

CHEAT SHEET >> THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU BUY

1 Know your options.

Become acquainted with the kinds of entertainers.

Swing: A seat that swings forward and backward or side to side and is usually battery powered.

Bouncer: A seat that sits close to the floor and is most often bounced by baby's kicks.

Walker: A seat on wheels that supports baby in a standing position, allowing him to "walk" across flat surfaces.

Activity center: A stationary seat that supports baby in a standing position, providing an upright place to play.

Doorway jumper: A seat that is suspended safely from a standard doorframe with bungee-like straps permitting baby to "jump."

Play mat: A soft mat that commonly features overhead arches with interactive features such as toys, mirrors and textures.

Multifunctional: An entertainer that boasts the ability to function in multiple forms, such as both swing and bouncer.

2 Determine your needs.

Ask yourself these questions to find out which type of entertainer is right for your lifestyle.

1. How soon and for how long do you intend to use the entertainer?
2. What sort of space constraints do you need to consider in terms of the entertainer's footprint?
3. Would you like the entertainer to act more as a soother or stimulator?
4. Do you intend to take the entertainer with you while traveling? Store it out of sight while not in use?
5. Is it important to you that the entertainer blend well with your décor?

3 Find your fit.

Mark the features you desire in an entertainer in the first column, then use the remaining columns to compare the models you're considering and clarify which best meet your requirements.

FEATURE	IMPORTANT TO ME	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Attachable toys				
Battery-operated				
Light features				
Machine washable upholstery				
Sound features: Some babies enjoy listening to music or nature sounds.				
MP3 compatible: Mom and dad may like choosing baby's tunes from their own collection.				
Multiple height positions: Bouncers and walkers with various seat height options can allow for longer-term use.				
Speed controls: Parents often appreciate the ability to adjust the speed of a swing as baby grows.				
Travel-friendly				
Vibration option				



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