

# the ultimate pram guide for first-time parents

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING YOUR FIRST PRAM



## there is no 'perfect' pram that fits all! but the right pram for <u>you</u> is out there

LET US HELP YOU CHOOSE

## six key pram categories

Below are the six main pram categories that you will consider as part of your purchase journey. There are pro's and con's to each and ultimately you should weigh up your key lifestyle factors before deciding on which pram is going to be best for you.

	1. Compact / travel	2. Fixed seat single	3. Reversible single
Pros	<ul> <li>Super light</li> <li>Super compact</li> <li>Can be carried as cabin baggage</li> <li>Carry over shoulder</li> <li>Cheapest option</li> <li>Perfect for tight cafes/shops</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cheaper than reversible single</li> <li>Easier, more compact fold than reversible single</li> <li>Better performance than a compact stroller</li> <li>Extra tall seat</li> <li>Typically a flat-lay seat</li> <li>No need for a bassinet</li> <li>Great manoeuvrability</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reversible seat</li> <li>Better performance than a compact stroller</li> <li>Often a little bigger and sturdier than a fixed seat single</li> <li>Great manoeuvrability</li> <li>Easier seat recline system</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul> <li>Small wheels = worst performance of the 6 categories</li> <li>Not good on uneven terrain</li> <li>XS basket</li> <li>Not all models lay flat for newborns</li> <li>Not many parent facing models</li> <li>Often not car capsule compatible</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No parent facing seat</li> <li>Won't fit in cabin baggage</li> <li>Typically can't add a bassinet</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No second seat option</li> <li>Bigger and heavier than previous two options</li> </ul>



	4. Inline / tandem double	5. Side by side / twin double	6. Three wheeler
Pros	<ul> <li>Ability to add second child</li> <li>Typically bigger wheels than previous three so it will perform better on uneven terrain</li> <li>Larger basket</li> <li>Maximum versatility</li> <li>Future-proof</li> <li>Option to use as single or double if you have two kids</li> <li>Reversible seat</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cheaper than an inline double</li> <li>Lightest of the double options</li> <li>Easier to manoeuvre than an inline</li> <li>Often preferred for twins</li> <li>Extra tall seats</li> <li>Flat-lay seats</li> <li>No need for a bassinet</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The biggest wheels = the best all terrain performance</li> <li>Some (not all) are designed for jogging (do your research!)</li> <li>XL tall seat</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul> <li>The biggest and heaviest</li> <li>These models can be more expensive after adding everything you need</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Typically world facing only</li> <li>These don't always have a bassinet option</li> <li>Can be difficult to manouevre in small spaces</li> <li>Baskets often have narrower accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Can easily tip when going up or down curbs and steps</li> <li>Typically the biggest fold</li> <li>World facing seat only</li> <li>Least attractive</li> <li>Most will have a partial recline seat only</li> <li>Don't always have a bassinet option</li> <li>Can be difficult to manouevre in small spaces</li> </ul>



## how do I know what is best for me?

Let us help you decide what is the most suitable pram for you with the following ten questions. It's critical that you start your pram search by first prioritising your family's most essential requirements. Grab yourself a notepad and a pen and start by jotting down what's important to you when answering the following questions.

Pictured right – Babybee ROVER3 Reversible Single



### 1 what is your main mode of transport?

- **Car** then consider the weight of lifting the pram in and out of the car and the size of your boot, you may also want to consider a car capsule compatible pram.
- **Public Transport** consider a compact pram, and the basket size for storage.
- **Walking** you'll want something sturdy, with big wheels to handle any terrain and the biggest possible basket. You may also want to consider something that is comfortable for bub to sit in for long periods of time (a decent sized seat).

## 2 how will you do your shopping?

Guess what... you can't push a trolley and a pram, so you're going to need to pick one:

- Drive to shops and do your shopping with a trolley the pram isn't really a consideration for your supermarket shop, as you'll be using the trolley for storage!
- Walk to shops and do your shopping with your pram basket space will be critical and a large opening either at the front or back to get the shopping bags in and out.



### where do you live?

- Near off road and uneven terrain wheel size should be an important factor in your decision making; the bigger the better, especially those front wheels in order to plough over bumps. Look for a minimum of 17cm but ideally greater than this.
- In a hilly area if this is you, then a heavy double pram is going to give you a workout everytime you're out. Consider a pram that is as light as possible to make those hills more manageable.
- Urban area if you're predominantly in urban areas with flat, even paths then any wheels will do.

Pictured right – Babybee DUO3 Inline Double Stroller

### where will you store your pram?

- In a garage or large indoor space if you have plenty of space to store your pram, then the compactness and storage of your pram probably won't be a consideration in your purchase.
- In the car consider how big your pram is when folded and how much boot space it will take up, look at the most compact fold possible.
- Inside, in a small space if you need to keep your pram in a small space, be sure to double check the folded dimensions and look for a compact fold. Doorways could be deal breaker for a side-by-side double pram, if you're considering a side-by-side make sure you've checked your measurements.

#### 5 what are the weather conditions that you'll need to be prepared for?

- Wet weather an extra large canopy can help protect bub from light rain as the outer material is water resistant, or ensure a rain cover is included for full wet weather protection.
- Sunny / hot weather consider UV covers, extra large canopies for greater protection, and as much ventilation as possible. Remember that bassinets can quickly heat up, and throwing a blanket or muslin cloth over a bassinet as shade can be very dangerous. Use a compatible sun shade instead and always monitor bub to make sure they look comfortable.
- Cold check for foot covers, cocoons and other winter accessories. Some prams will come with foot covers included.
- **Bugs and insects** look for a mosquito net to protect your little bub from nasty bites.
- None of the above if you don't feel you'll experience any of the above very often then the weather accessories may not be a critical point to evaluate as part of your purchase.

# 6 is it possible that you'll have a second child in the near future?

- Two under two if you plan to have two under two then an inline double that can start as a single and evolve into a double could be handy (like the Babybee DUO).
- Older toddler if you'll have an older toddler when new baby comes along, you may consider a single pram and a toddler board attachment which will allow you to get around with two but have the convenience of a smaller and lighter single pram.
- Unsure if you're unsure if/when a second child will come along then it is important to note that a true double pram is going to be bigger and heavier than your average single. If size and weight is important to you, then think about a single to start with. If/when bub #2 comes along then you can trade in your single and upgrade to a double. If size/ weight isn't a big factor then you may choose to start with a double inline pram, use it as a single to begin with, and add the second seat/bassinet when needed, ensuring you're future-proofing your pram purchase.

Pictured below – Babybee DUO3 Inline Double Stroller

### 7 do you plan to travel regularly?

- Yes if you'll be travelling regularly whilst your kids are stroller age, our tip is to buy a separate travel stroller to avoid damaging your main pram (or check that the airline will cover any damage). For bubs under 6 months make sure that the seat reclines fully flat (like the Babybee MILES).
- Yes, on uneven terrain if you'll be walking a lot or on uneven or cobblestoned streets, then you might prefer something in-between a travel and a full sized pram. A compact pram (such as the Babybee LUNA MINI) will still be nice and small to travel around with but slightly more sturdy making it more comfortable for both bub and driver.
- Not really If you won't be travelling regularly you probably don't need to consider a travel pram and will manage just fine with your everyday pram.

Pictured – Babybee MILES Travel Stroller

### how tall are you? and what are you able to carry?

- Taller than average check the maximum handlebar height and consider that it's comfortable for you to push around. You may also want to look for something with a seat / bassinet that's high off the ground to protect your back.
- Average handlebar height may not be a key decision making factor for you, most prams will cater to your height.
- Shorter than average you will probably prefer a smaller pram, some inline doubles may be difficult for you to see over and could be harder for you to push. If you're on the shorter side or not particularly strong then the folded size and pram weight might be important to you.

### 9 how do you want to configure your pram?

- Facing the world if you're only considering your child facing outward, then nearly every pram will cater to you!
- Facing you if you'd like your baby to be facing you for the early stages of their life then ensure that you are looking for a reversible seat which can swap to be world facing once they're ready.
- Naps in the pram you'll want to think about the seat design and ensure that bub has a flat surface, with either a bassinet or flat-lay stroller seat for the first 6 months of life.
- **Two children or more** you'll need to look at a double pram, and consider all of the various configurations, we recommend a parent facing bassinet close to the parent so that you can watch over your newborn whilst your toddler is more self sufficient in the bottom seat.

### what is your total budget?

Before falling in love with a particular pram model make sure that you have calculated all of the additional accessories that you will need. With some prams everything is included in the box, while with others you'll pay a bit extra for add-on's. Inline double prams may need extra seats and adaptors which can add up. Fortunately, with Babybee all of our prams come with standard accessories included in the retail price such as UV cover, rain cover, seat liner and even a handlebar bag!

Pictured – Babybee LUNA Side by Side Double Stroller



## still unsure? test it at home!

Our Babybee prams all have a nine month return policy, so you can test drive a pram in the comfort of your own home. If you need more help selecting your pram, head to our <u>contact page</u> to chat to our team of mums who would love to help you find your family's perfect pram.

#### other articles that might be useful:

Do I need a bassinet?

Car capsules and car seats explained

#### notes:

**Safety standards** – all prams sold in Australia must at a minimum comply with the mandatory standard (CPN No.8 of 2007). Industry best practice is to comply with the latest, more onerous standard AS 2088:2022.

**Overnight sleeping** – industry experts including Red Nose and INPAA have stated that they would never approve a pram bassinet as a safe sleeping environment. The current pram and stroller standards 2088:2022 also requires that all pram bassinets are clearly marked with a warning label: WARNING! DO NOT USE FOR UNSUPERVISED SLEEPING. So please only let your little one nap in pram bassinets when you are regularly monitoring them.

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