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Chairs that grow with the little one

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If your goal is to turn your impressionable tot into a mini-modernist, we say: Start early. So early, in fact, that you'll be spoon-feeding a little Design 101, along with jars of pureed peas.

To start, consider a classic: Tripp Trapp for Stokke, a high chair designed in 1972 by Norwegian furniture designer Peter Opsvik, who saw his young son excluded from table conversation because of seating that was too low or too big for his small frame.

Aesthetically, the Tripp Trapp is a real babe: The strong, clean lines and natural, beech-wood build give it an appealing, Scandinavian simplicity. But it's also a sophisticated, sustainable piece of furniture: A footrest for small tots can be lowered and used as a seat for bigger kids, and even adults. (The depth of the footrest is also adjustable to accommodate a burgeoning behind.)

The Tripp Trapp comes in 11 colors, with the natural beech, cherry, walnut, black, red, and gray options retailing for \$247, and the yellow, pink, green and blue seats at \$279 (the blue Tripp Trapp was introduced this month). Accessories, including a baby set (front rail and high back, \$69.99), cushion (\$44.99-\$54.99), and tabletop tray (\$89.99), are also available (babies1st.com).

Should this seem a little pricey, you might try the Keekaroo Height Right High Chair, which hit the market in 2007. The chair is made from Parawood (or rubber wood) with a plant-based finish that typically retails for \$144.95, and its height-adjustable seat can accommodate a person weighing up to 250 pounds. Soft polyurethane polymer cushions come in five bright colors, including lime, aqua, cherry and lilac, and an insert tray costs \$49.99 (keekaroo.com).

Either way, these stylish seating options will shape your pint-size aesthete.

\$247

Tripp Trapp high chair

\$144.95

Keekaroo Height Right High Chair

E-mail comments to home@sfgate.com.

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