

L.A. Parent

FREE

JUN 2009
VALLEY EDITION

30 Years and GROWING!

BUILDING BONDS

HOW L.A. DADS CONNECT WITH KIDS



23 BEST PARENTING PRODUCTS



©2009 Dominion Enterprises

shop talk

By Christina Elston
and Ronna Mandel

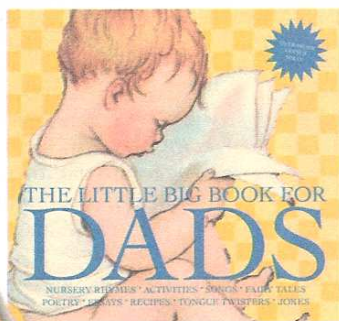
Dads Run the Gamut

Dads come in all shapes and sizes, and it's nice to find the right Father's Day fit. Here are a few suggestions, plus a few good books, that might do the trick for the fathers you are celebrating.



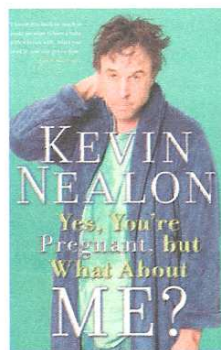
If the dad in your life is the old-fashioned, likes-a-close-shave type, keep it clean and make him some custom shaving soap. The **Shave Kit** from Brambleberry (\$14.95, www.brambleberry.com) includes enough supplies to make four jars of shaving soap (foaming bath butter, jars, droppers, fragrance, labels and instructions), and comes with an old-fashioned shaving brush.

Maybe he's a gadget guy. With the **Power Station Traveler Multi-Gadget Charger** (\$32.99, www.cableorganizer.com) he'll never be out of juice. The portable kit charges up to three small portable devices – cell phone, iPod, handheld GPS – at home, at work or even in the car.



We wish we knew a new dad so we could give him the *The Little Big Book For Dads* (Edited by Lena Tabori and H. Clark Wakabayashi, Welcome Books, \$24.95). It's one of those "must have" books. Find nursery rhymes, activities, songs, fairy tales, poetry, essays (offered by dads from Bill Cosby to Kenny Loggins) and jokes. The endearing artwork recalls a bygone era when bonding with Dad was as simple as flying a kite. Find more children's book reviews on Ronna's "Good Reads With Ronna" blog at LAParent.com.

From perennial funny man Kevin Nealon comes the new *Yes, You're Pregnant, but What About ME?* (Harper Paperbacks, \$13.99). At the age of 53, when other men would be preparing for their empty nest, the former *Saturday Night Live* cast member and current star of the Showtime series *Weeds* (along with his wife) decides he needs to fill his with love, laughter and lack of sleep. Count on the comedian for his light-sided look at ultrasounds, making wills, birthing class and humorous observations on strollers.



For surfer dude dads serious about their shorts, consider custom board shorts from shortomatic.com (\$129, www.shortomatic.com). Made right here in SoCal from Super Suede Microfiber, these high-performance shorts can have any look you like. Choose a design from the online gallery, or submit your own artwork.

