

Parents & Kids

Expat Parents

The history of expatriate parenting reaches all the way back to 1602 when Prague's first maternity ward was built by Italians in Malá Strana. These days, expat parents tend to fall into two camps; those who've never lived in Prague and, for whatever reason, must suddenly relocate here, and those who've lived here for ages and discover that a baby's on the way. Both groups can rest assured that family-friendly housing is readily available in Prague and that English-speaking preschools and international schools are plentiful (see page 90). As the number of expats in Prague grows, so do the support networks and services available to parents. It is possible to raise your family here without sacrificing the comforts you've grown accustomed to.

Newcomers to the city should arrive in Prague as soon as possible and do some legwork before committing to a school or a home. If that's not feasible, and if you've been relocated by your employer, communicate with the Prague office regularly before the big move. Can they answer your important questions about 'settling-in' issues like housing and schools? If not, are they willing to hire a relocation consultant on your behalf? (Relocation agencies typically assist with house hunting and school searches.) Most families tend to choose a school first and look for housing nearby. Selecting a neighborhood – there are many safe, charming ones around Prague – close to your child's school (*škola*) allows him or her to foster friendships while you build community ties. If you've got an infant or a toddler, playgroups are the perfect place for little ones – and their moms or dads – to make friends (see page 87). Parents of older children may want to join the school's parent association for socializing and 'newbie' advice.

Baby Abroad

The basics

If you're preparing to give birth in Prague, befriend fellow parents-to-be and new parents for gleaning Prague-specific tips, like where to buy cheap baby stuff or, more importantly, recommendations for an obstetrician. Delivery day will go a lot more smoothly if you take one of Prague's many prenatal courses, tailor-made for expecting expats. These classes are also a great way to meet other soon-to-be moms and pops. Typical VZP insurance should cover all prenatal visits (once a month and then once a week in the final month) several rounds of ultrasound including the latest 4D scans, glucose intolerance test, the 3 test (for chromosomal risk) as well as neonatal care – such as all the recommended vaccinations.

Obstetricians in the Czech Republic are usually affiliated with a particular hospital or clinic and, as a rule, are unable to care for their patients anywhere else. Choosing a hospital first will limit your choice of obstetricians and vice versa. The maternity wards in Prague are at **Podolí**, **Vinohrady**, **KŘČ**, **Motol**, **Bulovka**, and **Apolinář**. If you prefer your obstetrician to remain with you from day one through the delivery, make this clear from the beginning and double check his or her schedule closer to your due date. It's possible to switch to a different obstetrician at any stage in the pregnancy. Those who are more concerned with the facility rather than the doctor should visit the maternity ward more than once to get a feel for what to expect come 'd-day.'

As the highly anticipated event approaches, don't fret: most doctors speak English, though midwives and nurses may not. You'll find all the latest equipment inside the delivery room, including physio-balls, showers, and multi-position birthing chairs like the squat-bar, or

'monkey bar,' support for giving childbirth in the squatting position, which some say is proven to reduce pain and open the pelvis. Some doctors are willing to let a woman try a drug-free birth if she is so inclined but they won't let you schedule a non-essential C-section. Episiotomies are only performed when absolutely necessary. Most doctors are pro-breastfeeding and will usually grant an extended maternity ward stay that allows mother and child to adjust to nursing.

What to Expect: Q&A with Aperio

Aperio is a healthy parenting association located in Vinohrady (Smilovského 5), that offers individual consultations with a doula, and/or midwife, and a variety of prenatal classes. They hold weekend courses for expectant parents in English, and courses for mothers of newborn babies on breastfeeding and caring for a baby. Here executive director Olga Gajicovova answers some of the more pressing parent-to-be questions:

What kinds of vaccinations are provided for free and which ones are optional for a fee?

Generally, there is a strong inclination to vaccinate all the children, in spite of the fact that some parents disagree. Parents object that the vaccinations are being administered too early; all children born in Czech hospitals are vaccinated the second day after their birth against tuberculosis.

What is a woman giving birth expected to bring to the hospital?

As the services of each hospital differ, it is recommended to inquire beforehand and to bring toiletries including toilet paper, sanitary pads, diapers etc. just to be on the safe side.

Do all hospitals allow rooming in? Do all the hospitals train first-time moms in how to change a diaper, give a bath, and carry the new baby?

Nowadays, rooming in is a standard feature. Yes, the hospitals provide basic training to first time mothers.

What is the average length of stay after giving birth? Do all hospitals have the option for "family rooms" or above-standard rooms?

After a non-complicated birth, mothers stay in the hospital for 3-4 days. After a C-section, 5-6 days is the norm. Most hospitals offer above-standard rooms, for a fee of around 1000 CZK per night.

What are some of the administrative tasks that new parents will face at the hospital before taking their baby home?

There are a set of documents that a mother is required to bring to the hospital while giving birth, in order to be issued birth certificate. For details, request a copy of the brochure "Nebojujte s úřady", a comprehensive guide for new parents.

GET IN GEAR, BABY!

Big people are often surprised at how pricey clothes can be in Prague; buying for a little one is no different. Decking baby out in designer onesies is easy enough – pop into **Benetton**; the children's departments in **Zara**, **H&M**, **Kenvelo Kids**, **C&A**, and **Next** are stylish but a bit more affordable. **Mothercare**, **Sparky's Baby Shop**, **Anna and Viktorie**, and **Chicco** offer all manner of baby accoutrements. And don't overlook Prague's many secondhand shops, frequented by Czech moms in the know. For storage and furniture, **IKEA** has no shortage of candy-colored kid stuff; **Woodface** customizes wardrobes, and **Vibel's** artful designs are practical but pretty.



Fun Facts for Expecting Parents

- **Flash your card, get a seat!** Pregnant women are entitled to an ID card (*těhotenský průkaz*) that lists their medical history in case of an emergency. Better yet, the permit gives you the right to stake out the comfier front seats on the tram. Your doctor can provide you with instructions for obtaining the card.
- **Choose your name wisely.** Czechs must adhere to a list of pre-approved names when choosing a moniker for Junior. This applies even if just one parent is a Czech national. If both parents are expats, the law is null and void. Welcome, Apple!
- **Buy baby food at...the drugstore!** The supermarket isn't necessarily the best place to stock up on jarred baby food. The *lékárna* and the drugstore (*drogerie*) often carry a wider selection of prepared baby food (*dětská výživa*). Health food stores sell organic baby food; popular brands are Hipp and Sunval.
- **Dad must pay to stay.** Your child's father does not automatically have the right to attend the childbirth and may be asked to buy a ticket or "license" at the hospital that allows him to be present (cost is about 700 CZK).

Birth & Pre-Natal



Babymoons Prenatal & Parenting Classes  www.babyabroad.com
K Vinicím 630, Prague 6  +420 220 960 260

PARENTS AND EXPATS.CZ

Visit Expats.cz for detailed information on a vast array of Prague-related parenting topics – and then some! And don't forget to sign up for our parents group, aimed at bringing together expatriate parents of all ages. Visit the parents and children area on the site to sign up (it's free). Members receive regular notifications about monthly meetings and upcoming events. Meet, greet, and share your experiences as an expat parent.

Family Fun

Prague may be known for its red-hot nightlife, but the city is also packed with parks, playgrounds, cinemas, kid-friendly museums, and a whole host of other spots just right for a little G-rated family fun.

Fun in the Sun

Check out all things wild-n-woolly at the impressive **Prague Zoo**. Get lost in the Maze of Mirrors, climb the mini-Eiffel tower, or encourage your pint-sized astronomer at the **Štefánik Observatory** on **Petřín Hill**. **Křížkova Fontána** is a fountain that spouts massive jets of water, colored by lasers and accompanied to music. Cool! Go for a wild ride at **Luna Park** in **Stromovka**. Pedal boating on the **Vltava** is a popular past-time for all ages. **The Go Kart Centrum** has an indoor and outdoor track. When winter falls check out the hills at **Kavčí hory** for sledding. Swim, boat, and hike at **Hostivař Dam** in **Hostivař Forest**. Go for a historic tram ride on **Nostalgič Tram 91** (open from April to November).

Water World

Billed as the largest water park in central Europe, the newly opened **AquaPalace** (located in **Čestlice**, 6 km south of Prague) sports saunas, a spa complex, and a fitness center—as well as nine water slides—making it an attractive destination for summer and beyond.

Take the Metro C line to **Opatov**. From Opatov, take bus 324, 325, 328, 363, or 385 to the **Čestlice-Global** stop.

For a Rainy Day

For an educational trip disguised as a play-day, visit one of Prague's museums – **The Wax Museum**, **Museum of Miniatures**, **National Technological Museum**, **Toy Museum at Prague Castle**, **Museum of Children's Drawings**, or the **Aviation Museum** all deliver hands-on fun. Do some stargazing at **Planetarium Prague**. Explore life aquatic at **Morský svět**, a small scale Sea World. The **IMAX Theater at Flora** provides life-size fun. Splash around in **Podolí Pool**, Prague's biggest swimming complex. Take older kids on a rock climbing adventure; the wall at the **Boulder Bar** is suitable for them. Casts of dragon, devils, kings, and clowns will intrigue at one of Prague's many puppet theaters. **Mikiland** and **Jungleland** are enormous play structures for kids with cafes for parents. Throw a kiddie pottery party at **MUDDUM**.

SUMMER CAMPS

Every year about 200,000 Czech children descend on the Czech Republic's 2000 summer camps. With more English-speaking camps opening up throughout the country, expat families can get in on the act too. These days the focus is less on campfires and mosquito bites and more about the fine arts: honing language skills, mastering an instrument, painting, and more. Traditional sport camps turn out the world's next stars of field and rink, while afternoon-only programs (offered by many of Prague's language schools) make it possible for children as young as 3 to enjoy some summer fun. Camps aren't just limited to students either – intensive language camps for adults have also become a popular trend. Charles University's summer courses give expats the chance to travel the country while picking up a bit of Czech. To learn more about summer camps, visit www.expats.cz/camps.

Play Around at the Playground



Prague abounds with play structures and jungle gyms for wee ones; in fact, it's difficult to round a corner without stumbling upon some sort of space for the monkey bar set. Post-revolution playgrounds tend to be clean, safe, and secure. Worry-free fun for everyone!

Čertovka (Little Devil's Playground)

A small, pleasant park at the western end of the **Charles Bridge**, with a playground and sandpit for children. Fenced off for safety.

Františkánská Zahrada (Franciscan Gardens)

Follow the passage through **Světozor Cinema** on Vodičkova Street to discover this hidden gem; an oasis away from the noise of Wenceslas Square. Flourishing with rose bushes and hedges cultivated by the Franciscans in the 17th century, there is also a playground nestled in the pretty courtyard of the **Franciscan Monastery**. (And there's ice cream nearby!)

Ladronka Playground

Take tram 22 to stop **Vypich** and explore the **Břevnov** park scene; teeming with roller-bladers and stroller-pushers and featuring an impressive playground.

Playgrounds at Letná

Letná Park with its stunning view of the city also houses two play areas; you'll find them near the tennis courts (behind the famous **Metronome**).

Family Fun



Beckiland	www.beckiland.cz
Skandinávská 5a, Prague 5	+420 774 777 070
Prague Zoo	www.zoopraha.cz
U Trojského zámku 3, Prague 7	+420 296 112 111

Camps



CCUSA Kids Camps in Croatia from Prague	www.ccusa.cz
Thákurova 3, Prague 6	+420 220 181 780
Prague Adventures	www.pragueadventures.com
P. Svandy ze Semčic 13, Prague 5	+420 777 196 968
Summer on Horseback	www.tabory-zduchovice.cz
Zduchovice 65, Kamýk nad Vltavou	+420 318 697 102

TOYS FOR TOTS

Chain toy stores on par with Toys-R-Us and the like can be found at stand-alone shops in and around the center or at one of Prague's many shopping centers. **Sparky's**, **Pompo**, **Bambule**, even **IKEA** stock plushies, puppets, puzzles, games; the standard stuff for the under-10 set. **McToy** is where all the young ones – and the young-at-heart – scoop up miniatures of everything from dinosaurs to cowboys. (More traditional toys are also sold here, but as the window display suggests, tiny is the name of the game at this tourist favorite.)

Art Hobby Centrum (*prodejna výtvarných potřeb*) is the place to go for arts and crafts supplies and toys that encourage your budding Picasso. Visit your local papírnictví (paper shop) for toys of the dime-store variety: balls, marbles, costumes, board games, and coloring books.

Toy Stores



Art Hobby Centrum	www.cfahobby.cz
Opletalova 22, Prague 1	+420 224 218 433
Babypark	www.babypark.cz
Skandinávská 5, Prague 5	+420 251 510 353
Bambule	www.bambule.cz
Chlumčská 6, Prague 9	+420 281 918 107
McToy	n/a
Nám Republiky 8, Prague 1	+420 224 810 119
Pompo	www.pompo.cz
Budějovická 1946, Prague 4	+420 222 102 225
Puntanela	www.puntanela.cz
Metropole, Žižčín	+420 257 951 341
Sparky's	www.sparkys.cz
Havířská 2, Prague 1	+420 224 239 309

Children's Clothes



Anna and Viktorie	www.annaviktorie.cz
Na Příkopě 12, Prague 1	+420 739 634 007
Chicco	www.chiccocz.cz
Centrum Nový Smíchov, Prague 5	+420 257 328 171

Fanny Maternity Clothing	www.tehotenske-obleceni.cz
Sokolská 41, Prague 2	+420 296 202 141
Mothercare	n/a
Nám. Republiky 1, Prague 1	+420 225 770 250
Sparky's Baby Shop	www.sparkys.cz
Havířská 2, Prague 1	+420 224 239 309
Vibel's	www.vibel.com
Kameličská 379/18, Prague 1	+420 257 530 421
Woodface	www.woodface.cz
Nám. Republiky 656/8, Prague 1	+420 224 801 525



More information: www.expatcs.cz/kids



Child Care

Leaving your young child in someone else's care is a big step. Doing so in a foreign country can make the process doubly daunting. Just like in any other country, you'll need to decide first and foremost if an in-home babysitter or a daycare, or nursery facility is the best fit for you. You'll also want to take language issues into consideration. You may have to pay a premium for services in English or other languages (you'll also find German-, French-, and Russian-speaking sitters and daycare options in Prague). A bilingual caregiver can communicate with parents in their own language and give non-native-speaking kids an early start at learning English. A Czech nanny will save money and give your child the opportunity to acquire a new language, experience a different culture, and make friends locally.

Many parents use a combination of day care and sitters. In terms of budget, state nurseries (jesle) are significantly cheaper, even if they add a surcharge for non-Czech children. However, if you are collecting maternity benefits in the Czech system, be aware that you may forfeit your benefits if you send your child to a state nursery for more than five days in one calendar month. Private daycare costs vary widely: anywhere from around 7,000 CZK per month for a few days a week of half-day care, to upwards of 15,000 CZK per month for full-time care. Keep in mind that many English daycares enroll few children who hear English spoken on a regular basis or have a command of the language. In-home sitters generally range from 90-140 CZK an hour, with most agencies charging at least 110 CZK an hour for experienced sitters. If you are considering a regular part-time or full-time sitter, be forewarned that some agencies charge a placement fee.

In-Home Babysitting

You can hire an in-home sitter independently via word-of-mouth or placing an ad, or you can go through one of Prague's many agencies. Agencies have several advantages: they are licensed and insured (as are their sitters), they can find a replacement if the sitter is sick, and they pre-screen their sitters (also referred to as nannies, au pairs, or the Czech *chůva* or *chůvička*). It is possible to find mediocre sitters at "good" agencies and great nannies at so-so agencies; looking at more than one can be beneficial. Agencies serving Prague include **Agentura Baby**, **Agentura Boruvka**, **Agentura Chůvička**, **Agentura Pohoda**, **Prague Family**, **Melanie Person, s.r.o.**, and **Tetty**. Parents using independent sitters may feel more comfortable with someone who has already worked for a friend or acquaintance, particularly another expat. The Expatcs.cz discussion forum frequently lists postings by and for sitters, as does the listserve for **The International Women's Association of Prague** (IWAP).

No matter where you find your sitter, don't forget to discuss language issues; i.e. which language the sitter will speak with your child and how well she speaks it ("she" because 99% of Czech sitters are female). It is also important to make clear your expectations about discipline, diet, and diapering, even if they seem obvious to you.

TIP: It pays to shop around. Check the price list (*ceník*) on the agency websites to get an idea of the total cost of the sitter. Fees can include surcharges for care in a foreign language, care for more than one

child, care for a sick child, and care after 22:00. Some may charge placement fees of 2,000-6,000 CZK for finding a regular sitter; other agencies charge no fee.

Day Care

New child care facilities crop up regularly in Prague. Some offer 'drop-in' care, for parents who wish to use the facility on an occasional basis, while others focus on regular care from 2-5 days a week. The availability of care for infants (0-6 months) is quite limited, but **Baby Bee** and **Pohádka** both provide care for this age group as well as for older babies and toddlers. For children at least 6 months of age state nurseries are one of the few options. Your local town hall will have a list of these facilities, and you can also find them in the yellow pages under *jesle*. **CPA Praha** also accepts children as early as six months in their three facilities.

For children 12 months and older, some state nurseries offer babysitting facilities; **Dětské Jesle**, **Jesle Kotorská**, **Modré Nebe** to name a few. At 18 months more options unfold: **BISP**, **EISP**, **International Montessori School of Prague**, and **Global Concepts** all offer nursery care in an international school setting; **Flowergarten**, **Neverland**, **Tetty**, and **Our Submarine** cater to a mix of Czech and expat children.

Two-year-olds can attend **KinderGarten** and **Magic Hill**; 2-and-a-half-year-olds are accepted at **Bumble Bee**, **Happy Child**, **Happy Hippos**, and **Klara Agency's Salomoun**. Some schools require that children be potty-trained and are able to feed themselves. By the age of 3, your child can apply to all of the preschools listed in the Expats.cz directory not mentioned above, as well as any state kindergarten (*mateřská škola*). Drop-in centers in Prague's shopping malls usually accept children from age 3 as well.

A few pointers when selecting daycare:

- Pay close attention to staff turnover. Consistency in caregivers is a major benefit for your child, and turnover at some nurseries can be quite high among both Czech staff and foreign 'native speakers.'
- Don't worry if you don't speak the language. Many non-Czech speakers have used Czech-language nurseries successfully, relying on written notes from teachers, a friend who can interpret, and other creative solutions.
- Proximity is important. You may find the perfect nursery, but any commute over 30 minutes creates unnecessary stress either in the guise of afternoon traffic jams or whiny and restless kids on lengthy public transportation trips. Do a test run with your child to see how long it will take you to get to the school before paying tuition!

Playgroups in Prague

Why a playgroup? While infants can't really play together in an organized way, playgroups give them their first regular interaction with other children; for toddlers a structured playgroup can make the transition to preschool less frightening; for moms and dads, playgroups offer an hour or two of longed-for adult interaction. But in an international environment like Prague, joining a playgroup is perhaps the best way to find other English-speaking children and parents, and they offer bilingual tikes a chance to hone their language skills. In fact, many expat parents consider their playgroup a valuable resource for learning about quality kids' activities around the city and the best places to shop for toys, food, and clothes in Prague (not to mention a great excuse for getting out of the house)!

The good news is that tracking down a group isn't all that difficult. The bad news is that groups tend to fluctuate in size and, depending on numbers, meetings can be irregular. The discussion forum on the family pages of Expats.cz is a good place to begin. IWAP lists playgroups for members in their monthly publication 'The Bridge'. For information on joining, visit www.iwa-prague.com. IWAP's South Prague group has been running strong for more than five years.

Some playgroups are affiliated with a school. If you have an older child who attends elementary school, creating your own may be an option if parent enthusiasm exists. **The British International School Prague** (www.bisp.cz) runs a complimentary parents' corner for younger siblings of students through its **Acorns Nursery** and the **English International School Prague** (www.eisp.cz) periodically offers a weekly afternoon playgroup at its Greenhouse campus for children aged 6-18 months for a fee. Contact the schools directly to inquire about playgroups.

If you are searching for a Czech-speaking playgroup, **Mom's Club**, an international organization that coordinates playgroups worldwide is currently active in Prague (www.momsclub.org). **Mothers Centers** (www.materskacentra.cz) organizes playgroups in every Prague district and throughout the country. If you're the lucky parent of twins (or multiples!) the **Twins and Multiples Club** (www.dvojcata.cz) runs a Czech-speaking playgroup.

These clubs may not be a good fit for everyone – which means starting your own playgroup can often be the way to go. Find potential members by posting on Expats.cz or putting up flyers on school notice boards. If you really want to get a jump on things, try to gauge interest in your classes first. As you plan your playgroup consider a few things: where to meet (private homes, community centers, the gym are all options); when to meet (a fixed day of the week will help attendance); group size (smaller is better); age range (playgroups seem to work best when children are around the same age).

Family Support Services



Agentura Baby	www.hlidani.cz
Dolany 70, Kralupy nad Vltavou	+420 608 149 687
Agentura Chůvička	www.chuvicka.cz
Poupětova 3, Prague 7	+420 602 627 263
Agentura Pohoda	www.agenturapohoda.cz
Za Třebešínem 14, Prague 10	+420 274 772 201
Agentura Prague Family	www.praguefamily.cz
Senovážné náměstí 20, Prague 1	+420 224 224 044
Baby Bee	www.babybee.cz
Soběslavská 66, Prague 3	+420 272 653 130
Bumble Bee Preschool	www.bumblebee.cz
Bubenečská 22, Prague 6	+420 233 321 386
Dětské Jesle	zbraslav.info/jesle
Jaromíra Vejvodý 1 400	+420 257 921 417
Happy Child	www.happychild.cz
Jana Masaryka 31, Prague 2	+420 605 911 983
Happy Hippos	www.happyhippos.cz
Pavilion A ŽS Břečtanová, Prague 10	+420 720 503 772
KinderGarten	www.kindergarten.cz
Dunovského 14, Prague 4	+420 776 003 003
Klara Agency	www.klara-agency.cz
n/a	+420 603 531 900
Magic Hill	www.magic-hill.cz
Dunajská 2136, Říčany	+420 602 176 833
Melanie Person, s.r.o	www.melanie.cz
Naardenská 3, Prague 6	+420 257 530 121
Modré Nebe (Blue Sky) Prague Preschool	www.modrenebe.cz
Pod Hybšankou 14, Prague 5	+420 257 222 543
Nestlingue	www.nestlingue.cz
V Parku 8, Prague 4	+420 603 538 852
Neverland	www.neverland.cz
Nad Habrovkou 3, Prague 6	+420 296 392 348
Our Submarine	www.oursubmarine.cz
V Podbábě 29, Prague 6	+420 731 517 897
Tetty - An English Nursery and Preschool	www.tetty.cz
Na Pískách 88, Prague 6	+420 233 341 588

Shopping for children

Kids these days. Always growing out of everything. Where does the smart Prague parent go to outfit their cool kids? That depends on your budget and the occasion, but no worries, you'll be spoiled for choice in all corners of the city.

High-street Shopping

Václavské nám. is your best bet in terms of selection and prices. **C&A** (Václavské nám. 33, www.c-a-a-a.cz) or **H&M** (Václavské nám. 19, www.hm.com) will properly outfit your tykes, no matter their age, without breaking the bank.

If you have school-aged kids, **Marks & Spencer** (Václavské nám. 36, www.marksandspencer.com) is a good choice; their selection for younger kids isn't as extensive as C&A or H&M. Moving up the cost scale, head to **MyslbeK** (Na Příkopě 21, www.myslbeK.com) where both **Next** and **Mothercare** can be found. Of special interest in **Nový Smíchov** is **Zara Kids** (www.zara.com), always a good choice for dress-up outfits, as well as a **Kenvelo Kids** (www.kenvelo.cz) There's also a **Chicco** (www.chiccocoz.cz) here for baby-related items.

Special-occasion Shopping

English department store **Debenhams** (Václavské nám. 21, www.debenhams.cz) is a good first stop. On the stratosphere end of the pricing scale is **Au pays des mimis** (at **Centrum Chodov**, Rožtylská 2321/19, www.centrumchodov.cz), and also **Nový Smíchov**, www.mimis.cz) They import such brands as IKKS, Lili Gaufrette, Petit Bateau, among others.

Secondhand Shopping

Smart moms know to hit the secondhand stores. A couple of tips to keep in mind: the selection is almost always better for the younger ones – lots of stuff for those under 6 months, but a little older and up through the toddler range can be tougher to find. Also, don't plan on picking up any seasonal items – look for winter coats in the spring and shorts and tees in the winter.

The selection at **Vinohradský obchůdek u klídku** (Jana Masaryka 50) changes fairly regularly, and as a bonus, there's women's clothes here, too. They have a basket with items for 20 CZK and a rack (mostly women's stuff) for 30 CZK. It's only in Czech, but www.brumla.cz is a secondhand online shop. It's easy to navigate; you can search by category, brand, or size. E-Bay fans will appreciate www.mimibazar.cz. This is also only in Czech and offers items for sale by individuals. You don't bid for your bits and pieces, but email the seller directly with your choices.

Shoe Shopping

Never buy shoes secondhand – always purchase new, and look for the certified giraffe tag on the shoe. Shoe quality can differ dramatically here and it's important to buy shoes marked with this symbol to ensure the best design, comfort and fit for children's growing feet.

A good shop selling certified shoes is **Dětská obuv** (Francouzská 30) in Prague 2. They have a great boot selection, and lots of cool wooden toys in the window.

Local Favorites

A productive afternoon can be spent in **Holešovice**. A good number of shops are within walking distance; all offering great bargains. Those looking for labels will do well to stop in at **Dětské prádlo a oblečení Domenica** (Dukelských Hrdinů 23.) **Mothercare**, **Early Days**, **Ladybird**, **George**, and **Next** are all regularly in stock. **Dětský Bazárek** (Veverkova 8) is a tiny store with a small selection of everything. **Bé-Be Dětský Svět** (Milady Horákové 26) has a lot of new stuff, especially for newborns.

They also have bottles and toy sets; a nice shop for gifts. Biggest in the neighborhood is **Špuntik dětský obchod** (Kamenická 26.) The clothing selection is small, but they've got everything else from tubs to toilets, strollers to car seats. The best bargains have got to be found at **Dětská Burza "U Krčka"** (Šternberkova 17.) The selection here changes often, and there's always a lot of stuff to choose from.

Choosing a school for your child?

Let us help you find the right preschool, language school or international school today.

Comprehensive listings available online at

eexpats.cz

