

New Mom Shopping Guide & Checklist

(from moms who've been there & done that!)



keeping kids cute
saving moms money

KIDSmartUtah.com

New Mom Buying Guide

List of things you'll want for a new baby. Freebie for New Mom list. Also offer checklist only for easier printing.

Getting around

Car seat

An absolute must! You might consider a convertible option that will turn forward facing when your baby is ready or a travel system with base and stroller that the car seat locks into.

Car seat cover

This keeps the chill out and make the seat nice and dark for sleeping babies.

Stroller

You might buy this as part of a travel system or a standalone. An

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umbrella stroller typically doesn't work well until a baby can at least hold his head up (at around 2 months), or better, sit up on his own (around 6 months).

Baby carrier or wrap

A backpack carrier or baby wrap really helps while doing chores or on the go.

Diaper bag

Look for one with a lot of pockets for organizing. Nobody wants to sift through a huge pile of junk to find nail clippers or wipes or bandaids!

Changing pad

You'll probably want one for in your bag—some diaper bags even come with matching ones. This help keep germs from your baby on whatever surface you have to use while you're out and about.

At home

Crib, Pack'n'play, bassinet

Drop-side cribs are not recommend or sold any longer. Adjustable height crib mattresses can make it easier to lay a small baby down. A pack'n'play is a convenient option for travel. Some come with an additional bassinet to hold younger babies higher for Mom & Dad's convenience.

Bedding

Cribs, pack 'n' plays, and bassinets all have different size sheets, so buy that first. Make sure the sheets are snug and there is no soft bedding in with baby, including pillows or stuffed animals.

Rocking chair, gilder or chair for nursing

This will be used for years to come so make sure you get one that is comfy!

Baby monitor

Talk back and video features are nice but simple ones also do the trick.

White noise machine

Bringing this on trips can help baby adjust easier to a new space. This can also block out some noises in your home

Bouncer, Bumby, swing and/or Exersaucer

When baby starts sitting up and moving all around it's nice to be able to keep them in one spot for a bit. (Mommy needs to shower!)

Storage and/or changing table with shelves

Don't forget the pad and cover if you're adding a changing table to your nursery. Grab some cute baskets to organize your diapering needs to make it easier when changing.

Toys

Babies don't really show interest in toys until 2-3 months. Rattles, play gym/mat, musical toys work well for first toys. Keep toys simple at first. Have enough toys to take some with you and to keep at home.

Toy storage

Baskets, bins, drawers, toy box: whatever works for you

Diaper stations

You can have multiple spots in your home to change your baby. A changing pad in each spot helps keep germs from your baby and diaper mess off your changing station. Or carpet.

Wipe warmer

Who likes cold wipes on their skin? This nice-to-have item does help cut down on the disruption of middle-of-the-night diaper changes.

Trash can or Diaper genie

Keep the stink out!

Cloth diapers

You either love them or hate them but they are worth giving a try! You'll probably also need a bucket for dirty diapers and also a wet bag for the changes on the go.

Feeding

Not all babies breastfeed and not all babies bottle feed it's nice to be

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prepared for both just in case.

Breastfeeding supplies

Manual or electric breast pump

Helps with engorgement and lets you get a babysitter or a little help.

Nursing pillow

Gives your arms a break from holding baby while breastfeeding.

Nursing bra

Some breastfeeding moms manage without them, but many swear by their convenience.

Nursing pads

Another personal preference, but these can help hide any leaks between feedings.

Nursing cover

You may be more comfortable feeding on the go with a nursing cover.

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These are usually easier to manage than keeping a blanket over the baby's head.

Bottlefeeding supplies

Bottle warmer

Speeds up feedings. You can even find these with car adapters for warm formula on the go!

Both

Bottles and nipples

Important for both methods!

Bottle brush & nipple washing cage

Help keep things clean.

Bibs, utensils & bowls

As you introduce solid foods, start small with feeding items and find what you like.

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Drool bibs

Drool bibs are nice for new babies who spit up and are learning to nurse, as well as teething babies. Look for fabric bibs with a liner

Pacifiers

Sticking with one brand or type makes things simpler for you and more familiar for baby.

High chair

Typically you won't need these until baby starts solid foods at 4-6 months. Some chairs even recline for this early feeding phase. You can find ones that stand alone (and often fold) or strap to a chair.

clothing

Account for *at least* two outfits per day—and how frequently you want to do laundry. In general, babies should wear one layer more than you are comfortable wearing.

Onesies

You'll want these with long and short sleeves, plain to wear under other

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things as well as cuter ones.

Pants & leggings

These are the practical way to keep baby's legs warm.

Sweaters, jackets, bunting/snowsuit

A necessity for winter babies. It gets cold here but never wear these in a car seat. Use a warm blanket on top instead. Don't forget a hat!

Dresses/suits

These are good for special occasions, church and photographs.

Socks

These never stay on. Ever. But fight the good fight!

Sleepers

In the winter, fleece or blanket sleepers keep baby warm and minimize the need for other blankets. Lighter weight sleepers work great in summer.

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Clothing storage

A dresser or just an organizer really helps keep a busy mom on top of things!

Blankets for play and sleep

Babies often lay on blankets on the floor for tummy time or outdoors in the summertime. You'll also want blankets for tucking in around baby in the stroller or car seat, and possibly bed. Make sure you get a variety of thicknesses, sizes, and ones with some stretch.

Hygiene & health

Nail clippers

You can use nail scissors or regular nail clippers, but baby ones have a larger handle for more control. Some also have a light and magnifying glass to help with tiny fingers.

Bulb syringe (nose sucker)

Typically they give you these at the hospital.

Thermometer

A temporal thermometer is quick and accurate—and much easier than any other method!

Infant Tylenol

An important standby especially if teething begins early. Infants should not be given Advil before 6 months old.

Diaper rash ointment

Diaper rashes are a fact of life. This can be a lifesaver.

Baby tub

Look for one that will fit in your sink or on your counter to make bath time easier. It should have a drain at the bottom for convenience.

Washcloths, soap/body wash/shampoo, hooded towel, lotion

Some of the sweetest moments with baby are getting them ready for bed after a bath. They smell so sweet and look so cute in hooded towels!

Babyproofing supplies

Brand new babies don't need this, but before you know it, they're running around and getting into everything!

Plug covers, door handle covers, drawer and door stops, cabinet locks

Keep in mind your drawer pulls and kind of handles. A lock will be no use if it doesn't fit.

Don't worry; we've got you covered

Seems like a lot, doesn't it? We've tried to keep it to the essentials—but we also know a great way you can save money on all your baby needs, from day one for years to come. **Seasonal children's consignment sales are a great way to save up to 90% off retail prices** on gently used and like new clothes and gear for your little ones! Read on for more great tips from KIDSmart consignment sales!

[Jump to the shopping checklist](#)

How to shop consignment sales

My friends and family shop save a boatload of money by shopping at consignment sales across the country! How can you find the same success? Here are five tips!

Know your sale

When does your sale open to the general public? Most sales feature pre-sale times. You can get into these invitation only pre-sales by volunteering with the sale, consigning, being a first time mom and more. **Pre-sales are THE BEST TIME to shop!** Many sales, like KIDSmart, even reward people who volunteer more with the very first crack at the shopping.

Also know whether your sale offers any discount days/times. Often the last day or two of the sale has all items by participating consignors at **half off or more!** Some sales have pre-sale times for their discount days as well.

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KIDSmart has an exclusive pre-sale for new moms before the public sale. You've already joined our new moms list, so all you have to do is wait for our next sale. We'll email you your pre-sale pass to print and come join us!

Know what you need

Don't be seduced by every good deal you see—because you'll find waaay too many good deals! Come in knowing your kids' sizes and what they need, whether that's a complete wardrobe or one new winter coat. Don't forget toys, books and other gear like strollers, car seats, cribs, beds, backpacks on your list!

Know your budget

You can get a lot for your money at a consignment sale, but we don't want you to suffer from buyer's remorse because you spent your entire food budget for next month! Keep a running tally in your head, with a buffer for sales tax.

Get a sitter (or trade with another mom)

Maybe it's just me, but I am SOOOO not the mom of that happy family of twelve you see skipping down the aisles at the grocery store. Even the shortest shopping trip with all five of my children usually turns into

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my personal nightmare. Add in TONS of people and merchandise and suuuper tempting toys and it's a sure recipe for chaos. Children in arms a generally better behaved but make shopping a lot harder. Unless you're way more buff than me. (You probably are, huh?)

GAME DAY: what to bring with you

Finally, think about the logistics of shopping: will you need your hands free? Do they offer shopping carts, or do they encourage you to bring your own laundry basket? Do you have a plan for getting that bed you need to buy home? Does the venue have drinks and snacks, or do they not allow outside food? How long do you have? Where is your list?

Then go forth and shop, sell & save!

Top 8 Shopping strategies

Make a list (Sure, check it twice)

It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you're faced with so! Many! Deals!, so it helps to have a guide for yourself. Maybe your five-year-old has all the jeans he can use but needs sweaters and a coat, while your three-year-old has no pants. (I'd definitely need a list to help me remember which kid needed what—I'd get them mixed up. Like how I buy frozen peas when I'm actually low on frozen broccoli, and vice versa, over and over.)

It's also a good idea **to set a budget on these items**. For example, you might not want to spend more than \$3 per pair of jeans for your three-year-old, but and while your thirteen-year-old will probably need some higher priced jackets for his chilly walk to school.

Don't forget things like sports equipment, dance gear, and Halloween costumes, as well as books (with reading levels!) and toys. **And you'll want a whole section of your list for those big ticket items from a ride-on toy for the toddler to bikes or bunk beds for your big kids.**

Come prepared

Comfortable clothes, shoes made for walking and a tote are a must! Many sales encourage shoppers to bring laundry baskets with a rope as a leash, or you can pick up a super sturdy, extra large tote at IKEA for only 99¢!

Get the lay of the land

When you enter the sale, **take a look around to get a feel where things are.** Typically, there will be separate areas for children's clothes (sorted by size), moms' clothes, toys, books, gear and larger items from car seats and high chairs to bikes and beds.

Form your plan of attack

Once you've figured out where things are in your sale, **think about the route you want to take through the sale.** Maybe your top priority is a crib, so you'll check out the large items first, then swing by the baby clothes. Perhaps you'll want to make a beeline to the homeschooling curricula. Or maybe you'll want to follow the basic traffic flow of your sale, going from clothing racks to table items to the large item area so you don't miss anything.

Measure with a measuring tape

Whether you're shopping for four-year-olds or furniture, it helps to **know exactly what size you're looking for**. Since kids and consignment sales aren't always the best mix (okay, kids and shopping aren't always the best mix), and since consignment sales don't have fitting rooms, it's often easiest to just bring your children's measurements and a tape measure or marked ribbon to measure clothes against them. (Remember that clothes must also have "ease," and extra room to put them on and move. Standard fit clothing requires about 2 inches of ease, while loose fitting clothing has more extra room.)

If you're shopping for assembled furniture, also measure the doorways, halls and corners it will have to pass through. There's nothing like bringing home the perfect bunk bed only to discover you can't get it down the hall or make the last corner. (This happened to us once—we ended up taking the window out of the frame and hoisting the bottom bed into the ground-floor bedroom. Twice, since we took it with us when we moved!)

Sort

Once you've made your selections, **take a minute to sort through**

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them. Maybe you found five pairs of great jeans or ten adorable maternity tops, but you really only need a few. **Pick the ones you love most.** If your consignment sale has a sorting area like KIDSmart does, be sure to take advantage of it. This also helps KIDSmart and its volunteers get the merchandise you changed your mind about back out on the floor quickly for someone else to fall in love with.

Come back for discount day!

While as much as half of the merchandise at a consignment sale can sell during the pre-sales and a significant amount is also purchased during the regular sales days, there are still more great deals to be found on the final day of the sale: **discount day!** Who can say no to an even better deal? Gently used clothing for pennies on the dollar! And since there's no way you can see everything in one trip, it's always a good idea to come back for a second look.

Keep up with the sale

Follow your local consignment sale on social media for even more fun and goodies. Consignment sales frequently run giveaways and promotions through their social media accounts, as well as make important announcements. The email list you've joined to receive this

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freebie is probably the most important way KIDSmart will communicate with you, but for more fun, games and sharing with your friends, **you can connect with KIDSmart on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest!**



More great tips at KIDSmartUtah.com

why you should shop pre-sales

Virtually all seasonal consignment sale events feature “pre-sales.”

Before the general public floods in, select groups get the chance to shop early—getting the best selection and the best deals before more people even see them.

One of the top ten consignment sales in the United States, KidsEveryWear, says that **as much as half their merchandise sells during their pre-sale events**. That represents thousands of items gone before most people ever walk through the doors. This means that shopping at the pre-sale gives you twice the selection you’ll see in the public sale. Unlike a traditional store, a consignment sale doesn’t have repeated inventory—if there’s an item you like, we probably won’t have another one like it. Shopping the sale early is a very. Big. Deal.

So, how do you get into a pre-sale? This varies from sale to sale, but typically **the #1 way to get a pre-sale slot is to volunteer with the sale**. KIDSmart Consignment Sales open to volunteers who’ve signed up for multiple helping shifts first, then single-shift volunteers, consignors and other groups including first-time moms and homeschooling families.

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Pre-sales offer another hidden advantage: **crowd control**. During the public sale day, hundreds of people might be trying to crowd through the aisles, compete for the same clothes or conflict over the same slide or crib. And don't get me started on checkout lines! **Shopping at a pre-sale means you don't have to duke it out with two hundred other moms from the time you walk in to the time you wait in line to check out.** Instead, you get exclusive selection and faster checkout, all in exchange for a few hours of your time. Hashtag worth it!

Baby Gear Shopping Check List

* most essential

Getting around

- ☐ Car seat*
- ☐ Car seat cover
- ☐ Stroller (or travel system)*
- ☐ Baby carrier or wrap*
- ☐ Diaper bag*
- ☐ Changing pads

- changing table
- ☐ Toys (Rattles, play gym/mat, musical toys)
- ☐ Toy storage
- ☐ Wipe warmer
- ☐ Trash can or Diaper genie
- ☐ Cloth diapers & bucket

At home

- ☐ Crib, Pack'n'play, bassinet*
- ☐ Sheets*
- ☐ Rocking chair, glider or chair for nursing*
- ☐ Baby monitor
- ☐ White noise machine
- ☐ Bouncer, Bumbo, swing and/or Exersaucer
- ☐ Storage and/ or

Breastfeeding supplies

- ☐ Manual or electric breast pump *
- ☐ Nursing pillow
- ☐ Nursing bra*
- ☐ Nursing pads*
- ☐ Nursing cover

Bottlefeeding supplies

- ☐ Bottle warmer
- ☐ Formula

Other feeding supplies

- ☐ Bottles and nipples*
- ☐ Bottle brush
- ☐ Nipple washing cage
- ☐ Bibs
- ☐ Utensils
- ☐ Bowls
- ☐ Drool bibs
- ☐ Pacifiers
- ☐ High chair*

Clothing*

- ☐ Onesies
- ☐ Pants & leggings
- ☐ Sweaters/jackets
- ☐ Bunting/snowsuit
- ☐ Hats
- ☐ Dresses/suits
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Sleepers
- ☐ Clothing storage
- ☐ Blankets for play and sleep

Hygiene & health

- ☐ Nail clippers*
- ☐ Bulb syringe (nose sucker)*
- ☐ Thermometer (temporal)*
- ☐ Infant Tylenol*
- ☐ Diaper rash ointment*
- ☐ Baby tub*
- ☐ Washcloths*
- ☐ Soap/body wash/shampoo*
- ☐ Hooded towel
- ☐ Lotion

Babyproofing supplies

- ☐ Plug covers
- ☐ Door handle covers
- ☐ Drawer and door stops
- ☐ Cabinet locks

Thanks again!

Thanks again for joining our new moms list. We hope to see you at our next sale, and for many more to come!

If you enjoyed this guide, please encourage your friends to join the list to get their own copy here:

<http://KIDSmartUtah.com/newmom>

We hope to see you at the next KIDSmart consignment sale!