



Do I Really Need a...Bassinet?

How to figure out if a bassinet is right for you—and what to use instead if you decide to skip.



Do I Really Need...? is a series designed to help you figure out what baby products are worth an add versus what you might be able to skip as you build your baby registry. While everyone's threshold differs when it comes to how much baby stuff is too much baby stuff, we're helping you weigh the pros and cons of certain items that Babylist parents seem to struggle with the most.

Some parents are sure that a bassinet is something they want to add to their [baby registry](#), while others are happy to skip it altogether. But what if you're somewhere in the middle? Maybe you're not sure if you want to add yet another piece of baby gear to your registry (and your home). Or maybe you're wondering if you can skip the bassinet and go right to the crib, or even skip both and use a playard instead?

If you're trying to figure out if you really need a bassinet, you've come to the right place.

Bassinet 101

First things first: bassinet basics.

What is a bassinet?

A bassinet is a sleep space that's specifically designed for newborns and younger babies. It's smaller than a crib and typically placed next to your bed so you have easy access to your baby throughout the night. Many are also mobile so your baby can nap near you during the day.

How long can a baby sleep in a bassinet?

You can use a bassinet from day one until your baby is able to move around, push up on their hands or roll over, usually between about three months and five months old. Some bassinets have weight restrictions as well, so be sure to check the specific guidelines of your particular model.

Is a bassinet better than a crib?

Other than the obvious features like size and portability, there's no "better" when it comes to a bassinet versus a crib. Both are completely safe when used properly; it's just a matter of personal preference.

So what are your other alternatives if you decide that you don't want to add a bassinet to your registry?

- A **full-size crib** or a **mini crib** are both good bassinet alternatives that will last you much longer than a bassinet. Both can be used in your room if you still want to keep baby close or moved into your baby's nursery space.
- A **playard** is another great bassinet alternative that will last you well into toddlerhood and can also be used as a safe place for your baby to play. Many playards even have bassinet attachments to save your back from reaching all the way down to pick up and put down your little one during those first few months.

These are some of our favorite cribs, mini cribs and newborn-friendly playards.



[Delta Children Essex 4-in-1 Convertible Baby Crib](#)

\$199.99

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Check out our [Best Cribs](#), [Best Mini Cribs](#) and [Best Playards](#) guides for more recommendations.

And just remember: there's no right or wrong answer as to if you need a bassinet or not. It's all weighing your options, spending a bit of time thinking things through and making the choice that fits your family's needs best. ❤️