# The 10 Best Baby Swings To Soothe And Comfort Your Infant

Kate Antoniades

As much as you'd like to hold your baby every moment of the day, there are definitely times when your arms need a break. Maybe you're prepping dinner or just taking a deep breath—either way, the best baby swings can help engage infants with sounds, rocking, mobiles and songs for long enough that you can do what you need to do, The gentle motion of a baby swing is designed to calm infants much like the rocking of a <u>nursery glider</u> or <u>babywearing in a carrier</u> might. Many of the top baby swings play nursery rhymes or nature sounds, and offer various vibration settings to help soothe, offering a safe place to temporarily place baby, such as with our top pick for the best baby swing overall: <u>Graco DuetConnect LX Swing And Bouncer</u>.



Soothe your little one, or just provide them with an age appropriate seat, with one of the best baby ... [+] swings.

Illustration: Forbes Vetted / Photo: Maxi-Cosi

"When used with proper supervision, they are a great way to soothe babies," says <u>Dr. Rebekah</u>
<u>Diamond</u>, a pediatric hospitalist and assistant professor of pediatrics at Columbia University, of baby

swings. "Some babies love them; others prefer rockers or other baby holders. So feel free to try out as many safety-approved swings as fit your lifestyle, budget and baby-soothing needs."

Regardless of what baby swing you opt for, it's important to note they must be used properly in order to be safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that if your baby falls asleep in a swing or bouncer, they should be placed in a crib, bassinet or another firm sleep surface on their back as soon as possible. You should also limit your child's time in them during the day; the National Health and Safety Performance Standards <u>guidelines</u> for daycares recommend that babies spend no more than two 15 minute sessions a day in bouncers, swings and similar devices.

After reviewing various features, testing some of these swings in our own homes, digging deep into customer reviews and speaking to several pediatricians and real-life parents, we've compiled our picks for the best baby swings available.

Best Baby Swing Overall: Graco DuetConnect LX Swing And Bouncer

Best Baby Swing For Small Spaces: 4Moms MamaRoo Multi-Motion Baby Swing

Best Baby Swing For Big Babies: Graco Glider LX Baby Swing

Best Baby Swing And Seat Combination: Nuna Leaf Grow Baby Seat

Best Versatile Baby Swing: Fisher-Price Snow Leopard Swing

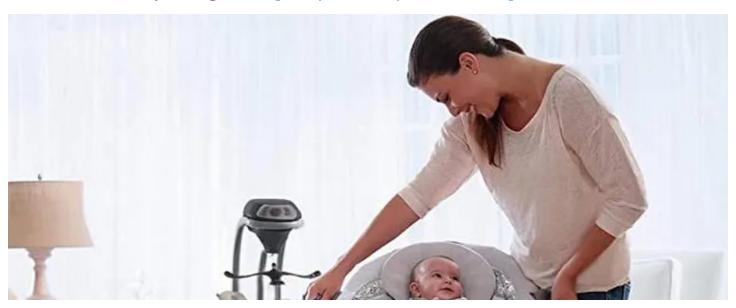
Best Smart Baby Swing: Maxi-Cosi Cassia Swing

Best Baby Swing For Twins: <u>Ingenuity Comfort 2 Go Swing</u>

Best Baby Swing And Rocker Combo: Graco DuetSoothe Swing And Rocker

Best Baby Swing With Remote Control: Munchkin Bluetooth Baby Swing

Best Portable Baby Swing: The Ingenuity Abernathy Portable Swing





## **Graco DuetConnect LX Swing And Bouncer**

\$160

Weight: 22 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: Both | Weight limit: 30 pounds (swing); 18 pounds (bouncer) | Modes: 6 swing speeds; 2 vibrations | Sounds: 10 songs; 5 sounds

This versatile baby swing offers two pieces of baby gear in one: a swing and a bouncer. Many families feel that both of these are essential during the challenging days of early parenthood. If you need to take a shower or do some chores around the house, a bouncer is much more portable than a swing, so it's a bonus to get both in a single purchase.

The Graco DuetConnect LX features several swing, vibration, music and sound modes so that you can experiment to find your baby's favorite combinations. The plug-in option is crucial if your baby enjoys the swing, because it saves you a bundle on batteries. The DuetConnect is similar to another of our Graco picks. The DuetConnect is slightly less expensive than the Soothe and comes with a bouncer as opposed to a rocker. The DuetConnect only swings side to side, not front to back. Consider the <a href="DuetSoothe">DuetConnect Multi-Direction</a> if you prefer more swinging motions.

What the reviews say: "We got this for our third child. She is almost 2 months and loves it. As a mom I love that it detaches so I can take her in whatever room I am in if I'm busy...The sounds are great too," says one reviewer.





## 4Moms MamaRoo Multi-Motion Baby Swing

\$226\$270Save \$44 (16%)

Weight: 15 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: AC adapter | Weight limit: 25 pounds | Modes: 5 motions, 5 speeds | Sounds: 4 built-in sounds, Bluetooth capability to stream music from your device

The popular MamaRoo isn't technically a swing, but it does the same job very economically—in about 2 square feet. Instead of swaying back and forth or side to side, it moves in "parent-inspired motions" like car ride, tree swing, rock-a-bye and wave. Overhead, four simple multicolor egg-shape toys hover; we like how easy it is to move the streamlined arm they sit in out of the way to pick up and put down your baby. The attached toys might not look like much to an adult, but they have patterns, mirrors and a crinkle texture that delight many babies. It's also simple to adjust the angle of the recline as baby grows and starts reaching for them. Plenty of newborns are mesmerized by the MamaRoo; it took one writer's baby until 6 months to fall in love with it, but now she's obsessed.

This new version of the MamaRoo has a plusher seat that's easier to remove and wash and a safe, redesigned harness, including the strap that connects to the base. Tech lovers might appreciate that they can stop, start, change the motion and more using the app on their phone. (Note: An earlier version of the MamaRoo was recalled in August 2022 due to dangers posed to mobile babies by dangling straps.)

What the reviews say: One mom wrote that her daughter "loves the swing so much. The movement



# **Graco Glider LX Baby Swing**

**Weight:** 17.9 pounds | **Batteries or AC adapter:** Both | **Weight limit:** 30 pounds | **Modes:** 6 swing gliding speeds; 2 vibrations | **Sounds:** 10 songs; 5 nature sounds

If your baby is an overachiever on the growth charts, here's an excellent choice for a baby swing. Despite its roominess and higher weight limit, this swing takes up less floor space than many popular full-size baby swings because its feet don't stick out as far. Its base measures 25.5 inches by 30.75

inches to be exact.

The Graco Glider LX Baby Swing soothes your baby with a gentle gliding motion and supports them with soft, removable head and body supports. It also features three recline options, a five-point harness, timer mode and an adjustable toy bar with two plush bears.

**What the reviews say:** One parent <u>called this</u> a "godsend," explaining that "My girl is a little big for her age and this thing fits her great! All the sounds and music as well as the vibration is so nice."





Nordstrom

## **Nuna Leaf Grow Baby Seat**

Weight: 15.2 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: N/A | Weight limit: 130 pounds | Modes: Infant swing, toddler chair | Sounds: N/A

Most baby swings do what they're designed to do well, but they're not going to win any design awards. This Nuna model, however, actually has a few trophies under its belt. It's a soft, streamlined swing for babies until they start sitting up on their own, and then it transitions into a mod toddler seat. We love that there are no cords or batteries involved. A gentle push sets it going for about 2 minutes, and you can take it anywhere in the house. Bonus: It comes with the cozy, Oeko-Tex 100 Standard-certified infant insert and a toy bar.

**What the reviews say:** "I bought this for my sister/nephew. He is such a happy baby but going through a fussy stage. They live this...! Excited that this will last a long time unlike other baby swings," wrote one very thoughtful aunt.





Fisher-Price

## **Fisher-Price Snow Leopard Swing**

\$160\$180Save \$20 (11%)

Weight: 20.5 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: AC adapter | Weight limit: 25 pounds |

**Modes:** 6 swing speeds; 2 swing directions | **Sounds:** 16 songs; 2 sounds

Not just cute to look at, this Fisher-Price Snow Leopard Swing rocks baby in side-to-side or head-to-tow motions, reclines and moves at multiple speeds for a customized experience with songs or sounds. Your baby might love the overhead mobile with toys and a mirror and you'll love that it offers plenty of swing speeds, two swing directions and more than a dozen songs and sounds. The seat pad is also removable and machine washable, and the legs fold up, so it can be easily stored.

What the reviews say: "Discovering the Fisher-Price swing was an absolute game-changer for my little one. With its gentle swaying motion and soothing melodies, it transformed a fussy afternoon to a peaceful one," one mom of two told me.





**Target** 

## **Maxi-Cosi Cassia Swing**

\$200

Weight: 10 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: Both | Weight limit: 20 pounds | Modes: 5 swing speeds; 360 degree movement | Sounds: 12 songs and sounds

Those looking for a lightweight infant seat with calming vibrations, adjustable speed settings, multiple swing motions, two recline positions, songs and sounds might consider the sleek Maxi-Cosi Cassia swing. It boasts all that and more, plus it connects to an app on your phone to simplify switching settings. Even better? This swing, like smart bassinets, adjusts its motion based on your baby's needs, speeding up the soothing elements if they seem fussy. It also rotates 360 degrees. I love that it's only 10 pounds so it's simple to move—especially since it can run on a battery or be plugged in.

What the reviews say: "My 1-month-old son...sat in this swing happily for over 30 minutes during his fussiest time of day the first time I put him in it! He continues to enjoy it and I'm so glad I bought this. The recline option is perfect and he looks very comfortable in it," wrote one parent.



## Ingenuity Cuddle Lamb Comfort 2 Go Portable Swing

Weight: 29 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: Batteries | Weight limit: 20 pounds | Modes: 6 swing speeds | Sounds: 12 songs

There's some debate among parents of twins regarding whether two swings are necessary, but those who've sprung for a pair seem happy with their decision. It's hard to know who will need comfort when. If you're planning to buy not one but two swings, you'll want to look for something with a smaller footprint that's portable and affordable. The Ingenuity Comfort 2 Go Portable Swing fits the bill, as it costs about \$100 less than many competitors. Sure, it's lower to the floor and not as sturdy than pricier swings, but it weighs less than 5 pounds and folds easily.

Other welcome attributes of this baby swing are a removable pad that's machine washable and dryer safe, two recline positions, three timer settings to save battery power, a toy bar with two cute plush toys, nonslip feet and a removable extra head support.

What the reviews say: "Overall, I love the swing and think it was a great purchase for what we use it for! Very handy, budget friendly, functional, reliable, and cute. Would purchase it again in a heartbeat," wrote one reviewer.



Graco

## **Graco DuetSoothe Swing And Rocker**

Weight: 21 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: Both | Weight limit: 30 pounds for swing; 18

pounds for rocker | **Modes:** 6 swing speeds; 2 swing directions; 2 vibrations | **Sounds:** 10 songs; 5 nature sounds

With the Graco DuetSoothe Swing and Rocker, you'll receive two baby gear items in one. Lift the comfy seat out of the swing frame and take it around with you as a portable rocker (with a handle). The swing is versatile thanks to its two recline positions, two swinging positions (side-to-side and back-and-forth) and six swinging speeds. Not every baby swing does both side-to-side and back-and-forth swinging. You might find out that your baby insists on one particular direction, and the DuetSoothe can help with that problem. For entertainment, it includes a mobile with three plush bears.

What the reviews say: "I've had this swing for 2 days. And I've been able to make and finish my morning coffee in peace for the first time in 5 weeks. My newborn does not like being put down at all, but seems to *love* being in this swing," says <u>one mom</u> who joked that the swing/bouncer is "necessary for survival."

#### **MOST POPULAR**



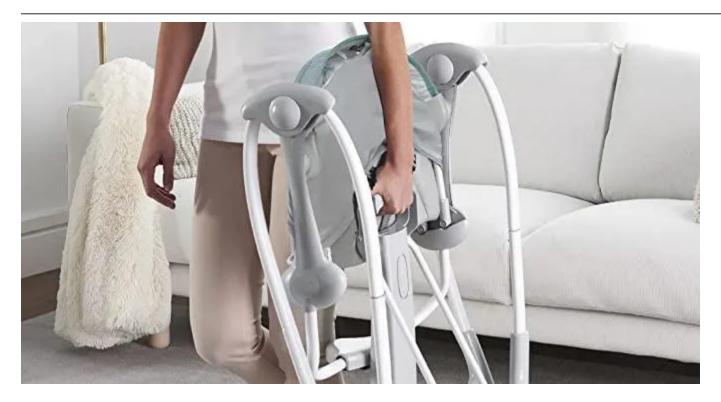


## **Munchkin Bluetooth-Enabled Baby Swing**

Weight: 8.6 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: AC adapter | Weight limit: 20 pounds | Modes: 5 speeds | Sounds: 4 classical music pieces; 8 sounds, Bluetooth audio

This baby swing includes a remote control to control its speed, music and timer, and it also streams your favorite (or more likely, your baby's favorite) music through its Bluetooth speaker. It also has digital rather than the more typical manual controls. The Munchkin Bluetooth-Enabled Baby Swing's less high-tech features include easy assembly and folding (it's only two pieces) and a removable body pad and headrest that are machine washable and dryer safe. Plus, as Munchkin points out, the swing is "as light as a gallon of milk." Its soothing motion is designed to mimic a parent's swaying movements; it moves only side-to-side.

What the reviews say: "If you are looking for a swing that's easy to move from one place to another, this is perfect. The remote is also nice to have. I just wish it had a mobile then it would be perfect," explained <u>one reviewer</u>.





## **Ingenuity Abernathy Portable Swing**

\$75\$100Save \$25 (25%)

Weight: 7.09 pounds | Batteries or AC adapter: Both | Weight limit: 20 pounds | Modes: 5 swing speeds | Sounds: 8 songs; 3 nature sounds

This compact swing is perfect for small spaces or traveling. It's lightweight at barely 7 pounds and folds easily. Although it doesn't pretend to be a full-size swing (mind the weight limit and lightweight stature), this Ingenuity baby swing still offers multiple speeds and plenty of music and nature sounds, all with automatic shut-off timer options. We also appreciate the machine washable seat pad and the option to use batteries while traveling and the USB connector to run from an adapter while at home.

**What the reviews say:** "We truly love this swing," <u>wrote</u> one parent. "It's affordable and very pleasing for a baby which clearly helps us parents out!"

# **Why Trust Forbes Vetted**

At Forbes Vetted, we've researched, tested and written about almost everything in the baby gear realm, including <u>diaper bags</u>, <u>crib mattresses</u> and <u>crib sheets</u>. We stay on top of trends and new releases in baby and kids gear, have tested these items in our own homes with our own children and have spoken with countless parents across the country and parenting professionals to make sure we're picking the best of the best. Through this story, you'll see insight from contributors <u>Kate Antoniades</u>, <u>Elyse Moody</u> and <u>Lex Goodman</u>, all of whom are parents and tapped into their personal network of parents and experts to aid in the development of this list. Suffice it to say, we're well-versed in picking baby gear for all sorts of familial needs—from twins to small spaces and beyond.

## **How We Chose The Best Baby Swings**

After speaking with pediatricians about safe swing use, we researched the bestselling and highest rated options on the market. The baby swings included in this list have received positive customer

reviews, and many of them were recommended and tested by the Vetted team as well as parents or experts we interact with. To further narrow down this list, we compared specs like size, weight-limit, music and movement options and durability to ensure that we chose baby swings that cater to all sorts of needs. Ultimately, this list includes options that are worth the cost and will (hopefully) make parenting that much easier and more enjoyable.

This story is frequently reviewed and updated, most recently in June 2023.

# **How To Select The Best Baby Swing For Your Family**

We took a practical approach here, knowing from experience that no baby swing can delight every baby. Rocking and toys that make one infant squeal with delight or nod right off might leave another totally unimpressed or fussy. Babies are also notoriously indifferent to price. You can buy the most expensive swing out there and... nada. That's why we looked for comfortable swings with a variety of entertaining features (motions and sounds) that make success more likely. How much it weighs, how it's powered (if at all), whether it's portable and how long your baby can use it are additional factors you'll want to consider. Our advice: Choose the best baby swing that fits your home and your lifestyle —and be sure to keep the box.

## Weight

A heavy swing won't be convenient to move from one room or floor to another, which may or may not work for your family. If it's important to you to be able to drag it into the kitchen with you or pack it in the car trunk, know that some models weigh over 20 pounds; you'll likely want to eliminate those from your search. Some options do weigh under 10 pounds; others fold or collapse into smaller pieces for easy transport.

## **Batteries or AC Adapter**

Many motorized models, but not all, offer parents the ability to run via a wall plug or on batteries. If you want portability, be sure batteries are an option. They allow you to put a swing anywhere, not just within reach of a convenient electrical outlet. The downside is batteries are pricey and annoying to replace. You don't want to set your babe down for a soothing rock only to have it stop—and *then* discover you're out of Ds. That's not a problem with swings that plug in using an AC adapter.

#### **Modes**

Motions, speeds, directions, vibration—a baby swing can offer just one or a carnival's worth of these. A swing might have two or five different speeds. It might be able to go only back and forth or side to side and even up and down. It might glide more than swing. It may vibrate softly or at a few different

levels. Typically, the more modes a swing features, the more it costs. But as any parent will tell you, just because it costs more, doesn't mean your baby will enjoy it more. Some babies love nothing more than a simple single-speed swing.

#### **Sounds**

Options range from none to white noise to birdsong to nursery tunes. Some swings even have an auxiliary input or Bluetooth capability that allows you to connect another device and play your own songs or continuous white noise through the swing's speakers.

## **Weight Limit**

As your baby gets longer, she'll outgrow some swings the way she outgrows her clothes. You might have noticed that can happen seemingly overnight with pajamas and onesies. The same can be true of a swing. Pay attention to weight and height limitations on your swing, as well as your baby's increasing mobility. You don't want to continue using it if they look at all scrunched up in the seat or if the recline isn't sufficient enough for the youngest babies. For most swings, the weight limit is 20 to 30 pounds, although it can be half that for some models.

# Do Pediatricians Recommend Baby Swings?

The most important thing to know about baby swings is how to use them safely, as board-certified pediatrician <u>Dr. Loretta Cody</u> explains. "I don't necessarily recommend or not recommend baby swings," she says. "The important issue is what you are using the swing for. …It can be used at the right age as a place to place a baby for a short period of time, allowing the parent to have their hands free."

Cody recommends "your baby spend less than an hour total a day on the swing," which can be split into two increments.

# **Should Babies Sleep In A Baby Swing?**

It's tempting, especially when you have a nap-resistant baby, to let your child sleep in a swing, but experts like Cody advise against it, instead urging parents to transfer the baby from the swing to their crib for safer sleep.

Baby swings are convenient for taking needed breaks from hands-on methods of soothing your infant —after all, parenting is a marathon, not a sprint—but Cody says it's essential to supervise your child, even for a short time. "Never leave them unattended," she says.

# How Do You Know If A Baby Swing Is Safe?

"Most commercially sold baby swings are safe if they are used as directed," says Columbia University's Diamond. She recommends making sure that your chosen swing is approved for safety by the <u>Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association</u> and that you follow product specifications (for example, the product's weight guidelines for babies). Look for any recalls issued by the <u>Consumer Product Safety Commission</u>. For example, an older model of the MamaRoo <u>was recalled in August 2022</u> due to an issue with dangling straps.

If you have a preemie or a baby with health problems, it's best to ask the pediatrician about baby swing safety for your infant's specific needs.

## What Ages Of Children Can Use A Baby Swing?

Following a particular swing's age and weight guidelines is important for your child's safety and comfort.

Cody says that babies younger than 4 months old should be placed in a swing only in its most reclined position because they haven't yet developed adequate neck control to sit upright. At this age, she says, a baby can slump forward with their chin to their chest, constricting their airway and risking suffocation.

According to Cody, babies older than four months who have good head control and are within a swing's weight limit can be safely seated in an upright position. Still, she says, "There must be shoulder straps to avoid the baby from falling out or tipping over the swing."

Babies will grow and hit the weight maximum, which varies from swing to swing, at different ages. Most of the swings we feature here have weight limits between 20 and 30 pounds.

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