



Appalachia & Beyond

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Gear Review: Osprey Poco Plus Kid Carrier Backpack

Featuring: Poco Plus

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Before our Dinah Bug came along, we were hiking mad. We almost covered 100 miles the year before Bug was born. After she was born, our time on the trail was practically non-existent. How do you hike with an infant? Our answer was, you don't, especially in the winter. After the six-month mark though we were getting the itch to get back on the trail.

Enter the Osprey Poco Plus kid carrier pack. We received the Osprey Poco Plus and it was like manna from heaven. We were dying to give it a test run. We took Boo out on one of her first hikes in it at Norris Dam State Park.

The Poco was wonderful. It has plenty of space to store Boo's essentials (Diapers, wipes, blanket to use to change her on, bottles, snacks, water cuppies, toys, etc.). It also has room to store other essentials as well as a change of clothes if needed and a jacket for the both of us. Another plus is that it is hydration compatible, and Boo really loves having water at the ready for both her and myself. In addition, there are several pouches on the exterior of the pack that allow for water bottles, snack containers, etc. The seat is adjustable, stir-ups are attached and a sunscreen is built in. The kickstand for the carrier is very sturdy and we usually hike with it out all the time as the bottom compartment of the pack is attached to it. That compartment is usually pretty full. Total weight limit on the pack is 50 lbs (includes gear and child). The torso length for the pack is easily adjustable between a range of 15.5 inches and 21.5 inches accommodating a wide range of users.

There is good padding on the front of the riding area complete with a nice removable/washable drool catching piece of fabric complete with little drawings stitched in sure to keep your toddler's attention for all of about 5 minutes or less if you are lucky. The best feature of all is that it must ride pretty comfortably, as on our last hike, Bug actually fell asleep in it. She usually won't fall asleep if she's uncomfortable.

Overall, the Osprey Poco Plus is a great kid carrier and we highly recommend it to new parents who love and want to get their kids into the outdoors. If you want, you can splurge a little more and get the Poco Premium which comes with a detachable day pack.

