

IN GEAR | *Judi Dash*

# New products that can make traveling with kids easy, fun

Traveling with children can be made easier, and more fun for them, with the following new products, all of which have been tested by the writer.

**Stroll on a roll:** At less about 14 pounds, which is about 4 pounds lighter than its nearest competitor, Evenflo's Xsport Plus Convenience Stroller still manages to incorporate a full set of valuable features: extendable handles for different parent heights, an unusually roomy under-seat storage space with front and rear access and an extra storage compartment for parents' gear.

The adjustable and removable sun block canopy is a tad flimsy, detaching too easily, and the little lightweight wheels are not designed for challenging surfaces, but the portability may be well worth the trade-off. Accommodates children up to 40 pounds and comes in a pink or gray pattern. About \$40. To find a store, contact Evenflo; (800) 233-5921; [www.evenflo.com](http://www.evenflo.com).

**Nap sack:** Children bound for a camping trip, sleepover party or corner of their parents' hotel room can now bring their own comfy bed — on their backs.

The **Aero** Sport Overnighter is a lightweight but sturdy inflatable bed that comes rolled up in its own matching backpack. A battery operated pump (four D cell batteries not included) inflates the bed to a well-cushioned seven inches thick in about 60 seconds.

The bed has a soft flocced surface and fits standard twin sheets. The backpack has pockets for other gear, and makes a nice

extra bag on its own. Aero Sport Overnighter in blue (05111) or purple (05311) is \$60 at [www.thinkaero.com](http://www.thinkaero.com); (888) 462-4468.

**Kangaroo kid:** For traveling light with tots, take a load off your mind — and your luggage. The Totseat is a squashable cloth baby seat with a backing that slips over and secures to the back of any adult chair, and a front pouch with leg holes that gently anchors junior. The Totseat is a workable solution when a portable high chair or child seat is too unwieldy to schlep along, or when dining with little ones at restaurants that may be unequipped for tiny patrons.

The Totseat is designed for children 8 to 30 months old, who can sit unsupported. It adjusts to high- and low-back chairs, is machine washable, and comes with a carry bag. Totseat (TS001) is \$35 at [www.trendykid.com](http://www.trendykid.com); (888) 873-6395.

**Child's play:** No one's too young for their very own Jeep. For the most junior set, that would be the Jeep Trek Easy Travel Playard, a rugged yet lightweight bassinet/play yard that folds down to a compact wheeled unit with a telescoping tow handle.

The mesh ventilated Playard is designed for children less than 35 inches tall and weighing less than 30 pounds. The bassinet attachment and removable changing table accommodate children up to 3

months of age and weighing less than 15 pounds.

A zippered storage compartment at one end has a built-in shelf for bi-level organizing. The Playard comes with a detachable toy bar with soft toys and a protective travel cover. Jeep Trek Easy Travel Playard (JBP1035) is \$148 at [www.csnbaby.com](http://www.csnbaby.com); (800) 675-4041.

**She's all wet:** Dora the Explorer, the globe-trotting television cartoon character, has a new adventure: as a doll your child is encouraged to get wet — soaking wet — at the beach, in the tub, or anywhere your little one's own adventurers take her.

The new Dora the Explorer Suds and Surprise Dora is actually the top half of a doll with long hair that can be styled and features that change in the water. Warm water brings out blue flowers and dots on Dora's pink bathing suit top, and changes the purple streaks in her hair to blue.

Cold water brings out butterfly-and-flower face paint on her cheeks and yellow shells on her bathing suit. A sea horse pitcher and other temperature sensitive accessories achieve the same effects out of the water.

The base suction to the side of a tub or pool — or lets Dora float free. Suds & Surprise Dora is \$25 at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com); (800) 591-3869.

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