

Kids want for precious little

Junior jetsetters expect only the best.

Rachael Oakes-Ash

looks at what's on offer

MOVE over, Richard Branson. Your toys are being usurped. Children are the future of the travel industry and Little Miss Travel-a-Lot is savvy.

With their own designer carry-ons, special meals and allocated

recreation room in the airline club lounge, junior travellers are a big deal in the industry.

What began as services designed to help mum and dad on holiday have developed into programs designed to teach youngsters what to

expect from travel in the hope they'll keep doing it long after the apron strings have been cut.

Providing everything from pedicures to themed rooms, travel companies are making kids' dreams come true:



Budding globetrotters: the travel industry is courting Juniors with luggage, meals, themed rooms, pamper packages and even a Sky Nanny. Picture: CORBIS/APL

The spa

THE soothing gated enclave of Nusa Dua, Bali, welcomes stressed-out children.

While mum enjoys a massage and scrub at Jiwa day spa at the Conrad Bali Resort and Space, the kids can choose from their own spa menu.

A bath of a thousand bubbles in double fudge chocolate, wild strawberry and mango flavours is guaranteed to soak away stress.

Perhaps Miss would prefer a soothing back massage with lullaby, or a paint-on mud bath for the feet? Apres spa can be spent in the Kura Kura Kids Club, showing off your pampered tootsies to your peers.

Closer to home, the Novotel at Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast grooms future spa addicts with its Little Miss Precious Package.

Girls under 12 can indulge their inner Mary-Kate and Ashley with a manicure and polish, toe polish, mini-facial and hair braid, and be advised on skin, nail and hair management. All for \$75 — Monopoly money not accepted.

Jiwa Spa and Kura Kura Kids Club half-hour kids' treatments \$25,

www.conradbali.com

Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast,

Little Miss Precious spa hour \$75,

www.twinwatersresort.com.au

The first-class flight

A PERSONAL chef is de rigueur for children in the pointy end of a Singapore Airlines plane.

Discerning diners can order their meals from the Yummy menu 24

hours before departure. The choice is between sausages and pancakes, spaghetti and meatballs, fish fingers or macaroni and cheese.

Each meal comes with biscuits, lollies, fruit drinks and desserts. For the computer-savvy, orders can be placed online.

Children requiring the services of a butler can fly Gulf Air and make the most of the personal Sky Nanny.

While adults spend time in the naughty corner, the Sky Nanny takes care of meals, naps, playtime and everything in between, ensuring flying is a pleasant experience for adults and children.

**Yummy menu on Singapore Airlines,
www.singaporeair.com.au or
ph: 1300 880 833**

**Sky Nanny on Gulf Air, www.gulfairco.com
or ph: 1300 366 337**

The hotel

IT'S the young who rule at the Holiday Inn Nickelodeon Family Suites Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Parents are just along for the ride.

In themed bedrooms, SpongeBob Squarepants, Jimmy Neutron and the Rugrats share wall space.

Among the attractions are a water park with a four-storey water tower, poolside entertainment and an emphasis on “The Nick” being *the* hotel for kids and parents who want time out from each other.

Characters from the Nickelodeon pay-TV channel join the breakfast buffet every day.

At the fully interactive television studio, the infamous Nickelodeon “slimings” take place, and a kids’ spa does henna tattoos and hair braiding.

The website makes farting noises while you’re booking a room.

Nickelodeon family suites offer packages for single parents, pizza delivery and in-room movies. Accommodation and extras start at \$264 a suite. www.nickhotel.com or ph: 1300 666 747

The equipment

THESE days digital cameras are designed for the youth market.

Hello Kitty, Bratz, Nickelodeon, Barbie and Scooby Doo digital cameras are all available.

Car companies too are in on the act, providing back-seat entertainment for youngsters. DVDs provide in-car entertainment previously found only aboard planes.

Bought a car without a DVD? Tsk tsk! Buy the latest portable DVD player before your kids refuse to travel with you.



The bags

YOU can't travel without baggage, and kids love to leave home with a lot of stuff and gather up even more on the way.

The leader of the packs, Samsonite, has designed a Sannies range of luggage sets specifically for kids. It has ladybird, giraffe, turtle and penguin carry-ons, and suitcases, bumbags and backpacks so little miss or master frequent-flyer can do it in style.

Sannies penguin-style baggage set (pictured), rrp \$30-\$90.
www.samsonite.com



Water park: Nickelodeon Family Suites Hotel in Florida.



Buffet: Nickelodeon characters join in at breakfast.



Junior food: a dish from Singapore Airlines' Yummy menu