



The Best Baby Cribs of 2021

Updated: January 13, 2021 | by [Tal Ditye, PhD](#)

Between overnight sleeping and daytime naps, your child will be spending thousands of hours in the crib, beginning at newborn and extending to about 2-3 years old. Given how much time your child will spend in the crib and in close contact with the [crib mattress](#), they are the two most important nursery investments you'll make.

While a beautiful nursery is important, you want to prioritize more than just style and good-looks! The perfect crib will also be safe, sturdy, high quality, and versatile. For versatility, a convertible crib is key, not only letting you adjust mattress heights to accommodate newborns, infants and toddlers, but also transitioning to a toddler bed and beyond.

We have been reviewing convertible cribs for over 10 years, testing their quality, features, safety, and longevity. Below we list the top 5 best cribs of the year, followed by in-depth reviews of several additional options.

Finding the perfect crib can be tough, especially with hundreds of different convertible cribs available on the market! You want it to be cute and match the style of the nursery furniture (like the [nursery glider](#)), conform with all current safety standards, be versatile and transition easily to a toddler bed, and be easy to assemble, well-built, and affordable. For details about how we evaluated each of these factors, see the bottom of this article and check out our full [crib buying guide](#).

4. Delta Children Bentley 4-in-1 Convertible Crib.

This 4-in-1 convertible baby crib is one of several cribs made by Delta Children that pack some serious bang for the buck, great styling, and sturdy build quality. These include not only the Bentley, but also the Emery, Canton, and Heartland models. We got our hands on the Bentley for testing last year, and were impressed with its versatility, quality, ease of use, and sleigh crib style. It's one of only a few solid wood cribs that are available for under \$300. The one we tested was made of solid cherry wood that was heavy and good quality: ours didn't have any dings, blemishes, touch-up paint, or cracks. Out of the box, assembly was surprisingly easy and took us about 20 minutes with the included tools. Note a few things: first, expect some expansion and contraction of solid wood so that screw holes might not line up perfectly. Consider assembling it with loose screws throughout, and then once all the screws are in, you can tighten them down. Second, do not over-tighten the screws, or you might run into trouble with stripped hardware or cracked wood. Once it is assembled, it has some great features, including a 3-position mattress height, and several layers of lead-free stain for durability. Once your child starts chewing on the top rail, you'll see why this is important! We found the metal frame springs to be strong, the dimensions to perfectly fit two test mattresses (the [Naturepedic](#), and [Newton Wovenaire](#)), and the entire thing to be very sturdy and strong. The highest mattress setting was high enough for us to comfortably reach inside to lift a baby, and the lowest was low enough to prevent climbing in young toddlers. While it does not include a toddler bar or conversion kit to turn it into a full-size bed, it does have the capability to achieve 4 functions: crib, toddler bed, daybed, and full size bed. You can find the [toddler bar](#) and [full size bed conversion kit](#) pretty easily online, and they are reasonably priced. Overall we really appreciated this crib, and think it makes a great addition to our best cribs list. Be sure to check out the Delta Children Emery, Canton, and Heartland models as well! Cons? Well, there are only 3 height adjustments rather than 4 (but that's not a big deal), it is not GreenGuard Certified and we have no idea how they source their wood. Not all parents care about those aspects, but it's worth pointing out. This crib usually sells for about \$250 online, and is available in Black Cherry (pictured), Chocolate, and White. For those who might be interested there is also a [matching nursery dresser](#). Who else loves the Delta Children cribs? Our friends at Babylist and Babygearlab list them as top picks! Interested? You can check out the [Bentley 4-in-1 Convertible Crib here](#).



6. Delta Children Tribeca 4-in-1 Convertible Crib.

Trying to find a crib with style and design that stand out against the crowd? Check out the two-tone Tribeca crib that makes you feel like you're living in a industrial-style Tribeca loft, but without the price! Delta Children has been making high quality cribs for over 50 years and we've featured several of them on this list. They always combine a popular style with great functionality, versatility, safety features, and high build quality at a reasonable price. The Tribeca model comes in at about \$250, which is towards the upper end of Delta cribs, but for some pretty good reasons. The style and construction are very unique, with its sleek x-cross base, trendy two-tone finish with steel grey and white, and orthogonal but soft-edged lines. Out of the box, this crib was heavy and it felt like every part was good quality. Assembly took us about 45 minutes, the tools were included in the box, and the instructions were pretty clear. We first assembled it as a regular crib and tested out all the mattress heights, 3 of them to be exact. The top height was great for easily reaching in to tend to a newborn, and the lowest height was nice and low to prevent risk of an adventurous toddler climbing out. Speaking of safety, the crib is JPMA certified, meets or exceeds CPSC and ASTM standards, and is tested for all heavy metals. All of the hardware and wood felt high quality and fit together really well. We threw a mattress in it and stood and jumped in it (well, our 5 year old did!), and the crib was sturdy and strong. We tried three mattresses in it, the Newton, Moonlight Slumber, and Dream on Me. All fit perfectly, especially when the mattress had squared corners. We also converted it to the toddler bed (the toddler rail is not included, sold separately) and the daybed (the daybed rail is included), and both worked well. We didn't do the final conversion to a headboard and footboard on a full-size bed, but we think the conversion seemed easy enough (you'd need to buy the bed rails and mattress separately, of course). Other things we noticed were that the paint was not easily chipped or disturbed, and the mattress spring support did not squeak or creak. The only cons to speak of were that the toddler rail is not included, there is a bit of off-gassing smell from the wood for a few days after assembly, and the price is a bit high around \$250. But for this style, quality, and capability, we think this is a great option! Who else likes Delta cribs? Our friends at Babylist and Babygearlab call them top picks! Interested? You can check out the [Delta Tribeca crib here](#).

