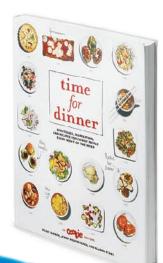


problem-solvers File these products, websites, and apps under Brilliant Things I Would Have Eventually Invented If Given the Money, Time, or Energy.



1. Time for **Dinner** cookbook

A sample chapter title from this gem by three former editors of Cookie magazine: "I Want Something Simple, Fast, and Hard to Screw Up." Don't we all? to buy: \$25, chroniclebooks.com.



Protect your cleat-clad athlete from slipping on (and scuffing up) hard surfaces with flexible rubber Cleatskins, which are available for different sports in a wide range of (uniform-matching) colors. Machine washable. to buy: \$20 to \$35 a pair, cleatskins.com.

4. spillproof meal set

The BPA-free Easi-Mat sticks to tables and has a built-in suction cup to keep Cheerios in place. to buy: mats, \$7 each; bowls, \$5 for four: tommeetippee.com.

3. sippy-straw cleaner Dreamed up by

a clever mom, this brush is narrow enough to clean the entire length of a sippy straw, which, after doing years of sippy reconnaissance, we learned can get pretty gunky. to buy: \$3, ginseystore.com.

5. modern memory game

Slide in one of four two-sided sheets to tailor the game to your child's skill level and interests (sea creatures!). Bonus: You'll actually want to leave it out on the coffee table. to buy: \$36, kidonyc.com.

And have you heard about...?

6. readeo.com

Skype meets story time with this interactive site that allows, say, longdistance grandparents to read kids bedtime stories. Choose from a list of titles, then click through virtual pages together while watching one another in video boxes at the bottom of the screen.

7. volunteer spot.com

Here's how the school bake sale is usually pulled together: One mom sends an e-mail, followed by enough "reply all's" to leave you feeling less than philanthropic. With this free site, however, the coordinator describes her needs online, then e-mails the link to interested parties. Recipients can slot themselves in when and where it's convenient, Sounds like a cakewalk.

8. Sitorsquat **Bathroom Finder** app

Your child has to go. Like, now. This app leads you to the closest and cleanest public toilet in a user-generated database of 90.000-plus bathrooms. You can also add your own stumbledupon recommendation. (Free.)

9. Pocket Zoo app

Hear real animal sounds and watch live video streaming from zoos all over the world. What you can't do? Feed the animals, silly. (\$2)