

Even go camping

Babies travel, too

Not too long ago, infants didn't travel far. They traveled home from the hospital, to the doctor's office and occasionally visited grandma.

In those days, traveling with baby was a nightmare to be avoided except when absolutely necessary. Today's baby has come a long way, with all the modern innovations that make traveling safe and comfortable for baby — and the rest of the family.

Baby's needs never change but the way of meeting them has. Basic rules for traveling with baby include: making reservations ahead so that motels and hotels will know that a baby will be with family, and checking baby out with the pediatrician before you leave so that he can offer any specific suggestions.

One special boon to traveling babies is disposable, pre-sterilized formula that comes equipped with a sterilized nipple wrapped in plastic.

But the biggest aid to traveling babies is disposable diapers. New disposable diapers are softer and more absorbent than cloth. The secret is in new, soft fabric liner and in a two-layer, absorbent inner padding that moves the wetness away from baby's skin.

THESE NEW disposable diapers, which also have no-pin tapes, are quiet so that baby doesn't make a crinkly plastic sound when he moves, and a special new wet-proof outer layer makes it unnecessary for baby to wear plastic pants. All these features are traveling insurance against diaper rash — which would ruin everybody's vacation.

The prices of both pre-sterilized formula and disposable diapers are now within the reach of most family budgets for regular use at home, so vacation conveniences may even start a whole new lifestyle.

The amount of baby clothes to take along can be surprisingly few if you make sure all of them are quick-drying and need no ironing. When you dress baby for the trip, keep his basic clothing lightweight and add — or subtract — warmth with sweaters and blankets.

Baby's sleeping accommodations will depend to some extent on your method of travel. A small light-weight basket, which can be moved from the seat of the car, train or plane into your room, is ideal for a very young baby. An older baby can sleep comfortably in a portable crib, which can double as a playpen. A folding stroller, of course, is ideal if your plans call for sightseeing excursions on foot.

CAMPING WITH a member of the diaper set is possible — in fact, it can even be enjoyable, but as much depends on Mom and Dad as on the young camper.

Naturally, you won't head for the wilderness with a tiny tot, but there are scores of campsites which offer such comforts as running water, showers and outdoor electric cooking facilities — all designed to make family camping the pleasant adventure it should be.

Whether your preference for camping runs to a fully-equipped luxury trailer or a canvas tent, your youngster will feel right at home if on his packing list you also include his favorite stuffed toy and some familiar picture books.

Parents teach, too

Do children learn more from parents or teachers? Specialists at Michigan State University (MSU) say parents play the primary role in socializing a child.

In 1968, MSU began testing Parents Are Teachers Too (PTT). This program, now being used across the state, emphasizes the importance of the parent-child relationship.

"We want to expand and extend the quality and quantity of the time parents spend with their children," says Dr. Robert Boger, founder of the program and director of MSU's Institute for Family and Child Study.

The program consists of lessons designed to increase parent-child interaction.

PTT involves parents in constructing easy and inexpensive toys for their children. Series of carefully designed lessons help develop the child's motor and mental skills. He has fun, while mommy and daddy teach him.

As parents and children play together, a good-happy relationship develops between them. Children learn through play. PTT teaches parents a variety of games and activities that are interesting and challenging to the child.

"MY HUSBAND and I both attended the series and our boy really looked forward to each session," said one mother.

"We learned to stress the positive with our children," another mother said. "I discovered we had the same problems with our child as other parents had. At PTT, we discussed ways to get our children to eat and go to bed without punishing them."

Research has shown that the child develops a more positive view of himself and of his mother's attitude towards him by participating in the program.

The program, which developed after seven years of research, was originally tested with Head Start families (both rural and urban). Now it is being used in many day care centers throughout the state. Soon social workers, home economists, public health workers, etc. will be able to administer PTT.

Seeing, touching, tasting and smelling tell a child what the world is like. All parents want to provide exciting activities in the home to encourage a child's growth and stimulate his senses. PTT helps accomplish this.

PTT teaches parents new ways of communicating with the child and helps parents and children develop a warm and happy relationship.



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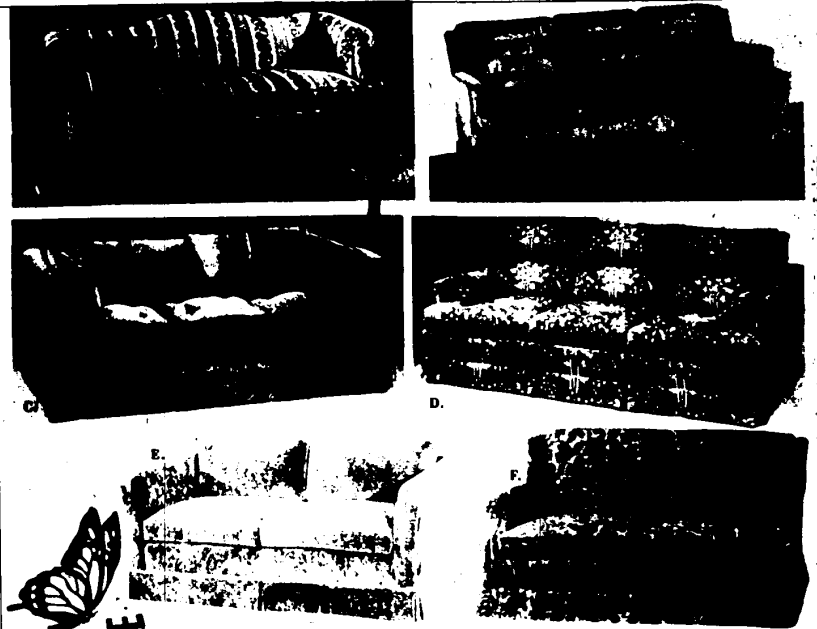
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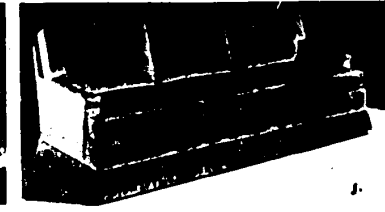
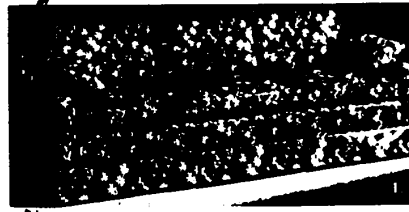
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