Readers offer their tips on traveling with children

BY BARRY JENSEN
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Because the summer driving
scason is not that far away, we
offered several tips for traveling
in a car with children. Readers
responded with their own tips
and suggested improvements in
some of the tips we gave.
Marjorie Nanian Mugerian of
Farmington Hills suggested onewe never thought of: Install a
nine-inch TVVCR combination
with an adapter cord so it can be
plugged into the cigarette
lighter.

"I can't tell you what a blessing it was to have children water
video tapes while driving
through a snow storm in Ohio!"
Mugerian capplained.

Judith Williams of Livonia
shared a whole raft of tips She
echood Mugerian in recommending electronic gear, only in
Williams' case, she suggested the
most important Item is a
radio/cassette player and head
phones for each child.

"From the time our children
were 2, we bought them child
dren's books with accompanying
tape cassettes. They are a great
help in teaching children to
read."

Hand-held computer games

read." Hand-held computer games

Take these along when you travel

Drinking water Pillow for each passenger **Beach towels**

9" TV with VCR and cigarette lighter adapter

Magnetic/board games Children's books with accompanying tapes

Lap board

Colored pencils

Walkman

Hand-held computer games

Play Doh

Action figures/dolls

Ball/Frisbee

Food box: tissue, tollet paper, paper plates, paper towels, utensile, sharp knife, plastic glasses, flexible straws, plastic bags and twist ties, pretzels, goldfish crackers (avoid sweets), breakfast drink, sweet rolls

are good, "but only the kind where you can control or eliminate the volume," she said. Having sat in the same living room with a child playing a hand-held Donkey Kong game with no volume control, I can imagine how

heir.

Always get up and go to bed at the driver's normal waking time. (We had recommended at the child's normal waking time.) "Children are very flexible and can sleep easily in the car. It is very important for the driver to be well rested."

Also, we usually traveled with just one child. That obviously left out an important part of car travel with children: keeping the peace.

travel with children: sceping are peace.
"If you have a van or station wagon, load the car in such a way that you keep the better part of two seats vacant. Children must sometimes be senared to avoid conflicts." Or at least put the food box, cooler, pillows or towels between the children to create two private rances.

spaces.

"Pack the suitcases so you only have to bring one of them into the motel. Remember, you'll have to bring in the food box, cooler and children's toys."

"Remove toys from their commercial packaging and store in

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she has ever dealt with liked this idea for keeping the kids busy and out of the other passengers heir.

Always get up and go to bed at the control of the c

from being atrewn all over the car when not in use end are very easy to carry.

Children should be treated as people who can make the trip better, not just as passangers who are to be catered to:

"When your children have their driver's licenses, let them take turns driving, Interestate driving is much different than city driving; and while this may slow you up when they are first learning, it's a valuable skill to teach your children.

"Let older children help fill the gas tank, check and add oil and clean windows. Allow older children to read helf-motel guides and help plan the night's stop, based on driving time and speed limite.

Recommended take-

Recommended takealongs:

Colored pencils, never crayons, (If an adult or responsible child is in charge of it, a battery-operated pencil sharpener. This can be in the trunk and used to

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sharpen pencils at the next rest stop. It can be emptied at the rest stop so that there is little danger of having shaving scat-tered throughout the car.) Lap boards. (If you are going to have writing tools, you have to have something to write on.) Action figures/dolls. Ball, Frisbee. 'Items like these encourage the kids to stretch their muscles when you make rest stops."

Magnetic/static games, such as chess, checkers, Scrabble. "Always bring drinking water."

She suggest replacing our suggested blankets with extra large beach towels. Sounds good to me.

"These tips worked extremely well for many years and thousands of miles. The dating the children were account worth it. We enjoyed traveing and looked formation to the children were summer. Christmass break and Easter vacation. Our children are now married adults who love to travel'and are teaching their spouses to enjoy it also."

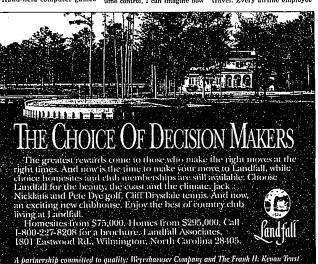
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