Key tips on Setting up your Nursery

Your baby will probably spend more time in the nursery than anywhere else their first year, up to 80% of their time, including sleep.

When to Buy? Although some parents wait until after the baby is born to buy nursery furniture, most order once they find out the baby’s gender (about 20 weeks). Furniture can take one to eight weeks to arrive and then many brands require assembly.

What to look for when buying

The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) is an extra level of safety certification for cribs, mattresses, bassinets, and cradles.

You will always want more storage, so choose furniture with drawers and shelves to keep diapers, clothes, toys, and books organized.

Creating a safe, functional, and attractive nursery for your baby is key but remember to keep Mom's comfort and convenience top of mind.

Crib: Your baby will sleep in their crib for 2 to 3 years before moving to a big kid bed. Convertible cribs may convert to a toddler bed, daybed, and even a full-size bed to extend the crib’s usefulness.

Crib mattress: Carefully consider the safety and fit of the crib mattress. Get the best quality you can afford and choose a firm mattress with no gaps between it and the crib. Both innerspring and foam mattresses are good choices, while organic non-toxic choices are parents favorites. Use a waterproof mattress cover to protect the mattress.

Diaper Stacker: Store baby’s diapers in a beautiful way and enhance the nursery décor.

Hamper: A hamper that compliments the nursery decor looks great and will organize all babies’ laundry.

Changing table: A changing table with shelves, combo dresser with drawers and changing area on top, or a repurposed dresser with a changing pad is a good choice for diaper changing. Always use safety straps to keep baby from falling.

Cradle or Bassinet: For the early weeks and months, a bassinet or cradle can make life easy. Keep baby close in the bedroom for peace of mind and make late night checks easy. More from room to room during the day to keep baby in your sights. Choose a stable base and even consider a play yard with an attached bassinet which is great for travel.

Nursery Glider or Rocking Chair: Useful for calming tired parents and sleepy babies, the nursery glider is the #1 choice of baby furniture after the crib. The rocking motion is soothing and sleep-inducing. Gliders are also great for reading to your toddler years later. Choose a fully upholstered glider chair or a wood rocker, both get the job done.

What to avoid

Hazardous near the crib: Position your crib away from windows and window blinds, draperies, and monitor cords.

Shaky furniture: Choose sturdy dressers & always anchor furniture to keep your child safe.

Soft bedding in the crib: Reduce the risk for suffocation or SIDS: avoid loose blankets, soft toys, and bumpers in the crib.

Unsafe mattresses: Crib mattresses must fit snugly, with less than two fingers between the edge and the crib.

What it’s going to cost you

Nursery furniture and accessories range from less than $100 to $1,000 or more.

For more information about choosing nursery furniture, visit simplybabyfurniture.com, the world’s largest baby furniture store.