

## Must-Have Minimalist Baby Items:

1-Pac n' play: I picked one up used for \$60 that had a bassinet level and the regular level. Our daughter slept in it for the first 6 months and whenever we travelled. She happily would have used it in lieu of a crib as well.

2-Dresser/changing table: Some type of drawers to store clothes in are handy. Ours is not a changing table officially. I don't have the changing mat or a fancy system to clip her in to. The truth is you end up changing your kid wherever they poop! A family member passed along their set of drawers to us shortly before our daughter was born.

3-Chair: This could be an office chair, rocking chair, or kitchen chair, but somewhere to sit while nursing in the night. A friend was getting rid of some old furniture and we procured a rocking chair in exchange for helping him move. The pads were a piercing royal blue, so I "reupholstered" them with a dull grey, fitted crib sheet to match the nursery.

4-Clothes: We needed about 10 onesies/outfits per size, a couple pairs of socks, and 3-5 pairs of pyjamas per size. Depending on how many blow-outs a day your kid has, you could potentially get away with less.

5-Blankets: Since we live in Canada, one warm blanket for cuddling with and taking in the car was a necessity. We also used an 8 pack of receiving blankets/burp clothes for nursing/burping.

6-High chair: We use a booster chair that straps on to an existing kitchen chair. It does save space, but the only real reason we opted for this design was I found one beside the road while out for a walk. A thorough washing kept it out of the landfill, and prevented us from needing to purchase one.

7-Swing/bouncy chair/exersaucer: We found a like-new baby swing on the side of the road, set out by a neighbour for garbage day. We used and it, and it worked well for about the first 4 months before she outgrew it. We are now "storing" a friend's exersaucer for them until they have another kid. It's amazing how much stuff can accumulate that you only need for a few months, so sharing this equipment with friends can be incredibly helpful.

8-Toys/books: She has a small bookshelf and we spend a lot of time reading (because I love books), but this is not necessary for everyone. She has a small, one foot cube that stores all of her stuffed animals and toys (teethers, stuffed animals, stacking cups, etc), which were all gifted when she was born.

9-Play mat: We bought one used for \$10 at Once Upon a Child, and it was the best investment. She does tummy time on here, and before that she spent a lot of time on her back playing with the mobile animals. For families with pets, this is especially helpful! And we often travel with this too.

10-Wubbanub: This is her favourite toy. It is a pacifier with a stuffed giraffe attached. She takes it everywhere. She sleeps with it and sometimes plays with the stuffed animal too. She chews on it while teething and soothes with it, an all-around versatile combo, and she has never really taken another pacifier besides this.

11-Stroller/car seat combo: This is where I would recommend spending the most money. We did not want to compromise on safety, so finding a great car seat, with a stroller that worked with it was important to us. We fortunately had family members purchase this off of our registry.

12-RESP: In Canada, a Registered Education Savings Plan allows you to invest in your child's education from day one. The government will match money put in, up to \$500 a year to a total of \$7000 over the lifetime of the investment. All of the monetary gifts given to our daughter when she was born went into an RESP. There are a number of different ways to save investments for a kid, but this one suited our family best. Plus free matching funds from the government are hard to pass up. Education is important to us, so we wanted to invest early in this opportunity.