



10 Items that make Camping/Travel Easier with Babies and Toddlers

Portable crib: Pack'n plays are pretty heavy (25-30 pounds) and take a lot of room so think more portable! Consider Phil & Ted's Traveller or the KidCo Portable self-inflating Travel Bed. These work in tents, trailers and even outside, keeping baby safe from critters and sun!



Clamp-on Booster Seat doubles as a secure when your are busy doing other things. It's important to adhere to weight limits—and to confirm that your table is sturdy enough to support the weight of a chair. (Standard booster chairs that attach to chairs do not work well with picnic benches.) The clamp-on booster seat keeps babies and toddlers out of the dirt and close by. They feel secure as they sit at the picnic table while you prepare a meal or enjoy your dinner.

Bathing Baby: A dishpan and warm water from the tea kettle usually work just fine if you are going to be camping and can be used inside a tent, on the picnic table or even in the shower stall of a heated bathroom if you are lucky enough to find one! Keep all of baby's bathing needs in one little storage bin to make bathing quick and easy.





Backpack Carrier: Most backpack carriers are designed for babies 6 months and older that are able to sit up independently with full head and neck control. They are designed to carry children up to 45 pounds. Reality is that no matter how little your child weighs, after awhile, the pack will feel pretty heavy! Purchase a pack with a padded hip belt and an aluminum or aluminum alloy frame to distribute the weight of the baby and gear along your back, shoulders, and hips, rather than just your shoulders and neck. Most framed backpack carriers come with a built-in stand that makes it easier to load your baby in and mount him on your back.



Hiking Strollers: These are useful if you are hiking somewhere flat. They do not work in the mountains or on challenging terrain! Select a jogging stroller or all-terrain-style stroller that has larger, inflatable, rugged wheels. If the front wheels swivel, they should have a wheel lock that can be engaged during a hike to prevent the stroller from tipping over. Look for a stroller that has a parking brake. Some even have hand brakes installed, to make them safer for use on steep trails. Hiking strollers do not have the convenient turning range of regular strollers. Take this on a trial run before you head out for a long hike!

Your hiking stroller should have a five-point harness to keep your child safe and secure. Babies younger than 1 year old shouldn't be brought along on the hike if you're planning to take the stroller on rough terrain, since it can cause too much jarring, warns ConsumerReports.org.



Water Products: Lots of camping trips include fishing or swimming fun. Remember life jackets and other personal flotation devices.

<http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/kids-personal-flotation-device.html>

Tips and Tricks.....

First Aid Kid: Always carry bandages, Curel or other alcohol-based cleansing product, sunscreen (for children more than 6 months old), bug spray with 10% DEET (not for infants).

Hat: Bring a hat with a wide brim, two-piece chin strap made of lightweight quick-drying fabric that are UV resistant. Better yet, bring two!

RV Protection: The standard cabinet locks and latches and electrical outlet covers that you use in your home can easily be installed in your RV. A portable baby gate can keep babies and toddlers from unsafe places in your RV. Secure the screen door as they often open easily.



Familiar and Interesting Toys: Remember to bring the familiar blankies, toys and others to minimize anxiety and maximize comfort and fun for baby and family! Buckets, trucks and digging tools are essential if you are going to be near dirt or on the beach.