

Tips for New Parents

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Don't by anything new!

We have been buried in stuff that people have given to us—especially clothes. Our pram came from the op shop for \$10.00. A friend found a sling at another op shop for \$2.00 (a sling is much easier and more fun than



a pram in shopping centres). Op shops and Salvation Army stores are great—they have cots, beds, cupboards, clothes, prams etc for next to nothing. We got two care seats through LETS for LETS points—no money involved, just a bit of time donating things for other people.— Contributed by Gerard, 19 October 2004

A few essentials

You'll find that there really are only a few essentials you will need and they are: a cot, a pram, a change table, a high chair and a



baby bath. We bought a new cot when we were expecting our first child and it is now being used for our third child. But you can buy second-hand cots at garage sales or from the Trading Post (just make sure the distance between the rails conforms to safety standards). We bought a pram at a garage sale for \$20 and a change table for \$10. Our baby bath my husband found on the nature strip outside a house, which had been put out for rubbish collection. Another good idea is to ask for items you need as baby shower gifts. Maybe a group of friends could get together and buy a large gift such as a high chair.— Contributed by Catherine, 13 October 2004

Budget Mattress Cover When a child is toilet training instead of buying expensive waterproof mattress covers (about \$50.00) simply buy a shower curtain from the bargain shop for \$2.00. You can either sew elastic to the

corners or use large nappy pins to secure each corner. Place a sheet over the top. No more wet mattresses.— Contributed by Sharon, 2 March, 2005

Children's Markets I have just had a baby girl and she is almost 6 months old. To save money on clothes and toys I go to the kids market held in Chelsea every few months. People go to the kids market to sell their pre-loved goods and you can pick up brand names for only a few dollars and they look almost new. I have saved heaps of money on clothes and now wouldn't think of paying \$20.00 in a store for any item of clothing for my daughter. People are always commenting on how well dressed she is and how many clothes she has and that it must have cost a fortune, of course I just smile. The kids market concept has become a commercialised thing and is being run in other suburbs by ABC Kidz Markets and they are great as well. Hopefully it will mean that more people will get the chance to benefit from these markets like we have. Enjoy!! - Contributed by Yogita, 28 October 2004.



Lay-by when on sale

When stores have their % off sales or nappies are on special, lay-by a few bulk boxes (watch your sizes) and pay them off. I've never paid full price for nappies and have saved heaps.— Contributed by Melissa, 11 March 2005



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