

USA WEEKEND's tip-off on trends

**WHAT'S
NEXT**

Pass the beef casserole — and the bib

For finicky toddlers too old for mushy baby food but not quite ready for table food, help is on the way: chunkier, gourmet lines with little salt and no preservatives.

▶ My Own Meals in Deerfield, Ill., offers five meals for kids 2-8, sold in shelf-stable pouches. \$2.39-\$2.99. (312) 948-1118.

▶ Growing Gourmet in Walnut Creek, Calif., has casseroles, diced vegetables and broths. \$2.39 for two meals, in frozen foods sections.

Next: meals for the 3- to 5-year-old set. (415) 930-6406.

▶ Mommy Made and Daddy, Too in New York has pasta, stuffed baked potatoes, baked apples. \$1.25-\$2.50. Coming this fall: a cookbook from Bantam. (212) 724-6374.

▶ Earth's Best in Middlebury, Vt., is test-marketing organically grown fruits, veggies and cereals in Denver and Boston. It should be national by year's end. 59 cents a jar. 1-800-442-4221.

— Mary-Ann Bendel