridge between a child and her adoptive family. There are three sections: one for the family to fill in for