

Kidding around with invention

Traveling with children can be easier, and more fun for them, with the following new products.

1. KANGAROO KID: For traveling light with tots, here's something to take a load off your mind — and your luggage.

The Totseat is a squashable cloth baby seat with a backing that slips over and secures to the back of any adult chair, and a front pouch with leg holes that gently anchors junior.

The Totseat is a workable solution when a portable highchair or child seat is too unwieldy to schlep along or when dining with little ones at restaurants that may be unequipped for tiny patrons. The Totseat is designed for ages 8-to-30 months who can sit unsupported. It adjusts to high- and low-backed chairs, is washable and comes with a carry bag.

Totseat (TS001) is \$35 at trendy kid.com; (888) 873-6395.

2. STROLL ON A ROLL: Found — the lightest weight folding stroller.

At less than 14 pounds, which is about four pounds lighter than its nearest competitor, Evenflo's Xsport Plus Convenience Stroller still manages to incorporate a full set of valuable features: extendable handles for different parent heights, an unusually roomy under-seat storage space with front and rear access and an extra storage compartment for parents' gear.

The adjustable and removable canopy is a tad flimsy, detaching too easily, and the little lightweight wheels are not designed for challenging surfaces, but the portability may be well worth the tra-

de-off. Accommodates children up to 40 pounds and comes in a pink or gray pattern.

Xsport Plus Convenience Stroller is about \$40. To find a store, contact Evenflo; (800) 233-5921; evenflo.com.

3. NAP SACK: Children bound for a camping trip, sleepover, or corner of their parents' hotel room can now bring their own comfy bed — on their backs.

The Aero Sport Overnighter is a lightweight but sturdy inflatable bed that comes rolled up in its own matching backpack. An included pump (uses 4 "D" cell batteries not included) inflates the bed to seven inches thick in a minute.

The bed has a soft flocked surface and fits standard twin sheets. The backpack has pockets for other gear, and makes a nice extra bag on its own.

Aero Sport Overnighter in blue or purple is \$60 at thinkaero.com; (888) 462-4468.

4. CHILD'S PLAY: The Jeep Trek Easy Travel Playard is a rugged, yet lightweight bassinet/playpen that folds down to a wheeled unit with a telescoping handle.

The mesh ventilated Playard is designed for children less than 35 inches tall and weighing less than 30 pounds. The bassinet attachment and removable changing table accommodate children up to three months of age and weighing less than 15 pounds.

A zippered storage compartment at one end has a built-in shelf for bi-level organizing. The Playard comes with a detachable toy bar with soft toys and a protective travel cover.

Jeep Trek Easy Travel Playard (JBP1035) is \$148 at csnbaby.com; (800) 675-4041.

GEAR & GADGETS



JUDI DASH

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