



# Pushing good

Pushchairs may be more catwalk than sidewalk nowadays, but don't spend a lot to get one that is functional and fashionable

Pushchairs come in all shapes and sizes to suit many lifestyles. Lightweight buggies are handy for short strolls through busy places, while sturdy strollers are more comfortable for parent and baby. Bulky travel systems, including car seats, try to address all needs, and the big all-terrain three-wheelers are better suited to the open road than the urban bus.

It seems almost impossible to buy a pushchair to meet all eventualities – needs change as babies grow. Although many new parents try to buy one pushchair from birth to toddler, many end up buying a lighter stroller for shopping and holidays as their child gets older.

So for this test we've concentrated on lightweight buggies to use as a second pushchair and high-end strollers to last for the longest possible time.

**These new kids on the block must learn more about practicality**

Buying two pushchairs could dent your pocket seriously, especially if you are following your favourite celebrity and opting for the trendiest pushchair that money can buy.

Strollers are coming in for serious attention from fashionistas. We've pitted a Maclaren designed by furniture designer Philippe Starck, the Jeep Candy and the Wow Oui by interior designer Anna Ryder-Richardson against some less starry competitors.

Though they are by no means disasters, these new kids on the block must learn more about practicality before we'll make them Best Buys.

Still, there are several attractive pushchairs that are practical enough to be Best Buys – and they are also good value for money.

## 80% Mamas & Papas Nipi £59

This pretty-in-pink pushchair is perfect for parents who want something small and light to chuck in the car boot for supermarket trips or for getting around town. It's the easiest of those we tested to fold and carry, and the five-point harness is particularly simple to use.

The seat is easy to recline but, when it is, the roomy shopping basket can be quite hard to access. Watch out for the brake lever, as it can tend to catch when you're on stairs. You'll find this model at Mamas & Papas.

**WORTH KNOWING** An all-weather accessory pack of hood and raincover is available for £30.

**Cheapest store** Mamas & Papas **Colours** Pink and blue **Accessories** None as standard **Backrest positions** Four **150° recline** No



**WHICH? BEST BUY**

## 79% Ziko Frankie £150

Our parent testers have many nice things to say about this funky stroller, because of its good looks, sturdiness and lovely handling. The spacious seat is good for older babies, but the restraints are a bit baggy for smaller ones. The clip that holds the pushchair when folded is difficult to undo and the brake levers will hit stairs. Even so, all our testers were impressed and certain they would consider buying it. **WE LIKE** The well-padded seat and adjustable leg support provide comfort.

**Cheapest store** Mamas & Papas **Colours** Blue, berry, green and brown **Accessories** Hood, raincover and bag **Backrest positions** Four **150° recline** No



**WHICH? BEST BUY**

## 78% Silver Cross POP £89

This is an attractive, lightweight buggy, that's equally good for nipping around the shops or strolling in the park. It's particularly easy to fold and unfold. Testers were divided on the comfort of the handles. But it is easy to move around – apart from on stairs, on which the brake levers can catch. The small storage basket is difficult to reach with the seat at its lowest position. This pushchair is widely available online.

**WORTH KNOWING** You can also buy a matching footmuff, headhugger and parasol.

**Available Online** **Colours** Blue, red and black **Accessories** Hood and raincover only as standard **Backrest positions** Various **150° recline** No



**WHICH? BEST BUY**

**Our parent testers have many nice things to say about the Ziko Frankie**

## 77% Chicco CT 0.4 £120

This sturdy stroller is good for walks in the outdoors. It provides a smooth ride and its large wheels make steps quite easy to manage. The headhugger, adjustable leg support and flat recline make it suitable for small babies, but larger kids may find the backrest a bit short. It's bulky when folded so you'll need a big boot. It's available widely, from Argos, Mothercare and Toys R Us.

**WATCH OUT** The pale-coloured headhugger stains easily.

**Cheapest stores** Argos, Mothercare and Toys R Us **Colours** Grey and red **Accessories** Hood, raincover, headhugger, cup holder and footmuff **Backrest positions** Various **150° recline** Yes



**WHICH? BEST BUY**

## 79% Cosatto Diablo £150

This stylish stroller is a great compromise between offering space and storage, while being easy to fold and transport. It's easy to manoeuvre but the brake levers can catch on stairs. Its size also makes it best to carry rather than wheel down stairs.

The angled handles are comfortable but they are perhaps too close together for larger carers. It's available online from Tesco Direct.

**WE FOUND** The additional storage pockets on the back are particularly handy.

**Available** Tesco Direct **Colours** Berry, black and green **Accessories** Hood, raincover and footmuff **Backrest positions** Four **150° recline** Yes



**WHICH?**  
**BEST BUY**

## What you should look for

### HANDLES

Choose those that turn inward to support the wrist in a natural position and make pushing comfortable. Check you can find a comfortable position



### FOLDING MECHANISMS

Easy folding is vital. Look for one-handed folding where you don't have to detach accessories

### BRAKE LEVERS

These should be easy to put on and off. Brake pedals projecting beyond the wheels can catch on stairs and engage the brakes. A bar connecting the rear brakes can obstruct your feet



### ADJUSTABLE LEG SUPPORT

This gives good calf support for smaller children who can't reach the footrest

### RECLINE

Look for a mechanism that is easy to operate with your child in the seat. The best pushchairs for newborns have a recline that is greater than 150 degrees



### PADDED HARNESS

Padding can make wearing a harness more comfortable

### SUSPENSION

Good suspension will make uneven paths more comfortable for your baby

## 77% Maclaren Triumph £75

This is great for an older toddler or as a lightweight buggy for holidays. It's easy to manoeuvre, great on stairs and its light frame and one-handed folding capability make it good for using on buses and trains. The backrest is not as easy to lower as it is on other Best Buys and the nautical flag on the backrest is difficult to clean. Most parent testers thought they would buy one, though. It's available from John Lewis and Mothercare.

**WE FOUND** It is difficult to access the storage when the backrest is reclined.

**Cheapest stores** John Lewis and Mothercare **Colours** Pink, blue, green, gold, red and tan **Accessories** Hood and raincover **Backrest positions** Various **150° recline** No



**WHICH?**  
**BEST BUY**

## 77% Mamas & Papas Pulse £89

This zippy stroller is perfect for busy parents. It's easy to handle in most situations – except on steps where brake levers can catch. The recline is suitable for young babies, but lowering the seat requires two hands and blocks the shopping basket at its lowest level. It's very easy to fold as well as carry around. It's available from John Lewis and Mamas & Papas.

**WE LIKE** The storage pocket on the hood, adjustable leg support and padded chest straps.

**Cheapest store** Mamas & Papas **Colours** Black and red **Accessories** Hood and raincover **Backrest positions** Five **150° recline** Yes



**WHICH?**  
**BEST BUY**

## Worth tracking down

**The Graco Aerosport – which scored 82 per cent in our tests – has been discontinued but would be an ideal purchase if you can find it**

This solid pushchair is great for people who want many useful features and a smooth ride for their baby. We like the parents' tray with cup holders and excellent under-seat basket that is easy to reach, even with the seat reclined. It is not hard to move when folded, but it does take up space in a car boot. This cool-coloured pushchair is good for babies large or small.

It was also available as part of a travel system with the Autobaby car seat, which, although acceptable, was not a Best Buy when tested.

It came in denim and grey (travel system only) and with a hood, cup holders, play tray and headhugger as standard and has a 150-degree recline.



## COUNT THE COST OF KIDS

### Child finance advice

Which? members can get a discount on *Financing Your Child's Future* from Which? Books. It leads you through the maze of childcare costs and education, explains life insurance and wills, and even outlines how you can help your offspring get on to the property ladder. It's available for £9.99 (£1 off the RRP), with free P&P, until 28 February 2007.

Call 01903 828 557 or email [mailorder@bsitd.co.uk](mailto:mailorder@bsitd.co.uk), quoting code FCW0207 and ISBN 978 0 85202 938 1.



## Testing concerns

### Two models had particular problems

Phil and Ted's Smart (right) has a poorly designed harness, and the seat poppers came undone when it was pushed down stairs with a 15kg dummy. Phil and Ted's said the buggy passed BS7409 'with flying colours...is certified as unimpeachably safe. If you drop the buggy down steps with sufficient force the domes may well pop in the manner suggested, but...you'd have to be incredibly rough'. It will update its safety certification 'in due course'.

The Little Shield Meribel had a problem when it was pulled backwards up stairs – the brake pedals caught and wrenched the wheels out of the frame. They were not attached firmly enough. Little Shield said it was 'extremely alarmed...and we have immediately reviewed all of our stock here but have been unable to replicate your findings'. It added: 'All of our products are tested and certified by UK test houses.'



### USING THE TABLE

We tested new and popular buggies and strollers from leading brands. The more stars the better.

### Specification

**Price** For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price. Prices for other models are a guide to what to pay. Online prices are in *italics*. **Weight** Without accessories.

**From birth** Pushchairs with ✓✓ have a recline of more than 150 degrees, which is best for newborns. Those with ✓ have a recline of more than 120 degrees.

**One-handed folding** As assessed by our lab experts, not

## How we test

Our testing looks at safety, durability, comfort and usability, and includes views of a panel of parents

### Safety and stamina

Our lab experts check whether each pushchair meets the British Standard BS7409:1996 – required for legal sale in the UK – and also BS EN1888:2003, a more recent and stringent standard but one that is only a guide.

Checking the standards involves more than 30 tests, from strength and stability to choking hazards and finger traps. We also consider the quality of restraints as well as brakes and locking mechanisms. Each pushchair is also wheeled for 28km along a bumpy treadmill track to see how it will stand up to a life of uneven pavements and potholes.



### Ease of use

Our experts consider whether each chair suits children of different ages, is easy for a carer to use and how good it is to transport folded and by car. They also have fun smearing the fabric with beef stew and fruit purée and trying to clean it all off again.

### Parents' paces

Parents with tots aged between 6 and 36 months put the pushchairs through their paces on pavements, bumpy ground, stairs and around obstacles. They rate how easy each chair is to push, fold, carry and adjust and comment on aspects such as appearance and useful features.

## Facts & scores

We have fashion finds and fashion faux pas in equal measure

### The right hoodie

This new version of an old Best Buy includes an iPod/phone pocket on the removable hood, padded harness and quilted seat.

### Basket case

A shopping basket with no sides was the downfall of this stylish pushchair – it's bad enough when babies throw toys out of the pram without parents doing it, too.

### Unmellow yellow

Our testers weren't keen on the violently yellow Winnie the Pooh novelty stroller. But you might find the Piglet, Tigger or Eeyore versions more endearing.

MODEL		PRICE (£)
1	MAMAS & PAPAS Nipi	59
2	COSATTO Diabolo	150
3	ZIKO Frankie	150
4	SILVER CROSS POP	89
5	CHICCO CT 0.4 Stroller	120
6	MACLAREN Triumph	75
7	MAMAS & PAPAS Pulse	89
8	JEEP Candy	70
9	MOTHERCARE Aulto	75
10	URBAN DETOUR Vesta	100
11	SAFETY 1ST Teknika	60
12	WOW OUI Stroller	184
13	BRITAX Vigour 4	290
14	CHICCO CT 0.5 Stroller	86
15	BRITAX Strolla	70
16	MACLAREN MX3	150
17	MACLAREN Starck	200
18	BABYSTYLE Lux 2-in-1 Swivel Wheel Chassis	229
19	BEBECAR Rversus	300
20	COSATTO Winnie The Pooh Stroller	55





the manufacturers' claims.

**Car seat available** These are pushchairs on which car seats can be fixed. We've tested only those that can be used with car seats that score 50 per cent or more in our annual test.

### Test performance

**Manoeuvring** How easy the pushchair is to push on a wide range of surfaces. **Day-to-day use** This looks at how well the pushchair works overall, including the harness, carrying, cleaning, the brakes and also transporting it by car. **Folding** We check how easy it is for someone to fold and unfold each pushchair. **Reclining** How easy the seat is

to recline and adjust.

**Storage** How useful the storage space is.

### Score

Ignores price and is based on:  
 Manoeuvring **35%**  
 Day-to-day use **20%**  
 Folding **20%**  
 Storage **15%**  
 Reclining **10%**

## The way we were

### Taking the brakes off progress

■ In our first pushchair test, in 1968, only five out of 28 models had brakes that held them on a steep hill, were easy to put on and take off and were out of reach of a meddlesome child. This was not a problem in 2007. For

more on this latest test, and previous tests of 43 pushchairs, including travel systems and all-terrain models, with advice on buying second-hand, visit [www.which.co.uk](http://www.which.co.uk). If you've not logged on before, see our guide at [www.which.co.uk/loginhelp](http://www.which.co.uk/loginhelp).

## Contacts

**Babystyle** 01509 816444  
[www.babystyle.co.uk](http://www.babystyle.co.uk)

**Bebecar** 020 8201 0505  
[www.bebecar.co.uk](http://www.bebecar.co.uk)

**Britax** 01264 386034  
[www.britax.eu](http://www.britax.eu)

**Chicco** 01623 750870  
[www.chicco.co.uk](http://www.chicco.co.uk)

**Cosatto** 0870 050 5900  
[www.cosatto.com](http://www.cosatto.com)

**Graco** 0870 909 0501  
[www.graco.co.uk](http://www.graco.co.uk)

**Jeep** 0870 840 6727  
[www.hauckuk.com](http://www.hauckuk.com)

**Maclaren** 01327 841310  
[www.maclarenbaby.com](http://www.maclarenbaby.com)

**Mamas & Papas**  
 0870 830 7700  
[www.mamasandpapas.co.uk](http://www.mamasandpapas.co.uk)

**Mothercare**  
 0845 330 4030  
[www.mothercare.com](http://www.mothercare.com)

**Safety 1st** 01842 763281  
[www.safety1st.com](http://www.safety1st.com)

**Silver Cross** 01756 702412  
[www.silvercross.co.uk](http://www.silvercross.co.uk)

**Urban Detour** 0845 330 4030  
[www.mothercare.com](http://www.mothercare.com)

**Wow Oui** 0870 850 5649  
[www.wowoui.co.uk](http://www.wowoui.co.uk)

**Ziko** 0870 830 7700  
[www.mamasandpapas.co.uk](http://www.mamasandpapas.co.uk)

SPECIFICATION								WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE						SCORE %
WEIGHT (kg)	FOLDED SIZE (cm)	NUMBER OF WHEELS	FROM BIRTH	ONE-HANDED FOLDING	REMOVABLE SEAT COVERS	ADJUSTABLE HANDLES	CAR SEAT AVAILABLE	MANOEUVRING	DAY-TO-DAY USE	FOLDING	RECLINING	STORAGE	CLEANING	
6.4	30x26x110	4	✓					★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	80
7.5	39x24x107	4	✓✓		✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	79
8.5	29x33x103	4	✓	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	79
5.9	34x34x108	4	✓	✓				★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	78
9.9	44x40x111	4	✓✓		✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	77
5	28x23x107	4		✓				★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	77
7.1	32x25x105	4	✓✓					★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	77
6.5	32x29x110	4	✓✓	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	75
6.7	35x28x115	4	✓	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	75
8.2	54x41x86	3	✓		✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	74
8.2	31x31x109	4	✓	✓				★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	73
6.7	33x30x112	4	✓		✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	73
11.3	63x55x96	4	✓			✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	72
8.8	30x35x112	4	✓	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	71
6	34x30x110	4	✓	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	69
9.8	61x54x98	3	✓		✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	68
6	26x27x113	4		✓				★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	★★	★★★★★	67
12.5	41x34x108	4	✓✓		✓	✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	66
7.7	40x38x104	4	✓✓		✓		✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	66
4.3	24x25x108	4		✓				★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	★	★★★★★	65