

Baby Playpens and you

BABY PLAYPENS

Being a parent has always been a challenge and these days with many couples juggling numerous social and work commitments, we need every bit of assistance we can get, especially when it comes to the minding of small children and infants.

A [baby playpen](#) is an essential tool for the safety of your child as well as your own peace of mind.

They provide a great deal of security for mums or dads with plenty on the go and the convenience they afford a parent cannot be overstated.

There are just some times when you need to fully concentrate and you have to know that your infant is not only safe and sound but happy as well.

Regardless of how much space your home provides you will be able to source a playpen online that will meet your needs in terms of both, style, space and cost.

Better yet, you will even be able to find a portable playpen to give you even more useability. The portable versions are now built to similar standards as the fixed playpens.

In a moment we'll examine some of the things you should consider in researching your buying decision, and as you would expect, most of these revolve around safety for your child and value for money for the parent.

We all know from experience that with most purchases you get what you pay for and that quality is remembered long after price is forgotten and that's especially true when buying children's furniture.

Having said that, there's also no need to pay over the odds to secure baby furniture that's both sturdy, safe and appealing.

THE BENEFITS OF CHILDRENS FURNITURE

When you think about the busy day of your average mum with a small child, you begin to realise the many and varied tasks that the parent of a toddler has to perform.

Jobs have to be done, and yet it kind of defeats the purpose of parenting, if those jobs rob the parent and child of the joy that should be paramount at this time.

Part of the answer is to grant yourself the considerable advantage of a piece of furniture that you can easily move indoors and even outdoors around your daily chores and also during those precious downtimes.

Whether you are cleaning, cooking or watching the parenting segment on Oprah, it's wonderful to be calm and relaxed concerning your baby's safety and happiness. When you need a break from the household you'll just move the playpen out in the sun so that you and your precious one can soak up some healthy sunshine.

While the playpen provides the necessary safe environment for your child, it remains very much a parents responsibility to ensure that what goes into that playpen is equally safe. Otherwise the enclosure becomes the opposite of its intended use and can actually heighten a risk ..by having that risk in close proximity to eager and inquisitive eyes and limbs.

Added to that, there is the new risk that because the pen gives parents such a feeling of certainty, that some things could be taken for granted.

Supervision is diminished of course but one must still be very aware of what is in the pen or what could potentially make its way into it during the course of the day.

The idea of having this great piece of children's furniture is twofold, its the practicality and its also another aspect that's not so quantifiable – the ability for a parent to have some measure of relaxation to help them cope with the rigorous demands of raising a toddler.

You absolutely need that downtime to maintain the positive, energetic state of mind that will benefit the child and keep the parent sane.

Being a parent needs to be as much about fun as about commitment and long hours. Mums and dads are only human. They get tired and tired people are grumpy and tired people make mistakes.

So you owe it to yourself to take it easier. Being the perfect parent means allowing some imperfections. The time outs you are afforded are essential and you should never ever feel guilty about giving yourself some “ me time “ Ultimately your family will benefit every bit as much as you will.

On the subject of being able to fully relax around a toddler, scrimping and saving on an inferior construction and quality of item will result in a lesser feeling of ease with your toddler and of course that's the exact opposite of what you should be aiming for.

SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION

We mentioned that the construction and quality are the main factors, however it's just as important to be acutely aware of the dangers of introduced items into what would otherwise be a totally safe environment for your child.

You see, because you get so comfortable with the idea that your child is safe in an enclosure, you could overlook a change in that environment. For example another child might introduce a small toy into the playpen and a toddler or infant may quickly pick it up and place it in their mouth.

Don't become paranoid, but rather just be aware to always carefully inspect the playpen after other children have been in close proximity.

Needless to say you should also keep an eye out for any loose or worn fittings and that the assembly has been carried out correctly in the first place.

Try to purchase an item that's been endorsed by a recognised national safety body since they will have performed rigorous testing on your product.

Regularly change linen within the pen as that's also a good way of maintaining a watch on the state of the pen, as much as being sanitary.

All children need stimulation and social contact to develop into healthy kids, so don't overuse your playpen and try to have your child build a good association and connotation over their time in using it.

BUYING A PLAYPEN

The options are a product with its own base (floor) and containment (fence). These may be designed to be rather stationary items or fully and easily portable.

You could choose a pack and play which is kind of a small version of the more traditional playpen, but one which is fully portable... usually by folding up for either easy storage or transportation.

Often these types have a removable bottom flooring to facilitate easier cleaning as well.

The pack and play versions are ideal for smaller toddlers and once they outgrow that stage you might opt instead for a play yard.

This other option called the play yard has no base of its own and is simply setup as a restrictive barrier. You might use such an option for an older child so they don't feel as though they are caged in. They may even love the idea of their own space and you could approach it from the standpoint that it's their very own house. That would give them a sense of pride and a good feeling about the limits imposed for safety.

Whether you buy a plastic or wooden pen isn't nearly as important as the actual workmanship of the product. Plastic does have the advantage of lighter weight and some of the plastics now used can approach the strength of wood.

Of course timber is still the preferred option for many moms and dads , mainly because there is a perception of quality with wooden furniture.

In Australia you can view an independent review of several of the leading brands of Playpens at –

<http://www.choice.com.au/Reviews-and-Tests/Babies-and-Kids/Furniture/Living-and-kitchen/Playpens-review-and-compare.aspx>

When you've chosen the model that best suits your needs and budget you can then get the best possible price as well as amazing service from

www.baby-playpen-direct.com

Just hold down the control key on your keyboard while you click here – [baby playpen](#) to be taken to this family friendly website.