

Best for Baby

A Selective Consumer's Guide to Products
and Services from Infancy to Preschool



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to Products and Services
From Infancy to Preschool



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Longmeadow Press

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—S.G. & S.L.

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Best Carriers

Aside from the papoose board used by native Americans, baby carriers did not exist on these shores until the late 1960s. A young couple returned from a stint in the Peace Corps in West Africa where they had noticed the local women carrying serene babies to market inside shawls tied to their backs. About to have their own child, Ann and Mike Moore asked Ann's mother, a seamstress by profession, to design and make a carrier like the one they remembered seeing. Other parents admired the Moores' carrier and asked for it. Ann's mother was soon making nothing else. By 1972, they had a full-fledged business on their hands, so Mike quit his job to form Snugli, Inc. Today the name Snugli has virtually become the generic term for a soft infant carrier.

There are two types of carrying pouches: one for the front and one for the back. The former is good for newborns and infants up to about 12 or 15 pounds. For babies over this weight, it is easier and better for your spine to carry your baby on your back. Back carriers often come with light metal frames for more structure and support. But they can only be used for older infants. Many soft carriers can be used on your back as well as front, so be sure to ask. When purchasing an infant carrier, also look for the following. Seams should be double-stitched, especially around fasteners and shoulder straps. Check to see whether you have to put the baby in the carrier first, or whether you can put it on before your baby goes in. If you are shopping for a newborn, make sure the carrier has head, neck, and back support. Good additional features are a snap-on bib to keep the carrier clean and inside zippers for nursing. *Note:* Never use your carrier in the car or in any activity that requires balance, like riding a bicycle.

Held Babies Are Happier Than Isolated Ones:

Some indigenous form of the Snugli exists throughout Asia, Africa, and South America. Recently researchers returned from studying the !Kung tribe in southwest Africa, a people who are known for holding their young offspring almost constantly. They found that !Kung babies cried 43% less than their American counterparts!



Snugli Original

This is the original Snugli model, and it continues to set the standard for the industry. Cross-strap construction balances your baby's weight. Quick-release plastic buckles make it easier to slip on and off than earlier versions. This Snugli is based on a double-pouch design, with your baby sitting in an inner adjustable seat that fits within the larger covering pouch. This model is designed for infants from newborns to 24 months and has a limited three-year warranty (which works out to be comfortably beyond the time your baby will use the carrier). There are leg and arm holes in the outer pouch for growing toddlers. This Snugli can also be worn on your back as your child gets heavier. The carrier comes with breastfeeding cut-outs and is fully machine-washable. Available in royal blue corduroy, blue pinstripe seersucker, and gray with color-coordinated linings. *Approximate retail: \$55 to \$60.*

The Safe Baby Carrier

This less-enclosed baby carrier by Baby Björn is perfect for summertime infants. The upper carrying strap actually goes under a baby's arms to provide plenty of back and head support. It also prevents a baby from falling out. There are wide padded shoulder straps for parents and a double-action safety buckle that can't be undone accidentally. The carrier comes with a snap-on drool bib and is machine-washable. Available in two-toned blue, or a light pink, or blue teddy bear pattern. *Approximate retail: \$56.*



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