

Gearing Up

This bright topper has UV protection woven right in. **Wallaroo Cricket hat, \$24, littlemountainoutfitters.com**

A telescoping handle brings faraway froggies within reach. **Pro Aquatic Net, \$18, naturepavilion.com**

Elastic and Velcro cuffs, roomy pockets, and a hood make this a go-to jacket for spring adventures. **Little Kids' Solid Rain Slicker, \$35, landsend.com**

Lightweight binoculars with 4x magnification are sized just right for kids — and they come with a bigger pair for Mom or Dad. **Jeep binoculars, \$30 for the set, Wal-Mart stores**

back to nature

Scout for wild critters with these kid-friendly finds

By Debra Immergut

Cool knickers let her wade right in. **Hannah Montana Cropped Denim Pants, \$25, disneystore.com**

This temporary home for little creatures has a perforated cover and a handy shoulder strap. **Frabill Wading Bucket, \$18, cabelas.com**

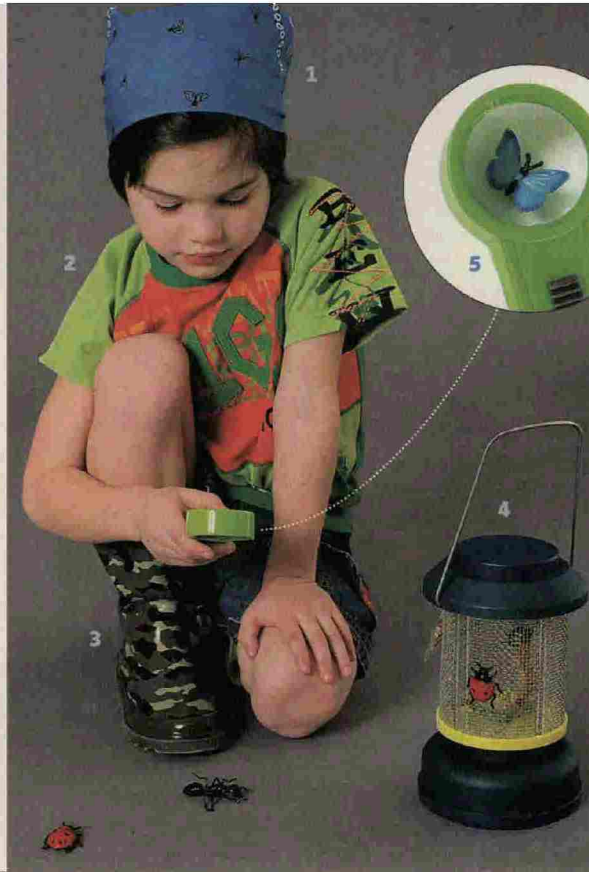
Waterproof boots with thick, grippy soles are a smart choice for April expeditions. **Striped boots (styles may vary), \$30, let-it-rain.com**

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best bets for bug-lovers

Early morning and late afternoon are great times for kids to hunt insects — that's when many are active and easy to spot. For your next backyard safari, we've hunted down these nifty products:

- 1 This hip bandana provides extra tick protection — it's coated with a gentle insect repellent. **Insect Shield bandana**, \$12, ilbean.com
- 2 A bright cotton tee with a bug-themed design is guaranteed to please a budding entomologist. **Me Too shirt** (styles may vary), \$36, oliebollen.com
- 3 Waterproof boots are a natural for spring nature walks and puddle jumping. **Camo rainboots**, \$15, **Target stores**
- 4 Use this bug catcher during the day to collect insects; in the evening, fill it with fireflies to create a glowing lamp that doesn't harm its inhabitants. **Firefly Lantern**, \$10, coleman.com
- 5 A plastic light-up magnifying glass lets kids observe critters up close and personal. **Nature Viewfinder**, \$5, coleman.com



pop these into your pack

Every Scout knows it's best to be prepared! These little extras will help make each outing a success.



A cute way to stay on course. **Garden Trails Compass**, \$3, karmakiss.com



When mosquitos nibble, this hits the spot. **AfterBite Itch Eraser**, \$3.50, **CVS and Wal-Mart stores**

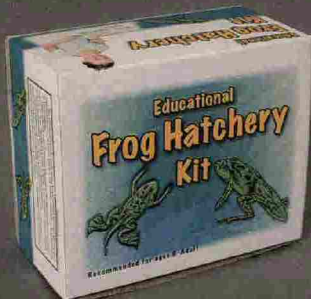


Attach these waterproof reference cards to a belt loop or backpack. **North Woods Field Guides**, \$10 each, naturepavillon.com



Apply DEET-free insect repellent neatly and easily. **Natrapel Bug Wipes**, \$6 for 12, tendercorp.com

grow your own frogs



Let your kids learn about the process of metamorphosis by watching tadpoles grow into frogs. This frog hatchery kit includes a plastic aquarium, magnifying glass, tadpole food, and a prepaid coupon for live tadpoles. \$26, insectlore.com

celebrate your adventure!



Cap off your day in nature with a visit from Sherbet the Frog. Assembled from lime sherbet, green decorators' gel, Junior Mints, and green gummy rings, he'll make kids actually want a frog in their throat. For assembly directions and a step-by-step video, go to FamilyFun.com/magazine.

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