

Stroller Starter Kit



from Little Spokes

<https://littlespokes.com>

Welcome and Thanks

Hello, and thanks for downloading the stroller starter kit! I appreciate your business and hope you find this starter kit helpful. Here you'll find:



A description of the six major types of baby strollers



A summary table of the pros and cons of various strollers, plus expected cost



A list of questions to ask yourself before stroller shopping



A list of what to look for in a stroller, from safety features to accessories



A worksheet to rank how important certain stroller features are to you



An evaluation to fill out for each stroller you research

If you want more information on choosing a stroller, you can read [my full stroller buying guide](#) at the Little Spokes website. You can find full reviews of many strollers there as well, plus practical stroller advice.

Thanks again, and happy stroller shopping!

Amanda

Types of Baby Strollers

Car Seat Carrier

Car seat carriers are also called stroller frames. These lightweight frames with wheels allow your infant car seat to function as a stroller. They're less expensive than traditional strollers, but won't last as long, since your baby will quickly outgrow the car seat.

Full Size Stroller

Full size strollers are also called standard strollers, traditional strollers and all purpose strollers. These are the most common type of stroller sold in the United States. You can find full size strollers in any price range. They're best for families who want an indoor/outdoor stroller that will last several years.

Travel Systems

Travel systems are a stroller and an infant car seat sold together as one unit. Buying a travel system may be cheaper than buying a stroller and car seat separately. You need to evaluate the car seat and stroller individually, though. The car seat may be good, but the stroller just average, especially if the price for the travel system is on the lower end. Higher end travel systems often include a bassinet in addition to a car seat, and can fit additional seats. For this reason, they're often called convertible strollers.

Umbrella Strollers

Umbrella strollers are also called lightweight strollers and, sometimes, travel strollers. They're light, easy to fold, compact and highly portable. They're great for active families, but often lack some of the features of full size strollers. For instance, most can't be used with car seats. They also usually lack the cushioning and suspension of a traditional stroller.

Double Strollers

Double strollers are made to carry two children, either two infants or an infant and a toddler. Many double strollers come in a side-by-side configuration, in which the two seats sit next to each other. You can also find double strollers in which one seat sits behind the other. The obvious advantage of double strollers is that you only need one stroller for two babies. But, double strollers are heavy and can be difficult to maneuver, so be sure to do a lot of testing before choosing a double stroller.

Jogging Strollers

As the name implies, jogging strollers are meant for running with baby. Jogging strollers tend to be heavy and hard to transport, but if you want to run with your little one, a stroller made specifically for jogging is a must. Don't confuse true jogging strollers with new strollers called "city joggers," which aren't meant for running and lack the safety features of a jogging stroller.

Type	Pros	Cons	Examples	Price Range	Average Price
Car seat carrier	Light, portable, inexpensive	Limited use (baby outgrows quickly)	Baby Trend, Maxi Cosi, Chicco	\$75-\$125	\$80
Full size stroller	Long term use Wide price range	Can be heavy, bulky, hard to store	Graco, Britax, Evenflo, Bugaboo, Nuna, Uppababy	\$100-\$1,000+	\$300
Travel system	Guaranteed car seat compatibility May be more economical	Limited use (baby outgrows car seat and bassinet quickly)	Graco, Britax, Nuna, Uppababy, Maxi Cosi	\$150-\$1,000+	\$400
Umbrella stroller	Light, portable, cheaper than full size strollers	Not car seat compatible Often lacks other features (storage, suspension)	Kolcraft, Baby Trend, Graco, Joovy	\$40-\$150	\$75
Double stroller	Can carry two children	Heavy, bulky, hard to steer	Britax, Baby Jogger, Joovy, Zoe	\$200-\$1,000+	\$300
Jogging stroller	Design and safety features specifically for jogging	Heavy, bulky, hard to store, air-filled tires prone to flats	BOB, Thule	\$400-\$1,000+	\$600

Choosing a Baby Stroller

There are several questions you should ask and several features to look for when buying a stroller.

Questions to Ask When Buying a Stroller

1. What is your budget?

Budget is definitely one of the most important factors to consider when choosing a stroller. Be sure to do some price comparisons. For example, a travel system will include both a car seat and a stroller, but may not actually be cheaper than buying a stroller and car seat separately. Cost out both options and see which one is better for you.

2. Who will use the stroller most often?

Think about who will use the stroller most. Are they tall or short? That's a big consideration when it comes to the height of the handlebars on your stroller. Do they have health or mobility issues that might make it hard for them to push, fold or lift a heavy stroller? These are important things to consider when buying a stroller, especially if your baby will have multiple caregivers.

3. Where will you use the stroller most often?

Most strollers on the market today are meant to be used on flat indoor and outdoor surfaces, like hardwood floors and sidewalks. If you'll often use your stroller in areas with bumpy (or no) sidewalks, lots of gravel, or other uneven terrain, you'll probably want to buy an all-terrain stroller. But, those usually cost more, so think about where you'll use your stroller most often before making your buying decision.

4. Where will you store the stroller?

If you have plenty of space, stroller storage may not be an important factor for you. However, if you have limited space, you really need to consider how compactly your stroller can fold. Also, make sure the stroller can stand upright when folded – that makes storing the stroller much easier.

5. How often will you transport the stroller?

If you'll transport your stroller by car on a regular basis, make sure the stroller can fit in your trunk. If you don't plan to transport the stroller by car very much, you should still consider things like how easy the stroller is to carry up stairs, use on a bus, etc.

6. How many children will use the stroller?

If you have or plan to have children close in age, you might consider buying a stroller that can hold multiple children. There are quite a few strollers that can convert to carry two infants or an infant and toddler. If you're buying your first stroller, think ahead to how your family size may change. It could be worth investing more in a convertible stroller now, rather than buying a second stroller in the future.

Features to Look for When Buying a Baby Stroller

It's important to note that **all strollers sold in the United States must meet safety requirements set by the federal government**. Many stroller manufacturers also voluntarily agree to meet additional standards set by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). So, you don't have to spend \$1,000+ to get a safe stroller.

That said, there are some basic features you should look for when buying a stroller, both for safety and comfort.

Harness

You should buy a stroller with a five point safety harness. This type of harness has straps that go over baby's shoulder's, between baby's legs, and around baby's waist. Five point harnesses are pretty standard these days, but some cheaper strollers still use the older three point harnesses. Those aren't dangerous, per se, but a five point harness is better.

Brakes

All strollers will meet minimum requirements for braking. Most strollers have a braking function that locks the back wheels. If the front wheels on your stroller swivel, make sure there's a way to lock these as well.

Size, weight and portability

These are a matter of personal preference, but be sure you're comfortable with the size and weight of your stroller before buying. Also make sure you can fold and unfold the stroller easily.

Maneuverability

How easy a stroller steers largely comes down to the wheels. Generally, larger wheels will glide more smoothly than smaller wheels, but that's just one factor to consider when choosing a stroller. You should also see if the front wheels swivel or are fixed. And don't forget to test out the handlebar. The height of the handlebar – and whether it can be adjusted – is also an important part of maneuverability.

Amenities and Accessories

When stroller shopping, you should also think about other features you want. How big is the stroller canopy? Does the stroller have good ventilation? Is the storage basket big enough? Does the stroller come with parent and/or child cup holders? A snack tray? A rain cover? A transport bag? Many strollers require you to purchase these accessories separately, so be sure to factor those into your budget.

Ease of Assembly and Care

Most strollers will require a little assembly. This often involves snapping on the wheels and the canopy, and no tools are required. Be sure to look through the user guide, which are usually posted online, to get an idea of how much work it will be to assemble the stroller.

Also look at the user guide for instructions on how to care for your stroller. You want easy care fabrics, those that can be wiped clean with a damp cloth. Some strollers even allow you to remove the seat and canopy fabric for cleaning. You may want to avoid strollers with very light colored fabrics, so stains don't show as much.

Stroller Research Worksheet

My stroller budget is: _____

Rate the importance of each of the following stroller features
(1=not at all; 10=must have)

Adjustable handlebar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Light weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Compact fold	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All-terrain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jogging	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Additional seats*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Car seat compatible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lots of storage	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easy to push/steer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Accessories included	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

*The ability of the stroller to add extra seats, including accommodating a car seat and toddler seat, two car seats, two toddler seats, etc. Or, if you need a double stroller.

Stroller Evaluation Sheet

Stroller Make/Model: _____

Stroller Price: _____

Evaluate this stroller on the following features, using your answers from the prior worksheet as a guide.

Adjustable handlebar	Yes										No
Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Fold	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
All-terrain	Yes										No
Jogging	Yes										No
Additional seats	Yes										No
Car seat compatible	Yes										No
Storage	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Easy to push/steer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Accessories	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	