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Babble Blogger's Favorite Baby Carriers

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Babble Blogger's Favorite Baby Carriers: Picks for Wraps, Slings, Structured Carriers and More

We're now living in a time with more baby-carrier options than ever — partly because Attachment Parenting activists have brought the ancient benefits of baby wearing to the mainstream, but mostly, and most importantly, because we need them. They give us the freedom to move and use two arms — whether it's to run errands or vacuum the living room — all while having our babies snuggled close. Baby carriers are also a convenient (and often necessary) way to soothe, breastfeed, and lull babies to sleep.

The various carriers on the market come with different features and aesthetics that address different issues. I'm convinced that there's no one "perfect" baby carrier for the masses — it depends on a number of factors: your build, your baby's size, how you'll be using the carrier, and how long you'll be using the carrier, for example. And even beyond all of that, it can largely come down to a personal preference. That being said, some carriers are simply designed better than others. I consulted with baby-wear experts at the popular boutique Waddle n Swaddle (who objectively fit hundreds of new parents for the right carrier), interviewed dozens of moms, and put the newest models to the test to find the best baby carriers for you.

The Osprey carriers are for serious hikers and outdoorsy families that need their baby to keep up with their active lives. And babies would be more than happy to ride along in this cushiony "cockpit," as Osprey calls it, while you lug around your water, snacks, and travel gear in the surrounding pockets. This carrier is extremely adjustable and versatile — think of it like a structured backpack that also happens to hold your kid — and their "Plus" and "Premium" models have extra features like a built-in sunshade, detachable daypack, and included changing pad. But my favorite features are the built-in feet stirrups — perfect for older toddlers — and the adjustable torso length — perfect for extra petite or extra tall hikers. Get it from REI, \$199 - \$299

