



**FAMILY FINDS**

**problem-solvers** File these products, websites, and apps under Brilliant Things I Would Have Eventually Invented If Given the Money, Time, or Energy.



**2. cleat guards**

Protect your cleat-clad athlete from slipping on (and scuffing up) hard surfaces with flexible rubber Cleatskins, which are available for different sports in a wide range of (uniform-matching) colors. Machine washable. **to buy:** \$20 to \$35 a pair, cleatskins.com.

**1. Time for Dinner cookbook**

A sample chapter title from this gem by three former editors of *Cookie* magazine: "I Want Something Simple, Fast, and Hard to Screw Up." Don't we all? **to buy:** \$25, chroniclebooks.com.



**4. spillproof meal set**

The BPA-free Easi-Mat sticks to tables and has a built-in suction cup to keep Cheerios in place. **to buy:** mats, \$7 each; bowls, \$5 for four: tommeetippee.com.

**3. sippy-straw cleaner**

Dreamed up by a clever mom, this brush is narrow enough to clean the *entire* length of a sippy straw, which, after doing years of sippy reconnaissance, we learned can get pretty gunky. **to buy:** \$3, ginseystore.com.



**5. modern memory game**

Slide in one of four two-sided sheets to tailor the game to your child's skill level and interests (sea creatures!). Bonus: You'll actually want to leave it out on the coffee table. **to buy:** \$36, kidonyc.com.



**And have you heard about...?**

**6. readeo.com**

Skype meets story time with this interactive site that allows, say, long-distance grandparents to read kids bedtime stories. Choose from a list of titles, then click through virtual pages together while watching one another in video boxes at the bottom of the screen.

**7. volunteer spot.com**

Here's how the school bake sale is usually pulled together: One mom sends an e-mail, followed by enough "reply all's" to leave you feeling less than philanthropic. With this free site, however, the coordinator describes her needs online, then e-mails the link to interested parties. Recipients can slot themselves in when and where it's convenient. Sounds like a cakewalk.

**8. Sitorsquat Bathroom Finder app**

Your child has to go. Like, now. This app leads you to the closest and cleanest public toilet in a user-generated database of 90,000-plus bathrooms. You can also add your own stumbled-upon recommendation. (Free.)

**9. Pocket Zoo app**

Hear real animal sounds and watch live video streaming from zoos all over the world. What you can't do? Feed the animals, silly. (\$2)