

# WE CAN HELP!

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## Keep Them Busy

As the holidays approach, it's time to start thinking about those sometimes grueling trips over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house. And you still need to entertain the kids once you get there.

Redwood City moms Lorraine Akemann, 36, and Annabel Heinemann, 40, who have five girls between them, have spent the past 18 months stuffing lunchbox-sized clear bags with an amazing assortment of items designed to amuse kids. The My Busy Kit includes art supplies, something for pretend play, bristle blocks and even a book.

The duo has sold more than 1,700 kits.

The standard-size kit can be purchased for \$25 from [mybusykit.com](http://mybusykit.com) or at Compass Books in San Francisco International Airport. Customized and mini kits also are available.

## Something to Talk About

Cristy Clarke has another way to engage kids on those long drives or at holiday dinners. Give them something to talk about.

The Orinda mother's Table Topics has turned out thousands of conversation-starting questions since she started the business from her home in 2004.

It began when Clarke, a 44-year-old mother of three teen girls, was looking for a way to spice up typical cocktail party chit-chat. With a list of thought-provoking questions, "I got into some really great conversations that night," she recalls.

Clarke translated that into questions for her own dinner table to get away from the rundown of the day's events. Friends began asking for copies, and it was a perfect fit.

The latest product, Family Gathering, contains 135 questions designed for multigenerational gatherings.

Question cubes, \$25, and \$9 Topics to Go are available at [tabletopics.com](http://tabletopics.com).



— Janine DeFao



PRESENT

## The San Mateo & Foster City Preschool Fair

Sunday, November 16, 2008

2:00pm to 5:00pm

Hosted By: **Parents Place**  
2001 Winward Way, San Mateo  
(corner of Mariner's Island/  
Edgewater Blvd & I-92)

Raffle  
Prizes

Gift Bags &  
Refreshments

2:00-3:00pm  
**Club Members Only**  
FREE to all San Mateo  
& Foster City Mother's  
Club Members

3:00-5:00pm  
**Open to the Public**  
\$10 for non-members  
or join a club!

Come to learn about the wide range of Preschool and Child Care programs in the San Mateo and Foster City area.

Everyone is Welcome!!!

Call 650-931-1840 for more information.