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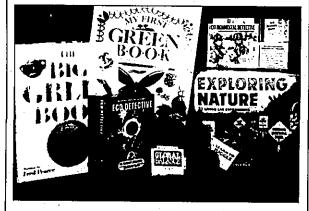
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It's never to early to talk environment. Since ecology is important to little ones, too, teach children to experiment, explore and become aware of their world with a collection of books, games and age appropriate experiments. From left, read about nature in "The Big Green Book" (\$12) and "My First Green Book" (\$12); do simple experiments with the "Environmental Detective" (\$12.95); learn with "Exploring Nature" (\$40), which includes 21 hando-on experiments, a terrarium, an ant village, a shrimp hatchery, a bug viewer, seeds, charts, accessories and more; enjoy "Juggling World Balls" (\$13) or have adventures in science with the "Eco Detectivo" (\$12.95). Most items discounted 20 percent at Marmel Gilts and Toys, Farmington Hills.



SAMPLING of what's happening this heliday season:

DEC. 13-15

Friday — Upwards of 175 stores and restaurants will take part in Birmingham's Midnight Shopping Spree 6 p.m. to midnight in downtown Birmingham. "We want to turn this into a Night on the Town at Christmastime," said Ellen Schirmer of the Mole Hole. She came up with the idea for the city's first holiday shopping night. Participating merchants, identified by posters in their windows, will set up special discounts, sales, grab bags, refreshments or other offerings for customers. "This will become an annual event," Schirmer said. "We have a beautiful downtown area with \$35,000 in holiday lights, the making for a perfect old-fashioned Christmas." Santa will stroll from store to store, carolers will sing on the corners and sleigh bells will ring on horse-drawn carriances.

Detroit Concert Choir presents "Hodie," a Christmus concert featuring seasonal music with brass and voice compositions at 8 p.m. at Duns Scotus Chapel, 20000 W. 9 Mile, Southfield. Tickets \$10 at the door. Children and seniors \$6. Advance tickets \$8 by calling 882-0118.

Friduy, Sunday — The Ford Chorus Christmas Concert begins at 8 p.m. Friday, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Ticket information: 594-1711.

Saturday — Children make six gifts for family members at the Formington/

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