

Parenting

parenting picks

MUSIC

My Daddy Is Scratchy Jamie Broza (\$15, Good Mood Records, www.goodmoodrecords.com) Clueless, embarrassing, and, yes, scratchy dads are some of the characters your kids might recognize in this comic fatherhood roast. Jazzy vocals and amusing stories create musical theater about family life. —E.M.

DVDS/VIDEOS

Mickey Mouse Club: The Best of Britney, Justin, and Christina (\$15 DVD, Walt Disney Home Entertainment) Before they were pop princesses (and a prince), they were cute *kids* who sang and danced on national TV. Here's a batch of their best Club clips, along with exciting concert footage and up-close profiles, shot in the superstars' hometowns.

Pink Lotus "Belly Dance" for Girls of All Ages, Vol. 1 (\$20 DVD, Carlou Interactive Media & Publishing, www.carloumedia.com) Shimmies, shakes, and positive body images abound as a dance instructor shows a troupe of girls all the right exercise moves. Inspired by the winning children's book *Bella Wishes*, about a hip-swinging hippo. —B.K.



SOFTWARE

Fashion Cents (\$20 Win, My Game Company, www.mygamecompany.com) Fledgling fashionistas score points for eye-pleasing ensembles, win new accessories to mix and match, and solve clothing crises as they

progress through game levels. Finally, they're dealt clunkers that clash. Too cruel. —A.R.

AGES
8-12

BOOKS

The Vacation Polly Horvath (\$16, Farrar, Straus & Giroux) Patient, 12-year-old Henry and an assortment of his colorful relatives take an epic car trip in this delightfully tart and prickly satire about family togetherness in close quarters. —L.S.M.

DVDS/VIDEOS

The Even Stevens Movie (\$20 DVD & VHS, Buena Vista Home Entertainment)

This fun caper finds the Stevens clan enjoying R&R on an island paradise—that is, until they discover they're contestants in an extreme reality TV show. A hoot—and it sends a positive message about trust. —A.R.



SOFTWARE

Adventures in Odyssey: The Treasure of the Incas (\$30 Win/Mac, Digital Praise) Help geeky Eugene find his parents and a cache of artifacts by unearthing clues, figuring out codes and puzzles, and trying to make sense of baffling events. The adventure comes from a Christian company, but there are no overly religious messages, and the virtues it showcases (kindness, tolerance, non-violence) don't get in the way of a cracking good yarn. —A.R.



Want more? To buy any of these picks, or to see past reviews, go to www.parenting.com/shopping/channel/. (See page 14 for access information.)