

Forward- and rear-facing pushchairs

Get the best of both worlds with a model that faces two ways

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MOTHERCARE SPIN, FROM £420

Lou, mum to Millie, 7 months, says, "This is so straightforward and fuss-free. All you have to do is lift, twist, spin the handle and the Spin will go from rear-facing to forward-facing, while your baby's still in the pushchair. It's also a breeze to push and steer."

Need to know Suitable from birth in pram mode. Buy the Mothercare Spin Infant Car Seat, £79.99, to make it a travel system.

Stockists www.mothercare.com



GRACO SYMBIO, FROM £349.99

Lauren, mum to Daisy, 3 months, says, "Rather than moving the seat or the carrycot, it's the handle you turn around to adjust the way the buggy faces. Special 'one click' adaptors (they slot into the chassis) make changing from carrycot, car seat to pushchair seat easy, too."

Need to know Suitable from 6 months. Buy the carrycot, £139.99, to use from birth, and the Graco Logic S Deluxe car seat, £109.99, to make it a travel system.

Stockists www.babiesrus.co.uk



ICANDY PEAR TANDEM, FROM £566.99

Susannah, mum to Owen, 3, and Darcy, 9 months, says, "Both seats face either way, and you can use this for twins, or a toddler and baby. While not small, it's manoeuvrable with good suspension."

Need to know Suitable from 6 months. Use from birth with the carrycots, from £81.99, or with the Maxi-Cosi CabrioFix car seat, £115, and car seat adaptors, £29.99, to make a travel system.

Stockists www.icandyuk.com



BABYSTYLE OYSTER, FROM £249

Anthea, mum to Alexa, 11 months, says, "The Oyster gives stylish looks at a good price, although it's not so easy to use on unpaved ground as on smooth paths. The shopping basket is easy to get to and it's simple to fold when facing in either direction."

Need to know Suitable from 6 months. Buy the Oyster carrycot, £99, to use from birth, or the Oyster car seat, £69, and car seat adapter, £15, to make it a travel system.

Stockists www.babystyle.co.uk



BUGABOO BEE, £419

Patricia, mum to Hannah, 8 months, says, "To change the Bee between forward- and rear-facing mode, you unclip the seat unit, turn it around and click it back into place. It's nice to push, compact, narrow and lightweight."

Need to know Suitable from birth (you can add the baby cocoon, £67, to make it more snug). Buy the Maxi-Cosi CabrioFix car seat, £115, and adaptors, £29.99, to make it a travel system.

Stockists www.bugaboo.com



SILVER CROSS LINEAR SLEEPOVER, £560

Michela, mum to Issie, 6 months, says, "The pushchair body converts to a carrycot, which can also be used as a Moses basket. The handle height is adjustable and it feels light to steer, even though it weighs over 12kg."

Need to know Also includes a rocking stand, Moses set, bag and footmuff. Suitable from birth. Buy the Silver Cross Ventura Plus car seat, £115, to make it a travel system.

Stockists www.silvercross.co.uk



Practicalities

● WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH FORWARD/REAR BUGGIES?

Last year, the first-ever study into forward- and rear-facing buggies was carried out at the University of Dundee. It found we're twice as likely to talk to our little ones, and they're more likely to talk back, when in rear-facing buggies (facing parent). However, the researchers also noticed the babies in the study cried more when they were facing their mum or dad and the babies chatted just as much of their own accord regardless of the direction the buggy was facing.

● WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

The key is what suits your needs. Is it the right size for your car, for the shops you go to and the buildings you use? Will it fit in your front door and store somewhere at home out of the way?

● HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH MY BABY PREFERS?

It's a matter of trial and error. Some days she might interact brilliantly while she is facing you, and others she might try to see 'behind' her, the way you're facing. The best thing about these buggies is that if she seems to 'prefer' a certain way of facing, you can just switch the buggy around.

Mum's advice

"If you can, try before you buy – see how much faff is involved in reversing the seat, and be honest about whether it's easy enough to do often."

Emily, mum to Rio, 5 months

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