

HIGH (ST)ROLLERS

THESE WHEELS ARE CHEAP—WHEN YOU COMPARE THEM TO A CAR

BY MARK HAGGARTY

And now, straight from the files of the simultaneously innovative and ridiculous: really, really expensive baby strollers.

Why focus on such high-priced items in these already high-priced days? If you hadn't noticed last summer, many of the infants around town were representin' in prams as sleek and spendy as the new BMWs they'll be representin' in 16 short years. And let's face it, nothing says "Keep up with this, Joneses!" like a stroller brand no one recognizes (save for Brangelina). And Bugaboo is just *so* 2007.

So just this once, we're making an effort here on *UR Chicago's* Baby Desk to help you gain VIP access to Parent Hollywood. A good stroller *is* a wise investment, so if you can afford it (and diapers at the same time), here are our recommendations for the coming summer.



STOKKE

Stokke Xplory (with bassinet)

Fast facts: Built to last from birth through toddlerhood by an environmentally conscious Dutch company (with a U.S. base in Kennesaw, Ga., which helps to reduce your carbon footprint).

Coolest feature: Vertically adjustable and 360-degree rotational seat allows baby to face either direction and rise up to any restaurant table. "No more long walks staring at asses and car mufflers!" says grateful offspring.

Cost: \$1,099

Orbit Baby Infant System Stroller

Fast facts: Out-of-this-world stylish design. Lift and move from car seat to stroller chassis with the click of a button.



ORBIT

Coolest feature: Rumor has it that Mary Louise Parker has one. Mmmm. *Weeds*.
Cost: \$900

The Muttsy 4rider Light

Fast facts: Hugely popular in Europe, the Muttsy system allows children to sit upright and be more engaged. Sounds like all the Europeans I know.

Coolest feature: Narrow footprint for easy maneuverability in crowds.

Cost: \$679

Quinny Buzz

Fast facts: Another reversible-seat stroller, the Quinny captivated European parents a few years back; the Stateside version has increased basket space, a softer seat and highly responsive steering.
Coolest feature: Unfolds by itself thanks to imbedded hydraulics; also boasts shocks and a suspension system. This bad boy would make a Lexus jealous.

Cost: \$549

Uppa Baby Vista Stroller

Fast facts: Reversible seating in both the bassinet and toddler modes. Unfolds with one touch and stands upright when folded (your lower back will thank you).

Coolest feature: Sturdy, flat tire-proof wheels built for all-terrain walks.

Cost: \$649

Availability

All are available from letsgostrolling.com. The Stokke and the Orbit are available at Galt Baby (900 N. Michigan, 312-440-9550). For other quality strollers at less astronomical price points (it's OK, really, it is), visit Lazar's (6557 N. Lincoln, Lincolnwood, 847-679-6146) for an unbeatable selection.



QUINNY BUZZ



MUTTSY 4RIDER



UPPA VISTA