Kids’ Road Trip Essentials Checklist

The gear to have on hand when traveling with children. Guaranteed, you’ll hear fewer cries of “Are we there yet?”



Activities

- [ ] Books, magazines, and comics
- [ ] Games, such as the license plate game or travel bingo
- [ ] Sketchbook, washable markers, and colored pencils
- [ ] Pre-stamped blank postcards (find them at the post office), which your kids can decorate, or postcards bought on the road; have your children write to friends, relatives, even pets
- [ ] Doodling doodads: a small dry-erase board, Etch A Sketch, Magna Doodle
- [ ] Pipe cleaners, easy origami, and other scissor-less craft supplies
- [ ] Portable DVD player and DVDs; don’t forget headphones!
- [ ] Tape recorder: Let the kids produce a vacation broadcast
- [ ] Books on tape for the whole family, such as the Harry Potter series or “The Chronicles of Narnia”
- [ ] Scrapbook envelope—entrust your children with the responsibility of collecting postcards, ticket stubs, and brochures for a scrapbook

Food

- [ ] Individually packaged, crumb-free snacks such as bite-sized goldfish crackers
- [ ] Hard-to-bruise fruits such as apples and berries; or try fruit roll-ups or fruit leathers

- [ ] Trail mix, which will leave kids feeling full longer (and keep fingers greaseless)
- [ ] Reusable bottles filled with water

Miscellaneous

- [ ] An emergency kit. In a click-shut plastic bin, stock jumper cables, a first-aid kit, a flashlight with extra batteries, road flares or reflective triangles, a fleece blanket, bottled water, and a few protein bars.
- [ ] Garbage bags to collect trash
- [ ] Extra diapers and wipes, if necessary
- [ ] Change of clothes, in case of accidental spills
- [ ] A blanket for spur-of-the-moment picnics at rest areas—and naps
- [ ] Jump ropes and balls, so energetic little travelers can tire themselves out at rest stops

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