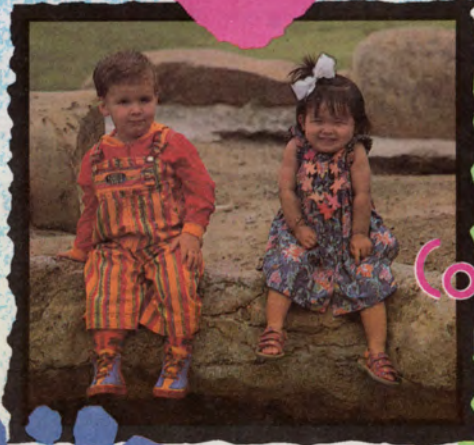


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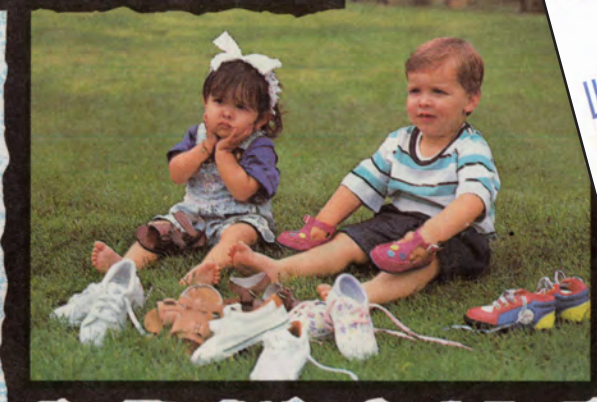
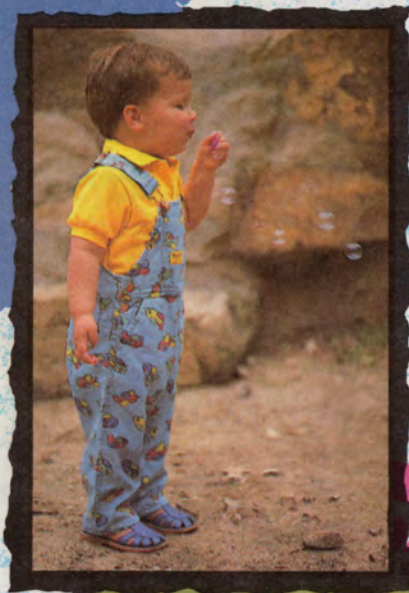
STEPS



Barely There

Comfort Is the

Latest in Kid-Kicks



by Viven Santana Hughes and JoAnne Hirsch

Sometimes, barefoot is bliss: Wandering through dew-dampened grass on a summer morning, strolling on the moist sand by the water's edge.... But the real world is no bed of roses (ouch!). Feet need protection.

And that goes for your toddler's precious feet too. Although a recent study by Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle found that it's actually best for little feet to go without, shoes are a fact of modern life. But the stiff, white ones we grew up with (and our mothers had bronzed) are now considered a no-no. Look for footwear that is pliable, non-restrictive and breathable—or most like barefoot. Of course, cute doesn't hurt either.

Join Ari and Kyle for a walk on the comfortable side and then head to a reputable shoe store to see how your little one's feet measure up.

Taking a time out, Ari and Kyle make a hip statement in their play gear from Oilily, Beverly Hills. Kyle sports Mark Orange striped overalls, a Kids T-shirt with orange hood, Rimboe shoes and matching socks. Ari wears a Spiff dress, Otis necklace and Ruet sandals.

Forever blowing bubbles, Kyle keeps his cool in blue Fisherman sandals by De Osu. Find them at Harry Harris in Beverly Hills, Encino and Santa Monica; Shoe Box in Encino; and Ruby Slippers in Brentwood.

These shoes are made for walking but they're fun to play with, too. (Front row, from left) Double Dunk White Leather, High Tide sandals in sand tone, Ensign in white twill canvas and Kirk sandals in redwood. All by Stride Rite at American Rag in Los Angeles, Westside Kids in Brentwood, and Harry Harris. Phys Ed in pastel floral, (back row) Practice Makes Perfect T-strap in hot pink and TCJS Lace in red, blue and yellow—all by Toddler University. Available at Nordstrom, Harry Harris, Little Feet in Studio City, and Ten Little Piggies in Northridge.

Rock-a-bye baby.

Ari takes a hike in her Play All Day white leather tennis shoes by Toddler University. Available at Nordstrom; Harry Harris in Beverly Hills, Encino and Santa Monica; Little Feet in Studio City; and Ten Little Piggies in Northridge.

Barefoot in the

park, Ari is off and running with her pink and white Tulip Sandals by De Osu in hand. Find them at Shoe Box in Encino, Ruby Slippers in Brentwood, and Harry Harris.

Photography: Zarek
Makeup & hair: Alicia
Models: Ari Gordon from Wee Willy's and Kyle Harrison Hughes