

How to buy... baby strollers

You've been blessed with a little human and you need to get it from A to B. Just like cars, there are endless makes and models, which can be pretty overwhelming. So whether you're in the market for a sleek, Bugatti-style cruiser or a more robust, Pajero sort of run-around, we look at some options, and what to consider when investing in a new set of wheels





Bugaboo Cameleon



Stokke Xplory

Need to spruce up your stroller after too many sticky hands and trips to the beach? Head to thestrollerspa.com.



BabyZen Yoyo 6+



Doona



Armadillo



UPPAbaby Vista



Quinny Buzz Xtra

Bugaboo Cameleon

What? Something of an icon in the stroller world, the Cameleon evolves with your little bundle, transforming from a reversible baby bassinet to a reversible child seat – both car seat compatible with Maxi Cosi adaptors. It's also a dab hand in the sand, which is no bad thing in the UAE.

Age: Birth to 15kg.

Seat: Parent and forward facing.

Colours: Mix or match the base unit (six colours) with the hood (eight colours, ranging from soft pink to petrol blue).

Accessories? A raincover and shopping basket is included, but it's the Bugaboo by Kaviar Gauche designer tote bag that we secretly covet.

Dimensions: H100.5 x W60 x D85cm (27cm taller with handlebar extended).

Dimensions folded: H84 x W60 x D30.5cm.

Weight: 9kg.

Anything else? Teaming up with Marc Jacobs, Victor & Rolf, Missoni and the Andy Warhol Foundation, Bugaboo has some serious design credentials. Their latest collaboration sees the birth of a camouflage Diesel Bugaboo. Yep, the hubby will want to push that one.

Best for... The stylish all-rounder.

Price: Dhs4,995 from Just Kidding.

BUGABOO RUNNER

If you're the active sort, the brand new Bugaboo Runner could be your new exercise companion. Suitable for babies over nine months, this chassis fits most Bugaboo seats and has large air-filled wheels for a smooth, stable run. Built-in suspension absorbs shock and the handlebar adjusts to suit height and running posture accordingly. Perfect for a dash along the running track.

Stokke Xplory

What? Feted as the 'ultimate connection stroller', the Xplory's height adjustability raises your baby towards you, for optimum interaction, with five seating positions to choose from.

Age: Six months to 15kg. Purchase the carrycot separately for a newborn.

Seat: Parent and forward facing.

Colours: Eight, four in varying shades of grey, which suits the fabulous, futuristic design.

Accessories? Endless. Our pick? The cosy sheepskin lining, fit for a king.

Dimensions: H89-123 x W57 x L75-102cm.

Dimensions folded: H34 x W56 x L99cm.

Weight: 12kg.

Anything else? The chassis can support both a carry cot, single seat and sibling seating combos.

Best for... Parent and baby interaction.

Price: Sale price Dhs3,862.50 (regular price Dhs5,150) from Just Kidding.

BabyZen Yoyo 6+

What? Thinking of travelling? This could be the one. Suitable for babies from six months onwards, this award-winning, one-hand drive stroller is based on the flat-pack concept and complies with cabin luggage restrictions.

Age: Six months to 15kg, but a newborn nest is available.

Seat: Forward facing.

Colours: Five (pink, red, blue, grey and black).

Accessories? Raincover and shopping basket are included.

Dimensions: H106x W86 x D44cm

Dimensions folded: H52 x W18 x D44cm.

Weight: 6kg.

Anything else? A push of a button and the entire frame and wheels collapses within five seconds.

Best for... Travelling. The Yoyo makes it much easier.

Price: Dhs1,990 from babysouk.com.

Doona

What? A car seat with wheels, the Doona enables you to go from car to pushchair in 20 seconds flat. There's no tricky manoeuvring or assembly, simply pull a lever and the wheels are lowered, extend the handlebar, and you and your baba are ready to roll.

Age: Birth to 13kg.

Seat: Parent facing.

Colours: Choose from a palette of beige, red, grey, blue and black.

Accessories? Travel bags and car bases to click your baby seat in.

Dimensions: H99 x W44 x D82cm.

Dimensions folded: H60 x W44 x D66cm.

Weight: 7kg.

Anything else? Doona passes both car seat and stroller safety tests.

Best for... Jumping in and out of your motor.

Price: Dhs1,895 from Just Kidding.

Armadillo

What? While Mamas & Papas own brand stroller is compact (fitting in the boot of something as small as a Fiat 500), it's surprisingly roomy when unfolded. The XXL UPF 50+ hood meanwhile, offers real sun protection.

Age: Birth to 15kg.

Seat: Forward facing.

Colours: Black, blue indigo and lemon drop yellow.

Accessories? Footmuff and parasol.

Dimensions: H100 x W55 x L92cm.

Dimensions folded: H30 x W55 x L72cm.

Weight: 8kg.

Anything else? We like the 'flip-flop friendly' brake.

Best for... Shielding the UAE heat.

Price: From Dhs1,199 from Mamas & Papas.

UPPAbaby Vista

What? Unlike many other strollers, the UPPAbaby Vista comes with a carrycot as part of the package. It can also accommodate a second and third child.

Age: Birth to 15kg.

Seat: Parent and forward facing.

Colours: Nine hues to deliberate over.

Accessories? A carrycot, toddler seat, two insect nets and car seat adapters are all included.

Dimensions: H100 x W67 x L94cm.

Dimensions folded: H84 x W67 x L35.5cm.

Weight: 12.5kg.

Anything else? The chassis allows multiple seating combinations to adapt to your family's needs.

Best for... A growing family.

Price: Dhs4,500 from Just Kidding.

Quinny Buzz Xtra

What? This robust, three-wheeler is built with all-terrain foam wheels and a gas sprung hydraulic system that automatically folds and unfolds the stroller with a touch of a button.

Age: Six months to 15kg, but you can buy an inlay for younger babies.

Seat: Parent and forward facing

Colours: A dark red, teal, black and navy.

Accessories? You get a sun canopy, raincover, shopping basket, parasol clip and baby car seat/carrycot adaptors, and can add more.

Dimensions: H102 x W64 x D85cm.

Dimensions folded: H37 x W64 x D85cm.

Weight: 12.7kg.

Anything else? By purchasing a few add-ons, you can utilise the three-in-one travel system, going from car to pushchair with ease.

Best for... Off-roading.

Price: Dhs2,900 from Just Kidding.

GOOD VALUE

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What to ask

Gaynor Shaw, expert mum at Just Kidding, shares the questions you should be asking before heading to the till

WHAT'S OUR BUDGET?

You can spend anywhere from Dhs1,000 to Dhs7,000 and upwards on a stroller, so budget needs to be one of your first considerations. Search user reviews and reports online to get an idea of what your wishlist of features and benefits are, and then have a figure in mind before you hit the shops.

WHAT DO WE LIKE AND DISLIKE?

Generally, if you already have children, you've been down the stroller-buying route before. With this in mind, it's important to weigh up what you like and dislike about your previous stroller.

WILL WE BE HAVING MORE CHILDREN ANYTIME SOON?

This can be a scary question, especially for first-time parents-to-be. It is worth thinking about, because if you're planning to have a second baby quite soon after your first you may decide to choose something which you can buy as a single stroller, and add a second seat to later.

ARE WE BRAND CONSCIOUS?

There are customers who won't look at anything except stylish, well-known brands. On the flip side, some customers focus entirely on practicality, with little attention paid to brand name or appearance.

WILL IT FIT IN OUR CAR?

Make sure the stroller you choose will fit in the boot of your car, because if you drive a small vehicle you may have trouble fitting a big all-terrain model in.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT?

There are two types of stroller: the urban and the all-terrain. The urban is city friendly, lightweight and great to use in malls and on streets because of its small, easily manoeuvrable wheels. The all-

terrain is bigger, sturdier and designed to be used on anything. Consider what your lifestyle needs are and where you are going to be using it.

HOW EASILY DOES IT FOLD AND HOW COMPACT IS IT?

If you don't have a car and will be relying on taxis, you may choose a compact stroller. If so, make sure that it folds down easily because there will be times when you have to collapse it with one hand, while holding your baby with the other.

DO WE WANT A TRAVEL SYSTEM?

A travel system is a type of stroller that comes with a compatible rear-facing car seat and a bassinet. You have everything you need in one purchase, and the car seats are designed for infants. One thing to bear in mind is that more evidence is coming to light about the importance of babies lying completely flat when asleep, which is why the bassinet is useful.

DOES THE STROLLER WE'RE LOOKING AT HAVE ADAPTERS FOR THE TYPE OF CAR SEAT WE WANT?

While travel systems are great, some people opt to buy their car seats separately to give themselves flexibility to choose a different brand or design. If you decide to buy your car seat separately, make sure that you can purchase the relevant adapters, so that it will fit onto your stroller.

WILL WE BE TRAVELLING WITH IT?

If you're planning to travel a lot it's worth investing in a travel bag for your buggy. Alternatively, you can buy something like the BabyZen Yoyo. This pushchair weighs in at less than 6kg and is the only buggy on the market that you can take as hand luggage onto the plane as it fits in the overhead compartment.



Baby wearing

Fancy an alternative to getting out and about with your mini me without the stress of loading a buggy on and off public transport? Look no further than the Ergo carrier, the baby trend dominating Hollywood. Suitable for use from birth right up until the toddler years, the carrier is designed to distribute your baby's weight evenly while developing the parent/child bond through body heat and heart beat.

ergobaby.com

Parent or forward facing?

Until the mid-1960s, parent-facing strollers were the norm, then manufacturers start making more lightweight, portable, outward facing models. Today, it's really a personal preference, with many strollers providing both functions.

PARENT-FACING

- Promotes interaction, encouraging communication between parent and child.
- Opportunity to be more responsive to child's needs.
- Can be more expensive and heavier.

OUTWARD-FACING

- Allows your baby to see what's going on around them, aiding their learning and development.