

# This year's model



**MOTHER'S PRIDE:** Mini-model Anya Phillips puts on her best dress to pose for the camera. But, like the youngsters in the Vauxhall advert, far left, she found the road to fame is not easy even when youth is on your side

**S**UPER mini-model Anya won't get out of her cot for less than £150 a day. Insiders reckon she will take Paris by storm and be the hottest property in TV commercials.

She is only 11 months old but combines the best points of Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Yasmin Le Bon.

Vogue considers her look (Buddha belly and dribbling grin) the fashionable pre-pubescent alternative to the Jodie Kidd anorexic style.

Anya is a natural on the catwalk, or catcrawl as it's dubbed by the new breed of mini-models. But then her modelling portfolio of photographs indicated a delightful retrouse nose.

At least that's what her mother thought. And I am her mother. So why shouldn't this delicious little person become a model? The under-fives are big. ITV has just sold its Tots TV show to the States. The BBC



By Caroline Phillips

is developing teeny tots TV with presenters scarcely out of nappies. Sony has just launched Baby It's You, videos of babies dancing. And Vauxhall produced the advert of the year, with a baby making a speech to his peers.

*Anya's nappy talent was immediately spotted by the Elisabeth Smith Model Agency, Britain's biggest child agency.*

Elisabeth, who works from a terraced house in Harrow, told Anya

how difficult modelling is. Not a Pampered life, although successful mini-models earn up to £20,000 a year, while others get £11.25 per audition. For £23.50, Elisabeth videoed Anya for bookers to see.

"Super-shaped head, lovely big eyes, nice nose," intoned Elisabeth. "A Cow & Gate-style baby." Anya looked uncomprehending.

Elisabeth sends us to photographer Hal Jeayes in East London. His studio is decorated with photos of topless ladies and topless babies. For £71.68, Anya is snapped for the Circulation Chart, which is sent to Elisabeth's clients. The big day

dawns. An audition. It's obvious Anya will be modelling Versace — wearing THAT dress with nappy pins. No matter that the audition is for a mini-model to appear on Tesco clothes tags.

At the King's Cross studio, 40 mothers queue with offspring bearing names such as Tosca and Zanussi. The air is heavy with maternal pride and women willing other babies not to get the job.

I've forgotten Anya's job book, so she won't get paid. She eats her casting form. An hour later, the agent glances at Anya and declares she's too small. She must have

shrunk in the taxi. Anya also missed being a Vogue cover girl (well, Mother and Baby magazine). And was abroad when asked to audition for the Vauxhall advert, which is just as well as there were 900 babies trying and crying. Then she was picked by an American publisher for a health book cover. The night before the shoot, Anya caught cold.

Finally agent Martine Montgomery asks her to audition for an Olympus camera advert. The photographer is Terry O'Neill. Fame and fortune.

Then Martine says regretfully that Anya is too old. *Just proves a girl is never too young to lie about her age.*