

**THE OWNERS** Rebecca Pearce, 39, a journalism lecturer from London, husband Chris, 40, a psychologist, and their children Rose, six, and Isaac, two.

**THE CAMPER** A 1987 VW T25 bought for £10,000 four years ago. We decided that I'd prefer a newer

model to a cute vintage design (1970s models cost at least £4,000 more). Chris has never been keen on tents, so this was a way of escaping from our cramped living space into the great outdoors without living under canvas.

**THE STYLE** It's a blue and white van with a blue inside to match the exterior paintwork.

**THE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS** Chris sleeps in the pop-top with Rose. I'm in the pull-out below with Isaac (which

means I get clambered on when Rose needs to go to the loo), but he doesn't sleep much at all. When we went to Camp Festival in Dorset last year, he just wouldn't nod off. I took him to watch Human League and they nearly sent me to hospital, but Isaac sat there in his pyjamas and

earmuffs wide awake for the entire set! So we're just doing weekends for now.

**THE SUPERMARKET SHOP** It's our only vehicle, so we use it for everything. Once, when Rose was three, we broke down in the Sainsbury's car park and had to sit in

the back playing with her toys until the recovery vehicle turned up.

**THE CAMPSITES** We got stuck in the mud at one Dorset campsite and had to get out and push. But last summer we went to Wowo Campsite in the Ashdown Forest in Sussex – eight adults and seven children. We bathed our babies in tin baths, took turns to cook home-made burgers on an open fire, and sat around long into the night listening to Chris playing guitar.

**THE DAYS OUT** It's perfect for parties and family gatherings. Every April we arrange a big get-together with friends for Streatham Common's Kite Day. Our van is base camp, where everyone comes for tea, sandwiches and cupcakes before going off to fly their kites.

**CAMPER CRAFT**  
Don't forget the chocks. They're essential for putting under the wheels when you're on uneven ground. We didn't have any for the first year and kept rolling off our beds!



**THE OWNERS** Amy Kent, 34, a rug designer, from Malmesbury, Wiltshire, husband Jamie, 36, children Skye, four, and Felix, eight months, and dog Merlin.

**THE CAMPER** A 1978 VW Westfalia Berlin bought two years ago for £10,000 and restored for another £7,500 (Jamie sold his Audi to pay for it). We've modernised it with a new heating system, a pull-down DVD player, and surround-sound. It was recently valued at £25,000 – not that we're selling it!

**THE STYLE** It has a Panama Beige exterior, with the original green and yellow plaid upholstery, but I'm constantly changing the



**CAMPER CRAFT**  
 Look on Ebay for  
 cheap accessories  
 that's how we  
 found our heating  
 system and the  
 DVD player

hions and tablecloth – at the moment they're  
 pink. And I've made a bespoke wool and  
 rug\* to cover the lino and create a play mat.  
**SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS** We have  
 a table for the barbecue and buggy, and put  
 away when we park. Jamie, Felix and  
 I sleep in the pop-top while Skye shares the  
 double sofa with the dog.  
**TIGHT SQUEEZE** When we took it to my  
 friend Mel's wedding last year, I was eight  
 months pregnant. I got in such a fluster trying  
 to squeeze into my maid of honour outfit that  
 I was late for the ceremony!  
**PARTIES** On Skye's fourth birthday, 12 of

her pals piled in to play house and  
 watch *The Jungle Book* on DVD.  
 And last year a few of us took  
 our camper vans to South Wales to  
 celebrate a friend's birthday, using  
 a gorgeous bell tent as a dining hall.  
 We hung a tea light chandelier from  
 the middle and served champagne!  
**THE ROMANCE** We recently left the  
 children with their grandparents and  
 went to the Gower Peninsula in Wales.  
 We unzipped the fabric sides of our  
 pop-top and watched the sea from  
 our double sleeping bag. ➤

