



## GET SMART THINGS TO KNOW FOR THOSE ON THE GO



### CARRIED AWAY

Traveling with kids in strollers can be cumbersome. Many carriage strollers, while plush, weigh up to 25 pounds; wheeling through security is slow; and gate-checking the stroller while juggling a diaper bag and your child is almost as fun as having your teeth cleaned. The solution? Lightweight child carriers. These backpack-style carriers free up your hands for other tasks and have plenty of storage space for diapers, snacks, and toys. A bonus: Most will fit in the airplane's overhead bin.

#### Carry-on Carrier

At first glance, the **Deuter KangaKid** carrier looks like any other backpack.

But a hidden zipper splits the bag in half, revealing the child carrier inside. Best for babies and toddlers that can sit upright (maximum weight is 30 pounds), the KangaKid has an adjustable harness and a padded seat. The pack compartment holds a diaper bag's worth of goodies, while side mesh pockets and bungee cords let you keep essentials like a jacket, boarding pass, or snacks close at hand. Best of all, the carrier fits easily under an airline seat or in an overhead bin (\$129, [deuterusa.com](http://deuterusa.com)).

#### Newborn Essential

Best for babies 8 to 26 pounds, the **BabyBjorn Active Carrier** keeps your child close to your heart and securely in place while you move through the airport. Unlike the original BabyBjorn, the Active version includes extra lumbar support, making it more comfortable for all-day wear. Your baby can face inward (ideal for small, sleeping, or breast-feeding babies) or outward (more fun for older and curious babies). There are no pockets for storing supplies, but when not in use the Bjorn easily fits inside a carry-on or diaper bag (\$120, [babybjorn.com](http://babybjorn.com)).

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOLA LOPEZ



## GET SMART

**Comfort King**

On a long drive, you want a luxury car with all the bells and whistles. On a long walk with your child, you want **Macpac Vamoose**, a veritable Cadillac of a carrier. A zip-off day bag provides storage space, and handy hip belt pockets keep your ID and cash close at hand. It even includes a pocket-sized mirror so you can take a peek at your child while she's on your back. Sun and rain covers are included, although one accessory that will come in handy is the Sleepy Head, a neck pillow for the baby. Small enough for most overhead bins, the Vamoose (available in two sizes) is best for children between 6 months and 3 years old (\$320, [macpac.co.nz](http://macpac.co.nz)).

**Two-for-One**

So maybe you're not ready to ditch the stroller quite yet. If that's the case, try the **Kelty K.I.D.S.** convertible stroller/backpack. As a stroller, it's compact and easy to maneuver through security, and it has many of the features parents value in larger strollers, like a storage bin underneath the seat, an extra-long push handle, and wheel locks. (Note: During testing we found that the plastic wheels work best on smooth surfaces.) As a backpack, it's bulkier than most, but it frees up your hands and makes it easy to descend stairs and move through crowds (\$190, [kelty.com](http://kelty.com)).

**Terminal and Trail**

If your travel adventures take you to museums or on hikes through local parks, you'll appreciate the lightweight (4 lbs. 8 oz.) and rugged **Sherpani Rumba Super Light**. Designed for outdoorsy parents, it has an ultra-comfortable suspension system that distributes weight to your hips. The storage compartment swallows a day's worth of clothing, snacks, and other gear. Weather turning sour? Attach the rainshade to protect your baby from the drizzle. Best for children up to 55 pounds, this pack has a matching duffel bag for easy travel (\$150, [sherpani.us](http://sherpani.us)).

— by GINA DEMILLO WAGNER

**Thumbs Up** ↑

New technology can make life easier, but it's not always easy on your body. After hearing that business travelers often got "blue thumb" from using their Blackberries, sore hands from their PDAs, and tired fingers from text messaging, Hyatt hotels created the **Blackberry Balm Hand Massage**, a new spa treatment to alleviate these aches and pains. During this 30-minute rub-down for the tech-savvy, tension is removed from the arms, hands, wrists, and fingers. Hot stones are placed on key pressure points to soothe and loosen up the muscles. Then a blend of oils (containing blackberry powder, camphor oil, cinnamon, clove, and peppermint) that Hyatt calls its special "Blackberry Balm" is rubbed onto the