

# Visiting Walt Disney World with Little Kids

For families bringing kids age 0 - 3

Josh Crews

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# **Purpose of this book**

This book is written to help families with little kids (age 3 and below) plan a trip to Walt Disney World (WDW) in Orlando Florida.

When I was planning our first trip to Disney with little kids, I found it very difficult to research answers to a lot of my questions about these ages. I used lots of resources, many which are great, but the parts about kids usually addressed pre-schoolers and older.

This book should fill that gap for you, but should not be your only or your primary research book for visiting Walt Disney World.

## **What this book is not**

It's not a general guide to Walt Disney World. Lots of essential research material you'll need won't be found here.

It's not a guidebook to be consulting while in the middle of the parks. This is more of a planning resource.

# Can I go to Walt Disney World with little kids?

Yes!

There are hundreds of people going to WDW today in each of these categories: pregnant, babies 0 - 3 months, older infants, 1 year olds, 2 year olds and everything else.

90%+ of Disney World works with for bringing your babies. There is only one Disney restaurant (Victoria and Alberts) that has an age restriction. Even rides with height restrictions can still be ridden using the [Rider Switch service](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## Objections

Let me handle some objections you might have to going

1. The kids won't remember any of it.
2. We can't ride any of the cool rides.
3. I need to nurse.
4. I'll be too tired.
5. We can't afford it.

### **The kids won't remember any of it.**

Answer: that's not the reason you are going anyway. You are going because **you guys** want to go, and you are hoping it'll still work even though the kids are little right now.

Plus 'not remembering any of it' is not the same as 'not making any impact on them'

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<sup>1</sup><https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/guest-services/rider-switch/>

## **We can't ride any of the cool rides.**

1. You actually can ride them, just one adult in your party will have to watch the kids while the other adults ride. On many of those rides, Disney let's you 'rider switch' which means everyone waits in line and then the cast members show you how to switch off watching kids without having to get in line again.
2. There is still much more to do at Disney than you have time for even without those cool rides. You'll discover new attractions with your little kids that you skipped over before and you'll love it!

## **I need to nurse.**

You can nurse at Disney. Have you ever nursed at a restaurant? At the zoo or something like the zoo? It's like that. If you've never nursed in a semi-public setting, go try it first before deciding on Disney.

If you are very private about nursing, going to Disney World will be hard. Each park has private nursing rooms at a semi-centrally located [Baby Care Center](#)<sup>2</sup>, but it will add a lot of walking to your visits.

## **I'll be too tired**

**This is a true objection!** Parenting at Disney is just as tiring as parenting anywhere else. If you imagine you'll feel tired, I say don't go, wait til they are older.

This is different than expecting to be tired, but your desire to take the trip makes the tiredness seem totally worth it.

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<sup>2</sup><https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/guest-services/baby-care-centers/>

## **We can't afford it**

**This is a true objection!** If the cost of the vacation stresses you out, don't go right now. Wait for a better time when you feel you can comfortably afford it.

# Should I go?

The main reasons not to go: crowds, price, and meeting all your little kids' needs while touring theme parks.

If the reasons to go are greater than the reasons not to go, you should do it.

## Profiles of people considering Disney that should not go while their kids are ages 0 - 3

- You've never been to Disney World before.
- You don't love Disney already, but you think probably will.
- You mainly want to go because your friends are talking about it.
- You don't want to research/plan in advance. (If you are reading this book, you probably aren't this person)
- It doesn't sound fun if you have to leave the parks in the afternoon for kid naps.
- You are stressed out about money right now.

## A formula to tell if you should go

1. Look up the cost of the Disney World package (hotel, tickets, meals) that fits your expected vacation. Leave off the cost of travel. You can price a package at <https://disneyworld.disney.go.com><sup>3</sup>. To keep it simple for this exercise, just pick a Disney hotel.
2. Write down that price here: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Now double that number and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Would you still want to go if it costs twice as much?**

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<sup>3</sup><https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/>

## **IF YES**

GO! You will have a great time! I don't predict you will end up spending twice as much as you planned on. The point of the exercise is to see if you love the idea of going to Disney World enough to outlast the crowds, prices, stress, unexpected difficulties, kid's crying, you crying and still have a worthwhile vacation.

## **IF NO**

You still might enjoy going. But you might get there, feel tired from walking everywhere, your kid's are fussing and think, "Why'd we think this was a good idea?"

Think about waiting to go when your kids are older. Your kids will be more independent, you'll qualify to ride more rides with height requirements, and they will probably have seen more Disney stuff that gets them excited about it.

Are you still reading this because you really, really hope it makes sense for you to go Disney World with little kids? Well you probably ought to go then. It'll take a lot of research, preparation, energy and money but you can do it.

## **Why this formula?**

If you love going to Disney World so much, you'd still go if it costs twice as much, you are going to be able to overcome the challenges, the stress, the tiredness, the foregone 'big kid' attractions and still have a great time.

Or if you have enough money that doubling the price doesn't dissuade you, you are going to be able to pay for conveniences and upgrades that make going with little kids easier.

### **Footnote: What money can buy that makes it easier**

- A bigger room to compartmentalize your kids for their sleeping
- A Disney hotel on the monorail, or walking distance to Epcot for easy retreats for breaks and naps
- More meal and snack options in the parks that you don't have to pack yourself and bring in
- Babysitters
- A Disney resort, which gives you the airport/luggage express service
- A rental car
- Photopass Plus service where Disney photographers take your photos for you leave your nice camera in the room
- More days vacation so you can not jam-pack every day with activity
- Room service

You don't need any of these to have a good vacation with little kids, but money will help you.

# Strollers and Baby Carriers

If you use a stroller at home, you definitely need a stroller at Walt Disney World. You will walk a tremendous amount at WDW– miles and miles a day.

You may need strollers for kids that don't use one at home, but can't walk all those miles like 4 - 7 year olds.

## Choosing a stroller

### Great features in a stroller for Walt Disney World

- You can store stuff in it
- Can cover lots of miles over smooth surfaces
- Collapse and carryable. Required for boarding Disney buses.

### Nice features

- Kids can take naps in it
- Wheels lock

### Not needed features

- Off-road ready
- Good on hills

### Any stroller can work

Every type of stroller ever made is being used in Disney parks. These features are just things to consider if you are choosing between strollers.

## Options

- Bring your stroller
- Rent one from a private company in Orlando
- Rent a stroller in the parks

### Bring your stroller

I don't recommend this if you are flying.

### Rent one from a private company in Orlando

Very expensive strollers can be rented at reasonable rates from Orlando stroller rental companies. They can deliver and pickup from your hotel and be booked online. One example is [Orlando Stroller Rentals](https://www.orlandostrollerrentals.com/)<sup>4</sup>

### Rent a stroller in the parks

Each Disney park rents single and double strollers

## Will my stroller get stolen?

Almost certainly not, at least not maliciously. I don't have data for stroller thefts, but I don't believe it's a problem and it just doesn't make sense to pay the expensive park ticket fee to steal a stroller.

It's possible someone might take your stroller because it looked just like theirs. If that happens to you get a cast member (Disney employee) to help you.

If you rented a stroller from Disney at the park entrance that gets stolen, they are likely to just hand you a new one.

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.orlandostrollerrentals.com/>

If you rent from a private company, they may offer rental insurance. A premium double stroller from Orlando Stroller Rentals [insures for \\$20<sup>5</sup>](#).

If you still worry about stroller theft, some stroller have removable wheels that you can pop out when going into an attraction.

So I don't think stroller theft is a big risk, but the valuables in your stroller are worth guarding.

### **Don't leave valuables in stroller when parking it**

Remember to take your purse, camera, phone with you.

### **I can't find my stroller where I parked it**

At busy locations cast members re-park strollers so look around.

**Tip** Add something very unique and obvious to your stroller (think a balloon) to make it easy to find, and hard for others to confuse it for their own.

### **Where can I take it?**

You can take it on to monorails. You can take it on to buses if you fold it down first. You can take into hotels and your hotel room. You can take it onto the big ferry boat to the Magic Kingdom. You can take it on the friendship boats at Epcot.

You cannot take it into restaurants or attractions. You cannot take it onto the small resort boats that travel from the Magic Kingdom and resorts.

When you can't take it into restaurants and attractions, you'll probably see an area where a bunch of strollers are parked.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.orlandostrollerrentals.com/RentaStroller?stroller=10>

## Recommend a stroller

### Heavy duty

We used and loved the [Baby Jogger City Mini GT double stroller](#)<sup>6</sup>. Very smooth push, reclinable seats, and collapses quite thin for a double stroller.

Orlando Stroller Rentals rents this model.



One kid sleeping, one not in double stroller

### Light weight

A different strategy would be to get a light, collapsible umbrella stroller. Easy to carry, easy to replace. This option might work if you have a 3+ year old that doesn't nap.

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<sup>6</sup><http://www.babyjogger.com/product/city-mini-gt-double/>

## Baby Carriers

If you use a baby carrier (Ergo, Baby Bjorn, Moby Wrap etc.) for your infant at home, you should bring your baby carrier.

We bring two baby carriers into the parks and will use them with the toddler if needed.

As opposed to a stroller, you can bring a baby carrier anywhere.



Baby on back in Ergo at Epcot

## Baby carrier or stroller?

Lean towards stroller because the walking is tremendous at Disney World.