

months old, because kids can be unpredictable at that age, and as a mom, she thinks it's unfair to charge parents for a class their kids might sleep or eat through. Classes integrate music with social, cognitive, fine motor and problem solving skills. The 5 to 7 year olds learn to play basic instruments: dulcimer (a three-string instrument), recorder (wind instrument) and glockenspiel (metal xylophone). The younger students are introduced to instruments, but the instruction in them is limited. There are also sign and singing classes that combine music and sign language, and family-time classes where siblings and family members of all ages participate. Kindermusik is opening a West Valley location in September. >> \$95 to \$275 for 5-week to 16-week series. >> 12518 Riverside Dr., Studio City; 818-345-5345; www.kindermusik.com

HONORABLE MENTION: SURFERS HEALING – Surfers Healing is a series of one-day surf camps for children with autism. The organization was founded by Israel and Danielle Paskowitz, who have a son with autism. The group offers camps throughout the country and has one every year at Surfrider Beach in Malibu. The camp is free, but space is limited to the first 150 families that sign up when registration becomes available online. There are camps in other parts of the country, including San Diego, Virginia, North Carolina, New York and New

Jersey. A group of trained, professional surfers gives the campers surf lessons, takes them out in the ocean and gives them the opportunity to ride the waves. Surfers Healing provides lunches and backpacks filled with gifts for the campers, surf boards, life jackets, and pretty much everything else a child needs to learn how to surf. The water can be a little cold in Malibu, so it's a good idea to bring a light wet suit just in case. >> 866-647-HEAL; www.surfershealing.org



BELLY PROOF

BABY STYLE – Here's the expecting mom's go-to store. This one-stop shop has all things maternity and even more things baby and kids. After you've picked up a pair of jeans and a few work outfits to get through the trimester, indulged in yoga pants, sampled the belly oil and contemplated eveningwear, go ahead and drift through the baby section to dreamingly take in your future. Shop off your feet online, too!

• **HOT TIP:** Visit the online outlet for bargains beginning under \$20! Also, join the Rewards program to get \$10 in Baby Style Bucks for every \$200 you spend, plus perks like free shipping, gift wrap and gifts. >> Westfield Fashion Square, 14006 Riverside Dr. Space 112, Sherman Oaks; 818-986-1588; www.babystyle.com; Also in Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica and Newport Beach

MATERNAL AMERICA – An expecting mom is more than a belly, and her clothing ought to reflect that. At Maternal America, moms can maintain their personal style. Unique and fashionable lines like American Spirit and Safari express individuality while flattering the beautiful lines of pregnancy, belly and all! Owner Zohra Ahmadi says her shop caters to everybody with clothing that is "very fun," stands out and is comfortable. She's definitely got the right idea. >> 8254 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles; 323-653-8850; www.maternalamerica.com



Lucas Blietz gets busy at Kindermusik.



THAT'S THE RUB

MALIBU BEACH INN – It's easy to imagine living at the beach while staying at this intimate inn. It has a residential feel with its outdoor dining deck facing the ocean, fire pit, lobby/sitting area and quick accessibility to rooms upstairs. The casual ambiance invites guests to linger over lemon pancakes with blueberry compote while watching the morning sun shimmer on the ocean. While kids are certainly welcome, the inn is best as a romantic hideaway for couples to rejuvenate. Beach attendants arrange lounge chairs, towels and umbrellas. After a day in the sun, stretch out in an ocean-view room equipped with a fireplace, mini bar and balcony. Rooms: \$325-\$1,650. >> 22878 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu; 310-456-6444; www.malibubeachinn.com.

SKIN SPA ENCINO – Readers recommend indulging at this centrally located day spa, where you'll find the Fountain of Youth oxygen facial for \$130. Double your pleasure with an Endless Courtship

Mimi Maternity:
I like shopping at Mimi Maternity. They offer contemporary, affordable and cute clothing. In addition to apparel, they also offer accessories for moms like bras, cookie bars, magazines, skin care, etc.

– Jeanne Zhou, Rosemead

READER TIP