

## Essentials for a family trip

Contributed by admin  
Saturday, 15 July 2006

Going on a long trip with your family can be fun if planned properly. You must be sure about the place you are going. Customize your route directions. It will help you a lot. You should also carry extra maps with you. They will help you in planning your journey. Pit spots must be planned before the journey if you are traveling with your kids. Make a packing list; this will help you in organizing things. This list will help you to keep all the required things for the journey. This will help you from undue stress at the last minute.

There are several things which you must have in your car especially when your little ones are going with you. Here are some things which you must have:

1. Be sure to carry an emergency set of clothes if your child is below 5 years. This is especially required if your kid is still in diapers.
2. You must carry extra wipes and diapers. Diaper bag may have a hole at the bottom.
3. Bottles should be clean. Don't forget to carry clean formula.
4. You must carry a potty for long trips. Rest areas can be found but then you must have them for emergencies.
5. A bag full of toys is must to keep your child entertained. Give them different toys from time to time so that they don't get bored.
6. Plan your trip according to your kids. Start your journey before their nap time if they sleep well in the car. However start off in the morning or after their nap if they don't like to go in cars.

You also need things to make sure that your older kids don't get bored in the journey. To keep them entertained and busy:

1. Carry DVD players. This will keep them involved and will get you a little peace. So carry it if you don't mind a bit of noise in the background.
2. For long trips, you can carry Game Boys.
3. You can carry games that are especially designed for car travel such as a magnetic chess board.
4. You can keep your kids involved with sticker albums though only for a short duration.
5. Mini reading lights can be bought for kids in the back seat. This light won't disturb the driver's night visions and the children can read during evening time.

There are some travel games which can help you in passing your time. They will keep everyone entertained.

1. Twenty Questions is a classic travel game. You think of something and rest of the people will have to guess what it is. They have twenty questions for getting it right. To make it interesting, you should limit the number of categories. Small kids love categories such as foods, cartoon characters and animals.
2. "If I were a..." this is a modification of the Twenty Questions. You choose someone and then decide the category. You can go with band members, book characters, cartoon characters etc. you then need to make statements like "I'd play jazz if I were a musician." This looks difficult but surprisingly people are able to guess the correct answers most of the time. However it can still be fun even if people are not able to guess the answers.
3. Family Fact or Fiction: this is a game for the entire family. It's a good way to see as to who is best at lying. You need to speak two truths and one lie about yourself. Everyone needs to tell as to which the truths are and which the lie is. You can let the winner continue or keep score. The winner keeps on going until someone finds him out and then it's that person's turn!