

the best choices for your family

bc

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ROHM**

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PLUS:

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BC Best Choices List
Gestational Diabetes
Sex During Pregnancy
Spook-tacular Food
Boo-tiful Crafts

**SAMANTHA
HARRIS**

The lovely host dishes about family life, getting back into shape, hand-me-downs, scary movies

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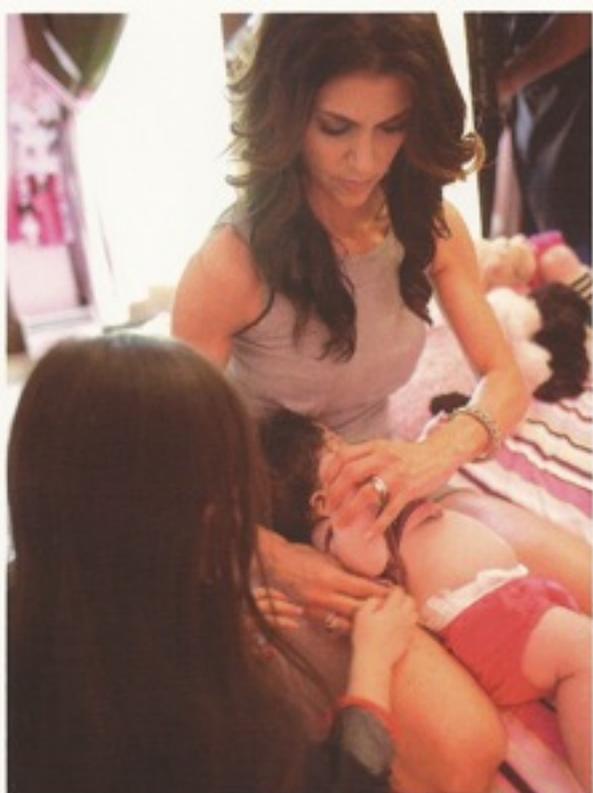
Know the right automobile safety gear for each age group in this quick guide

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HANDS-ON MOMS: SAMANTHA HARRIS CHANGING HER BABY GIRL, HILLARY; ELISABETH ROHM WITH DAUGHTER, EASTON; A PREGGY CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ (WHO WROTE THE STORY ON GD) WITH HER SON, AIDEN

BIRTHDAYS, ALL AROUND

If you've never heard of the term "Minnesota nice," then let me introduce you to whom should be its poster girl: our cover mom, Samantha Harris. I've met Samantha several times, and she's consistently charming and well-mannered. I lived in Minneapolis for over a month for work, and the people are welcoming and polite—even in the dead of winter. However, this doesn't mean that nice girls finish last, because on the homefront alone, Samantha is every bit a success. Each time I come across her, she is never without one or both of her kids, and they seem extremely tight-knit. Her career as a TV host is one to envy, plus she has a body that does not look like it's had a run-in with pregnancy nor childbirth.

And because it's our anniversary issue, we decided to fill it with another sweet momma, none other than actress Elisabeth Rohm. I think she was still pregnant with Easton when I last saw her, and she's always a delight to bump into. I look forward to viewing Elisabeth's upcoming films, and wish that like her, I had the discipline to work out despite a crazy work schedule.

I used to watch the earlier seasons of *Project Runway*, so I'm very familiar with designer Jeffrey Sebelia's work. I always believed he had talent, and now that he has entered the family realm, I am totally digging (feels like the most apropos term) his clothing line for children called *La Miniatura*.

One of my favorite stories in this issue is "The Art of Being Unconditionally Happy," which is a road less traveled for many (myself included). Because preparedness for us moms is key, we decided to do some adorable pre-Halloween recipes and

crafts. I'm serving the toothy apples for sure, because they look hilarious and are delicious.

This year, we were fortunate to be around the water. We got a house with a pool, traveled to the Camiguin islands in the Philippines, and I taught my daughters how to be independent swimmers, which I consider one of my shining moments as a mother. I hope you're all having a wonderful summer, and are ready to hit the books soon with the kids all over again.

It signals the start of the birthday season in my family when my older daughter asks me why she was born later in the year, and has to celebrate last among all of us—including our 10-year old Lab. This year, my youngest, Maxine, luckily had three parties for her: a small princess makeover with her first cousins just so Grandma (who had to go back home) can be with us, another in school just for her classmates, and a joint celebration with my husband for relatives and friends. I celebrate mine on August 15th, and will have a quiet one at home, munching on chocolate wafers. This recent party mode has set the bar for my eldest, Sabina, so expect me to have an October of tireless, party-planning again. They're pretty simple ones, but any event-organizing takes its toll—especially since I'm now in my mid-30's, and my joints aren't exactly tip-top.

Speaking of age, happy 5th anniversary to our baby, BC. It all goes by fast. Here's lookin' at you, kid...

Kariz

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samantha harris

Samantha Harris is best known for her life in front of the camera on *Dancing with the Stars* and *Entertainment Tonight*. On a beautiful summer day in her lovely SoCal home in Encino, we had the good fortune of sitting down with Samantha to learn a little more about her fitness, fashion, and family life

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEENO PELUCE
WORDS BY NEIL GARGUILO
STYLING BY KIT SCARBO
CHILDREN'S STYLING BY KARIZ FAVIS
AND MARILYN BARTON
MAKEUP BY REBECCA EPIFANO
HAIR BY ARRICK



Jocelyn: Secret Garden toddler long sleeve polo top by ZUTANO, \$31.85, zutano.com | **Hillary:** Cups and Cakes short-sleeved dress by ZUTANO, \$24.49, zutano.com | **Samantha:** Sleepless, tiered, heathered jersey tank dress by LAUNDRY, \$195, laundrybyshellisega.com | **On background:** Sabelia twin panel bed 63 1/2" in Victorian style finish by YOUNG AMERICA, youngamerica.com | Bedding in Classic pink done by CADEN LANE, \$150, cadenlane.com | Room interiors designed by KATY MIMARI AT CADEN LANE, cadenlane.com





before we allowed her to watch videos. Although we did introduce her, at 9 months, to *Your Baby Can Read*, the video series. The only reason I even allowed that is because I met the doctor who is behind it, Dr. Titzer, and he said he felt the same way. He didn't wanna let his kids watch TV. But this program works in a certain way to help the semantic of the brain. Now whether it's all true or a wonderful line of marketing, I don't know. But I thought that she learned a little bit, and it's very limited viewing anyhow. We've always prescribed to the Association of Pediatrics in terms of viewing limitations. So unless we're on an airplane, we'll let her watch a movie because she can't get up and run around anyhow. Basically, the new *Tinkerbell* movies are pretty benign. *Tinkerbell* has her own characters now, and they're actually quite cute girls. However, even with *Winnie the Poob*—which she saw on the airplane the other day—made her burst into tears because the *Heffalump* was captured. And I felt terrible because usually we always watch with her, but I was at an airplane and I thought, well, I had the baby in my lap, how harmful can *Winnie the Poob* be? And there she was, hysterical.

N: I guess it's really hard to shield them from everything. With regards to you and Michael, how many years have you been married?

S: We've been married for seven.

N: What are some of the responsibilities that you're finding to be more mommy, or more daddy?

S: I think the biggest role difference is that he's the rough and tumble, wrestling, more aggressive play one—obviously the baby's too young for it, but Josselyn definitely needs to be able to get it out of her system. I'm definitely the softer, gentler one. I still want to play and get the laughter out of her, but daddy gets the biggest laughs. He's the most fun, he can throw her the highest, and tickle her the most.

N: Do you still get to pick out what Josselyn wears?

S: I used to pick them out on a daily basis, and then she decided very quickly and early on that she wanted to have a say. So even though I would lay out two options, she would maybe say neither, and then go in her closet. So now I just say, "Go pick out an outfit," and she usually does. Whether or not they're as coordinated as I would like them to be, I have sort of taken a breath and allowed myself to let her be creative in her ensemble.

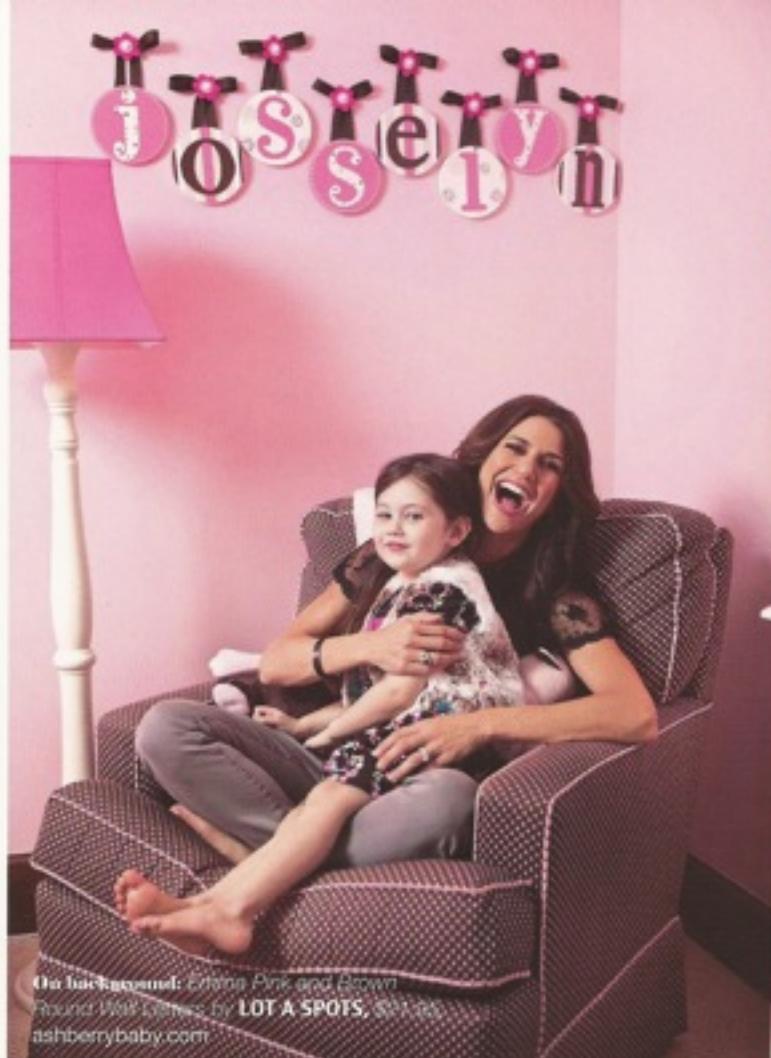
N: Is that a more day-to-day creativity, as opposed to a formal event?

S: Yes. I do try to suggest matching colors, I try to get her to at least associate. She does understand the word "matching," she understood that probably at 2 1/2. My mom—when I was a kid growing up—every night, even through junior high, before school, would lay out my outfit on the ground, in an ensemble order as if it were on a mannequin but flat on the ground with hand in pocket, accessories there. And so I started doing that with Josselyn for fun, and then she wanted to take over and do it herself, which

Samantha: Jewelry by ANZIE, anzie.com · Ruffled sleeveless top by BANANA REPUBLIC, bananarepublic.gap.com · Cory pants by CLUB MONACO, clubmonaco.com **Hillary:** Fuchsia stripe reversible shrug by ZUTANO, \$34, zutano.com · Onesie with hearts by RASHTI AND RASHTI, rashtilandrashti.com · Lime candy stripe skinny leggings by ZUTANO, \$16.95, zutano.com **Josselyn:** Flower Power ruffle dress by GIRLFRIENDS BY ANITA G, \$34, anitag.com (On background) Cow rocker by POTTERY BARN KIDS, potterybarnkids.com







On background: Extra Pink and Brown
Rounder Wall Covers by LOT A SPOTS, www.ashberrybaby.com



I thought was very cute. Now it's more in the morning, she just does it.

N: What are some of the brands that you pick out?

S: I would say the majority of her wardrobe are hand-me-downs. My sister has a daughter who's 15 months older but lives in Minnesota where I'm from, and a really special thing is that we're able to share clothes. Everytime I go home, I pack up a duffel full of my nieces' clothes and I bring 'em. Basically they share some of the most adorable outfits that we've had, and it's a nice way to be able to share a special bond across the country that we wouldn't normally be able to have if you don't live in the same city. I love *Splendid* for me and for my husband, so when they came out with the kids' line, it was an easy choice.

{Josselyn arrives}

S: Well, hello stylish queen with her sunglasses, and trying on the

clothes that have been sent for the shoot. I love it.

N: Hi!

S: Are you having fun? Are you spinning? Are you showing off? This is Neil. Can you say hello?

N: Can you say "high-five?"

S: Can you say "enchante"? Like what *Fancy Nancy* says?

N: I will take the marching as the more complimentary hello.

S: That is a big step.

Josselyn: I'm hugging my box...

N: I love the box. Can I push the other button?

J: They are all locked.

S: They're all locked? Oh my goodness.

“MY HUSBAND AND I ARE BOTH VERY HANDS-ON, AND I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL. AND I FEEL VERY LUCKY TO HAVE A HUSBAND WHO IS 100% INVOLVED AS A HUSBAND, FATHER, AND PARTNER.”



N: Oh that's the problem. Okay, I understand. In a little while.

J: (Music playing in the background) Mom, is that a giddyup song? Do they have *Chicago*?

N: Yeah.

S: Do they have *Chicago* on there? I did the Broadway show, so she...

N: Where did you do *Chicago*?

S: On Broadway. The Ambassador.

N: That's great.

S: So I did that, and she was just shy of turning 2. Between being in LA and New York with me, it was incredible. It was her

first Broadway show, and she was actually up through the entire thing, only fell asleep the last 20 minutes, and it was so fun.

N: I guess it applies more to Josse at this stage. Do you feel like she's going to go in the path that you've gone for your life? Maybe it's too early to tell.

S: It's hard to tell at this stage, but it's fun. Just within the last few months, as she discovers that there are different things that one can do as a "grown-up," she has told me that she wanted to be everything from a doctor so she can help people, and "dictated" it to Hillary to be an artist.

N: Are you and your husband

establishing any family traditions with the girls?

S: I think the greatest tradition that we've started is doing bedtime together. My husband and I are both very hands-on, and I think that's something very special. And I feel very lucky to have a husband who is 100% involved as a husband, father, and partner. Obviously, there are certain nights that I have a shoot late or my husband has meetings late, but most nights of the week we always do bedtime together. We get on the bed and read her books. After we've put the baby to bed together, we go into her room for more stories in the dark that we're just making up and singing lullabies. 🍷

