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The Best Baby Monitors, After Testing Over A Dozen Models

By Alexandra Frost, Contributor

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Reviewed by Margaret Badore, Kids & Baby Gear Editor

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The best baby monitors on the market can deliver caregivers some peace of mind when they step out of their baby's room. A monitor should be easy to set up and operate, provide clear (and timely) sound and a sharp picture, and maintain its battery life so you can check on your little one throughout the day or night. After testing 13 monitors—including ones with Wi-Fi and dedicated handheld options—the Eufy SpaceView Pro came out as the overall winner due to its large screen, adjustable settings and easy connectivity.

BETA

The Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro is best Wi-Fi-connected baby monitor for its portability, reliability and ease of use. Five more winners also made the list of the best baby monitors, to suit varying needs and preferences.



Eufy SpaceView Pro is the best baby overall, and the Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro is the best ... [+] ILLUSTRATION: FORBES / PHOTOS: RETAILERS

Here's the full list of winners:

- **Best Baby Monitor Overall:** Eufy SpaceView Pro E210
- **Best Wi-Fi Baby Monitor:** Chillax DM681 Giraffe Cam Pro
- **Best Portable Baby Monitor:** Lollipop Smart Baby Camera
- **Best Baby Monitor With Sleep Tracking:** CuboAi Plus Smart Baby Monitor
- **Best Baby Monitor With No Wi-Fi:** Infant Optics DXR-8 Pro

- **Best Big Screen Baby Monitor:** Harbor Baby Monitor
- **Best Baby Monitor For The Car:** Tiny Traveler Classic Wireless

BETA

When evaluating various baby monitors on the market, I made sure to consider and ultimately test a mix of Wi-Fi and non-Wi-Fi options. I also enlisted the help of Jada Shapiro, a postpartum doula, parenting expert and founder of Boober, to weigh in on how to choose the best model for your family. Read on for my detailed evaluation of each baby monitor, plus our rating out of 10 (with 10 being perfect).

Best Baby Monitor Overall

User-Friendly, With The Best Features Across The Board



EUFY

Eufy SpaceView Pro E210

BETA

$170

$170 At Eufy

$170 At Amazon

$170 At Walmart

Our score: 9 | **Wi-Fi**: No | **Camera resolution:** 720p | **Range**: 1,000 feet | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** 5 inches | **App enabled**: No | **Additional features:** Lullabies, two-way audio, ability to add additional cameras

Best for:

- Low-tech, low-maintenance parents
- Those who want to avoid Wi-Fi security issues
- Those who want easy setup, long battery life and seamless connectivity

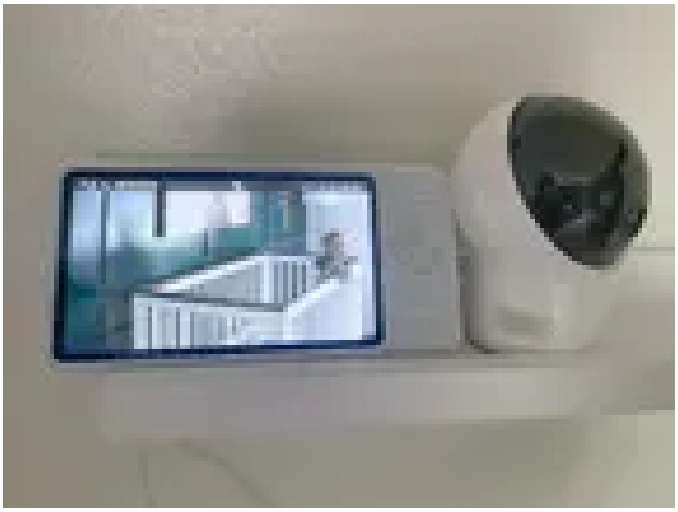
Skip if:

- You want a Wi-Fi monitor

Simplicity And Function Combined

BETA

The Eufy SpaceView Pro had the easiest to set up of all the monitors I tested, which is one of the reasons why it's my favorite monitor overall—as well as my top pick for new parents. It comes pre-paired with a "private channel" portable monitor that does not rely on Wi-Fi, so it's seamless to use. The battery life has an impressive 12 hours of active viewing and 30 hours of standby, and I never once encountered any sort of connectivity issue.



I used the Eufy SpaceView Pro to remotely pan and zoom around my baby's crib from all the way across ...
[+] ALEXANDRA FROST FOR FORBES

The Eufy SpaceView Pro had the most convenient design of any monitor I tested: The back of the handheld monitor includes a triangular base that lets it sit up on its own for easy viewing. This makes it a bit bulky, which might be a disadvantage if you want to carry it around in your pocket. But I found this design convenient since I could set down

BETA

the monitor while cooking dinner, helping my other kids or working at the computer. With a range of up to 1,000 feet, Eufy has one of the longest ranges of any monitor I tested.

Just-Right Alerts

The Eufy SpaceView Pro includes five sensitivity options, and they were the best of all the monitors I tested. It only pops out of Sleep mode to alert you that your baby is awake based on the setting you pick. This eliminates a lot of unnecessary middle-of-the-night waking when your baby is simply soothing themselves back to sleep or rolling around to get comfortable. However, there's no button for a quick transition back to Sleep mode; instead, the handheld monitor shuts down after a set time.

A Note On Eufy's Wi-Fi Cameras

In early 2023, some of Eufy's Wi-Fi connected security cameras made headlines for some possible vulnerabilities in its video stream that didn't appear to be as encrypted as promised. Essentially, it

BETA

appeared that someone could tap into an individual security camera stream online with the right amount of info and interest. Eufy has responded to the charge by revamping its cameras to eliminate this possibility. However, these issues do not impact the Eufy SpaceView Pro baby monitor at all, because it cannot connect to the Internet at all.

Long-Term Testing Notes

After testing the Eufy SpaceView Pro for nearly a year, including with my recently born fifth child, I continue to appreciate the brand's strong commitment to basics: a super-clear picture, high security without Wi-Fi concerns and portability. I took the this baby monitor on multiple family camping trips where I needed a monitor that works without Wi-Fi, given our location. It also came along on a family cross-country trip to Canada,

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where I'm happy to report that the monitor performed well in spite of the baby being even further away from our room than he would be at home. This is my go-to trusted monitor that I know will go the distance and continue to prove its reliability every time.

Want more details? Read my in-depth review of the Eufy SpaceView Pro E210.

Best Wi-Fi Baby Monitor

A Long Range And Excellent Picture Quality



CHILLAX

Chillax DM681 Giraffe Cam Pro

$129.99

AT CHILLAX

$130 At Chillax

$150 At Newegg

BETA

Our score: 8 | **Wi-Fi**: Yes (includes handheld monitor) | **Camera resolution**: 1080p | **Range**: 1,200 feet | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** 4.3 inches | **App enabled**: Yes | **Additional features:** Flexible gooseneck design, clip-on or wall-mount, lullabies, two-way audio, sleep analytics via app, video record, storage

Best for:

- Parents who want a Wi-Fi monitor
- Checking on your kids while you're away from home
- Those who want the ability to turn off Wi-Fi

Skip if:

- You don't want the risks associated with Wi-Fi

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The Best Of Both Worlds

I found the Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro to be the best value for parents who want *both* Wi-Fi and a private-channel dedicated monitor. The 1080p monitor had the highest-quality picture among the monitors tested; I could see small details like when a baby is starting to wake up, when they're sucking their thumb and when they have drifted off to sleep. The portable monitor is pre-paired, making setup easy, and clear directions helped me quickly sync the camera to the app with a QR code. It doesn't sacrifice visibility, sound quality or overall usability despite costing less than the Eufy SpaceView Pro.

A Long Range And Impressive Picture Quality

The Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro had the longest range of all the monitors I tested at 1,200 feet. Of course, you can check in from anywhere using the app if you set up the Wi-Fi connection—that way, you can monitor your kids when they are home with a babysitter. (That said, Boober's

Shapiro urges parents to not spend date nights worrying about whether the baby is sleeping as long as you've left them with a trustworthy caregiver.)

BETA



The Giraffe Cam Pro is pre-paired, making setup easy, and clear directions helped me quickly sync ...
[+] ALEXANDRA FROST FOR FORBES

'Smart Zone,' Privacy And Wellness Features

The Giraffe Cam Pro had a number of standout features. You can customize a "smart zone" on the monitor by setting a designated area as if you were cropping a picture of your baby's crib. Then, the monitor will notify you if the baby moves outside that zone. This feature can be helpful as your child starts to transition a toddler bed; it lets you know if they're roaming around the room instead of nodding off to sleep.

Those worried about the security of Wi-Fi monitors may appreciate the precautions

BETA

available in this one. For example, you have to grant permission for other users to see the camera feed. There's also a privacy button to turn the Wi-Fi on and off, which Shapiro says decreases the likelihood of getting hacked if the monitor isn't always available.

The Chillax app does also provide health and wellness monitoring, though you shouldn't rely on it instead of a medical device. These features include sleep time monitoring, diaper logs, feedings, growth benchmarks, teething milestones and more.

Long-Term Testing Notes

After nearly a year of testing, the crystal-clear view of this baby monitor continues to outperform the other choices. It lets me more easily observe the baby for facial expressions and even to visually observe breathing.

One downside is that the Giraffe Cam Pro, like other Wi-Fi monitors, has to be re-paired anytime it's unplugged. This process is a bit cumbersome, and I wish it automatically re-paired to my phone's app. One additional concern (which could be simply our Wi-Fi not performing at its best) is that when you are talking to the kid via the microphone function,

sometimes the camera stalls or buffers a bit, causing a delay in regaining video after each comment.

BETA

Read the full Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro review for more extensive details.

Best Portable Baby Monitor

Babyproof And Can Be Mounted Virtually Anywhere



LOLLIPOP

Lollipop Smart Baby Camera

$159 ~~**$169**~~ **SAVE $10 (6%)**

AT AMAZON

$159 At Amazon

$159 At Walmart

BETA

Our score: 9 | **Wi-Fi**: Yes | **Camera resolution**: 1080p | **Range**: N/A (no handheld monitor) | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** N/A | **App enabled**: Yes | **Additional features:** Wraps around many surfaces, blocks out non-baby noises, sleep analytics, two-way audio, lullabies, sounds to play

Best for:

- Frequent travelers or parents who need portability
- Parents concerned about kids playing with the camera

Skip if:

- You prefer a non-Wi-Fi model
- You want to remotely zoom or pan the camera
- You don't want a monitor that's only functional with an app

Versatile And Babyproof

The whimsically named Lollipop Smart Baby Camera has the most versatile design of any of the monitors I tested, making it a perfect traveling companion. It's designed to wrap around almost any surface, from a crib rail to a nearby lamp;

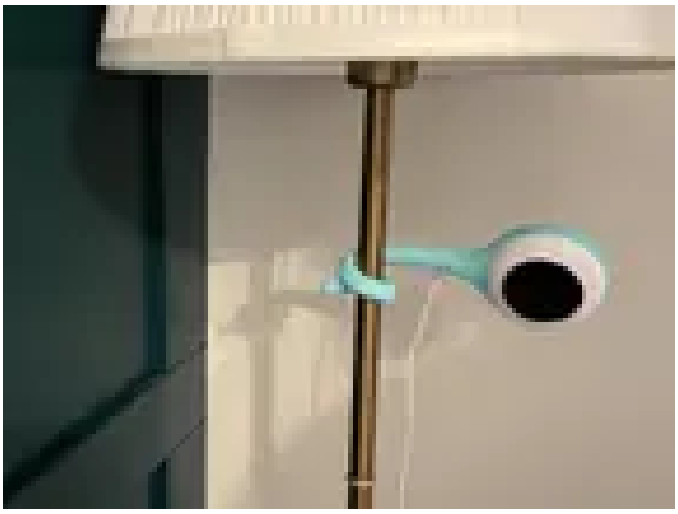
BETA

it can even curl up like a snake's tail to create a stand for itself. The Lollipop is also babyproof: Even though my son managed to unwrap the camera from his bedside rail, I wasn't concerned because the safe design has no removable parts or choking hazards. Additionally, there is no parent unit to play with or break—caregivers see how their baby is doing via only an app.

A 'True Crying Detection' Feature

Lollipop's so-called "true crying detection" distinguishes this monitor from its peers— it's better at blocking out background noise, such as my youngest son's three older brothers stomping past his room during nap time. This feature prevents parents from being alerted to every little noise. Similar to the Chillax, it can alert you if your baby's leg is stuck outside the crib or otherwise moves outside a preset zone. This is especially helpful when your baby reaches the age when they think crawling out of the crib seems like fun.

BETA



Caregivers can mount the Lollipop monitor almost anywhere, making it ideal for travel. ALEXANDRA FROST FOR FORBES

Disadvantages Worth Noting

Its setup is extremely easy, but the app-based monitoring has its disadvantages. For instance, you can pan or tilt the camera using the app, but you can't simply follow your child with the camera as they move around the room. Instead, you'll need to move the camera further away and set up a boundary to see the whole room.

Long-Term Testing Notes

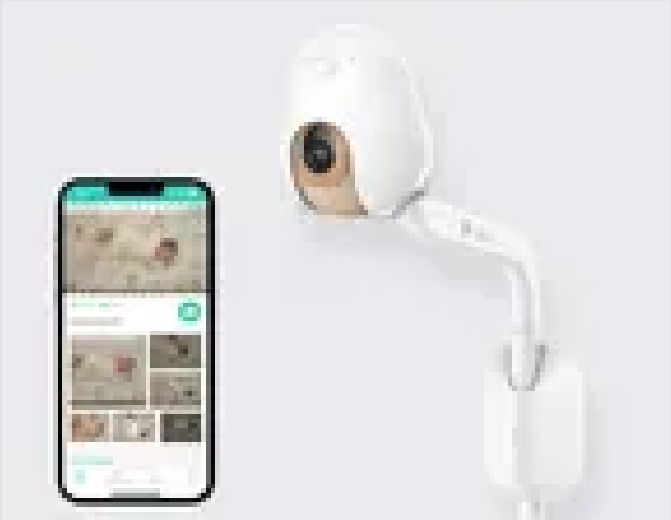
The flexible Lollipop Smart Baby Camera has made its rounds throughout my nursery over the last year, adjusting to the baby's growing size, newfound curiosity and ability to grab the camera. I finally wrapped it high up on a lamp base, giving me a nice bird's-eye view of the crib.

BETA

Like the Chillax, sometimes the Wi-Fi can't keep up with the livestream, and if I leave the monitor video open in the app for a while, it starts to struggle to keep up, delivering the dreaded spinning wheel instead of a picture of my baby. This prompts me to exit the app and go back in. I also have come to prefer the slightly larger default view of the Chillax over the Lollipop's smaller picture (before enlarging each on the app).

Best Baby Monitor With Sleep Tracking

Great For Sleep Tracking And Movement Alerts



AMAZON

CuboAi Plus Smart Baby Monitor

$279

$279 At CuboAI

$279 At Amazon

BETA

Our score: 8 | **Wi-Fi:** Yes | **Camera resolution:** 1080p | **Range:** 300 feet line of sight | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** N/A | **App enabled:** Yes | **Additional features:** Built-in lullabies, 2-way audio, night light

Best for:

- Being notified when baby rolls over or covers their face
- Tracking sleep information
- Traveling

Skip if:

- The movement alerts feel anxiety inducing to you

A Robust Sleep Analytics Package

The CuboAi Plus Smart Baby Monitor is Wi-Fi based and provides a robust sleep analytics package. This monitor alerts parents to young babies rolling over accidentally and if the baby's face is covered; it also provides sleep reports, lullabies, video playback and photo

capture, as well as crying, temperature and humidity alerts—and many, many more options. The app was easy to navigate as were the settings within.

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Knowing Baby's Every Move Isn't For Everyone

I found it has one of the clearest images among the Wi-Fi baby monitors I tested, and the sound was decent, if a bit sensitive. However, my expert sources warned that some of those extras can actually be more anxiety inducing, so keep an eye on how much you are checking these analytics and how much importance you are putting on a monitor's data versus your own parental intuition. I was annoyed when a humidity warning sounded repeatedly and yet the room felt fine to me. That said, it is one of the cutest monitors, subtly shaped like a bird watching over your baby.

Although this monitor has one of the higher price tags of those I recommend, there are periodic sales during holidays and Amazon Prime Day (up to $100 off) and it comes with a 45-day money back guarantee. This provides a free way to try it out to see if it fits your needs. It can also give parents a chance to decide if sleep analytics are for them and whether those feel calming or anxiety inducing.

BETA

Use This Monitor At Home Or On The Move

Although it's an extra purchase, I really like the new travel case that's designed to go with this monitor. We camp a lot, and monitors tucked into plastic bags for travel can get unwieldy and annoying. It's a small convenience but, combined with having a monitor that provides sleep analytics, feels like you have your act together a bit as a parent.

There are also multiple setup options, from attaching the base to a crib, a wall mount or a separate stand. I found threading the cord through the stand tedious, though, and this was the only baby monitor my child managed to actually pull down.

If you plan on using this monitor mostly at home, keep the bird-shaped design in mind. I liked it at first, but now it's not something that really goes with my toddler's room.

Best Baby Monitor With No Wi-Fi

A Reliable Long-Range Pick, Without All The Extras

MOST POPULAR

BETA



INFANT OPTICS

Infant Optics DXR-8 Pro

$214.99

AT AMAZON

Shop At Amazon

$200 At Target

$200 At Best Buy

Our score: 9 | **Wi-Fi:** No | **Camera resolution:** 720p | **Range:** 1,000 feet | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** 5 inches | **App enabled:** No | **Additional features:** Active noise reduction, pans 330 degrees, works with various lenses

Best for:

- Parents who want a non–Wi-Fi monitor
- Checking on kids that move around

- Helping drown out background noise, such as other kids or pets

Skip if:

BETA

- You want an aesthetically pleasing monitor

A No-Frills Non-Wi-Fi Option

This handheld-only Infant Optics DXR-8 Pro baby monitor has a 1,000-foot range, as well as active background noise reduction and can pan 330 degrees, making it another excellent option for your nursery. It's a bit more mechanical looking and not as sleek as some of the other picks here, but that's due to the various lenses available for optimal viewing, such as wide-angle and zoom lenses. The monitor is reliable, without many additional extras that many parents might not want.

Keep Track Of Those Toddlers On The Move

As your kids get older and craftier in moving about the room, this monitors' zoom lens feature becomes more critical to really seeing what's going on. My toddler son likes to leave his bed and sleep on top of the vent on the floor, which is on the opposite side of the room from the monitor. I can zoom in and make

sure he's okay as he ventures beyond his typical sleeping spot. (Don't worry, I went back in to put him in the bed.)

BETA

Background Noise Reduction

The noise reduction component is helpful if you are trying to listen to, say, your baby breathing on the monitor. If they have a cold and you want to hear how they're doing, you aren't picking up their siblings yelling in the background and the dog barking. As I move out of baby life and into toddler life (again), this is a must-have. That's because with babies, it's more about if they are asleep or awake; with toddlers, you might be looking for something specific.

Best Big Screen Baby Monitor

A Little More Like A Small TV Than A Tiny Monitor



HARBOR

Harbor Baby Monitor

$336 **INCLUDING 1-YEAR MEMBERSHOP**

Shop At Harbor

BETA

Our score: 9 | **Wi-Fi:** Yes | **Camera resolution:** 2K | **Range:** 50 feet indoors when not on WiFi | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** 10 inches | **App enabled:** Yes | **Additional features:** Two year included membership with remote night nanny and educational resources

Best for:

- Travelers who don't want to rely on Wi-Fi
- Parents who need additional support or resources

Skip if:

- You do not want to have a subscription service
- You have no use for a large screen device

The Harbor looks like an iPad, but functions as a clear and crisp monitor with excellent visuals. Through my decade of testing monitors, I've noticed many are too small, and the image too blurry. This

BETA

can make it difficult to really zero in on details like whether a baby's eyes are open or closed, or whether they are holding their ear in the night (my kids are all ear tube kids). The Harbor monitor's extra large screen and detailed image eliminate all that squinting and zooming.

Involving The Whole Family

I'm also surprised how much having a large monitor screen involved (and entertained) the whole family. With five kids, typically someone walking by the large monitor would yell "the baby's up" anytime they saw that, then get into a fight over who would get to let her out. They were able to be a part of the daily process of caring for a baby with a more visual reminder sitting in the main room. I was also pleased with the "smart audio" features, because the smart thresholds for noise, motion and time help to eliminate background noise as you watch the monitor.

An App Staffed With A Virtual Nanny And Lactation Consultant

The Harbor monitor comes with a useful app and additional resources such as offering advice as a "remote night nanny," lactation consulting and educational

resources included in the two-year membership.

BETA

Access to a remote night nanny along with your monitor could be a serious perk, although I didn't actually test this feature. If you choose to use this service, which is included in the subscription fee, a night nanny will monitor your baby remotely while you sleep. Each night nannies watch up to five babies at a time, according to the brand. If you don't wake up to help the baby when they need in-person help, they send escalating alerts to ensure you do. In theory, this could weed out unnecessary parent wake-ups, only alerting you when a baby needs hands-on help, such as needing to be changed or fed.

For parents struggling with sleep training, the service also provides help. They suggest personalized sleep training schedules in an introductory call ahead of the selected night.

Safety And Security

Harbor was founded by two dads who were frustrated with common problems some monitors have, from phone to internet to monitor pairing issues and more. The Harbor monitor is available with or without Wi-Fi and has unique

BETA

attributes like audio and visual alerts if the camera ever disconnects—it makes sense that one of the founders created this after being let down by another monitor that crashed in the middle of the night while “watching” his newborn. Unlike some other monitors, Harbor avoids monitoring biometrics, citing the American Association of Pediatrics cautioning against their use, citing potential risks and lack of evidence supporting their efficacy in preventing sudden infant deaths.

Best Baby Monitor For The Car

An On-The-Go Option For Watching Kids On The Road



AMAZON

Tiny Traveler Classic Wireless

$239.99

AT AMAZON

$240 At Amazon

$240 At Tiny Traveler

BETA

Our score: 8 | **Wi-Fi:** Yes | **Camera resolution:** HD 720P | **Range:** 33 feet | **Night vision:** Yes | **Screen size:** 5 inches | **App enabled:** No | **Additional features:** Mountable, option to buy a second screen

Best for:

- Parents who are nervous about baby's wellbeing in the car
- Parents who travel a lot with their kids
- Parents with 1 or 2 kids who need monitoring

Skip if:

- You don't want additional cords in their car
- You don't want to worry about charging a monitor
- Watching the baby on a monitor might feel distracting while driving

It's a scenario many parents, including myself, have been in: You are on a car ride

BETA

and your baby starts fussing, but you aren't sure why. The Tiny Traveler Classic Wireless Monitor has parents in this and many other scenarios in mind. When I tested it, this visibility while in the car meant I could ask my other child sitting next to the baby to pass her toy to her, or put her paci back in. It also meant I had enough information to know if I needed to pull over and help the baby with something.

Easy Setup And Connection

Some monitors are a little fussy to set up and pair, but this monitor wasn't one of them. The camera and monitor paired immediately and there was virtually no setup process. It came fully charged and stuck easily to the inside of the windshield as it says it will. In addition, the strap used to attach a camera to the headrest near the baby is well thought out, and fits easily and securely. The niche monitor clearly dedicated to travel does its job well, not adding any stress to car trips.

Option For Second Camera

Purchasing a second camera and watching two kids from the front seat is easy and doable. You don't even need directions to navigate to a split screen in order to see both kids in separate seats at once. The

BETA

picture is still clear in this case, not sacrificing quality for a double view. A second camera is relatively affordable at around $130, making it worth it for families often on car trips or busy parents wanting the security of a clear line of vision to their kids in the back.

Versatility For Beyond The Car

This is more than a car monitor—it's a portable option that can go wherever your family goes, from grandma's house to a camping trip. The promise of eight hours of battery life is accurate, making it a useful tool for significantly long car rides. The auto night vision feature also means you can use it day or night without having to make any adjustments for a clear picture, which is helpful as you use it in a variety of settings. When I tested this function, I was pleasantly surprised that it was a seamless transition and didn't impact the visibility at all.

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By **Rose Gordon Sala** Forbes Staff

BETA

Other Baby Monitors I Tested

I tested 10 baby monitors in total. Here are the other contenders that didn't make the list:

Nanit Pro (Our Score: 6): The easy-to-navigate app on the Nanit Pro offers a superb customizable Wi-Fi experience on your phone. It comes with a band that fits young babies for tracking breathing, and you can buy additional bands for older babies. However, I found that the display was sometimes pixelated as it caught up with the Wi-Fi signal and that it didn't pair as easily as others. (It's worth noting that two experts our team interviewed for this story say that the Nanit Pro is their favorite high-end monitor, so it's still worth looking into.)

Miku Pro Smart Monitor (Our score: 7): focuses heavily on health analytics that parents may or may not care about, such as breathing changes and the amount of time the baby spends sleeping or upset. It had pairing issues while setting up or moving the monitor, which could create extra stress for new parents. The cord didn't securely fit in the

charging brick, causing the monitor to occasionally lose power. Moreover, the price is relatively high compared with the other monitors I tested.

BETA

Motorola Pip 1610 HD (Our score: 7): This monitor was great for a pocket-sized monitor that allows you to easily carry it around the house while you do other things. However, we had issues with the screen image and connectivity, and preferred other options for a larger, crisper image and easier use. However, it did have some nice features like two-way talk, recording and a range of 1,000 feet.

VTech VM3252 Video Baby Monitor (Our score: 6): This budget buy is the cheapest option I found and could suffice for basic video monitor needs. However, the handheld monitor is large and might not fit in your pocket. The image is lower quality, and you have to manually change the camera angle while most of the others pan on their own. However, the adaptive night light changes colors, which is a nice, cute feature that saves parents from buying a separate nightlight.

Hubble Nursery Pal Premium (Our score: 6): This handheld monitor had one of the most creative stands I tested; it's a kickstand-style feature that can prop

the monitor up or collapse to carry in your pocket. But the picture quality was just average, and I had multiple issues pairing the monitor with the camera.

BETA

Papalook BM1 (Our score: 7): This monitor appears to have been discontinued. The Papalook has a thin but heavy portable monitor, as well as a cute, animal-shaped camera with 360-degree rotation—something most other models didn't offer. But the zoom function wasn't as clear and usable as some others, and the initial setup was more challenging than with my other picks.

How I Tested The Best Baby Monitors

Over the course of the past two year, I've tested 13 baby monitors both inside and outside the nursery with my two youngest children. I used their multiple naps per day and overnight sleeps to get to know each monitor thoroughly.

Initial Setup

First, I unboxed each monitor, examined the parts, checked out the directions and charged up all the necessary items. I downloaded the associated mobile app if the monitor had one. I then determined

how easily the camera, monitor and app connected.

User-Friendliness

BETA

I tested each app's user-friendliness by exploring its various features and capabilities. I made sure to note how relevant they are to observing the baby.

Picture Clarity

After setting up each camera in the nursery, I noted how well its associated monitor captured a baby's room. I tried various angles and zoom functions to see how much of the room I could see with the camera.



After extensively testing 10 popular baby monitors, I chose these three as the best: Eufy SpaceView ...

[+] ALEXANDRA FROST FOR FORBES VETTED

Basic Monitor Functions

During naps and overnight sleeps, I tested for sound quality, visibility and the degree of parent-friendliness. I also noted

distress functions such as crying alerts and sensitivity.

Other Settings

BETA

I then tried to customize each monitor's settings:

- I changed views and notifications.
- I tested extra features like lullabies and two-way communication.
- I examined various setup options to determine which would be most useful for most babies' rooms based on their age and mobility. These included wall mounts, floor mounts and standalone camera settings.

Long-Term Testing

I continue to test new models and the top three winners at home with both my toddler and my newborn, so that this article can be regularly updated and continues to provide readers with the best guidance. It was last updated in October 2024.

How To Select The Best Baby Monitor For You

BETA

From choosing between a Wi-Fi and non-Wi-Fi model to the ability to add cameras for multiple children, here's what to consider when picking the best baby monitor for your family.

Wi-Fi Vs. Non-Wi-Fi Monitor

In short, a Wi-Fi monitor connects to your Wi-Fi network, meaning you can view its footage from anywhere, even if you're outside your home (usually via an app on your smart device). The downside is that it's possible for intruders to hack into your baby's camera to eavesdrop or, if there's a two-way audio feature, speak to your little one.

Non-Wi-Fi baby monitors don't pose this hacking risk, but where you can view the footage is limited. Most have a range up to 1,200 feet (often less), so you must be in or near your home to check in on your child.

Easy Setup

For the simplest setup, look for models that come pre-paired with a monitor. You can also look for products that use QR codes for easy instructions and directions with pictures. Non-Wi-Fi monitors are generally easiest to set up since you don't have to deal with the extra step of

connecting them to your Wi-Fi network or making sure device is paired with your phone.

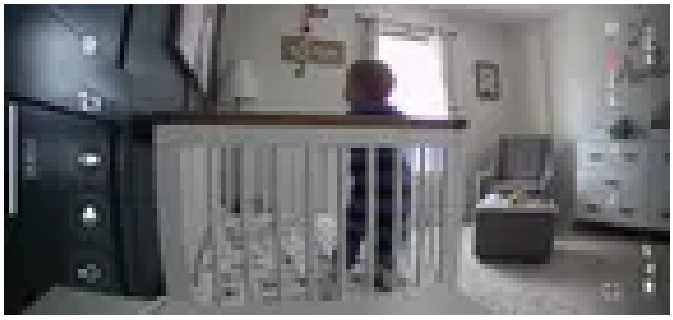
BETA

When it comes to placing or mounting your monitor, we recommend putting it on a shelf with a view of the crib so it's out of reach from your baby (or other kids). Some monitors go over the crib for a birds-eye view; if you want this feature, we recommend securing the monitor per the manufacturer's instructions, whether that's with a wall mount or straps around the crib.

Video Quality

Cameras that can capture HD video have a resolution of at least 720p, so you should aim for this resolution or higher. For models that include a monitor, the bigger the display, the better. If you opt for a Wi-Fi based, app-only system, you can watch your baby on whatever size screen you own. Your screen could be small if you're watching on your phone, or larger on an iPad or other tablet. Keep in mind, though, that the video quality may depend on your Wi-Fi connection.

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A great baby monitor will have a sharp, detailed display you can see on any mobile device. This ... [+] ALEXANDRA FROST FOR FORBES VETTED

Sound Quality

Most monitors do a solid job of helping you hear a crying baby. However, look for options that have multiple sensitivity levels so the monitor isn't picking up too much background noise and alerting you when the baby doesn't really need help.

Additionally, some parents might want two-way communication, according to Shapiro. With this feature, parents can tell a toddler to get back in bed or reassure them that they are safe or communicate with a caregiver in another room (most monitors have this two-way talk option).

Health Analytics And Distress Features

Shapiro warns that parents should be wary of relying on health analytics from a baby monitor. For example, if your baby has a health condition, watching their breathing analytics via an app shouldn't

replace data from certified medical devices that are used under the direction of a doctor.

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“There are a lot of issues that can come up when we’re monitoring things like breathing,” Shapiro tells me. “We should assume the baby is breathing—[these features] can make us hyper anxious. These types of monitors can have fail moments that cause panic for people.” Additional features like detecting if something is over your baby’s face should be unnecessary for those following safe sleep practices, as pediatricians suggest no additional items should be in the crib with your baby in the first place.

Range And Connectivity

Baby monitors without Wi-Fi usually have a range of about 1,000 to 1,200 feet. Some monitors don’t perform as well when they need to penetrate thick walls or multiple floors, like when you have a second-floor nursery or are going outdoors. That means if you opt for a non-Wi-Fi monitor, you need to consider how far you need to go vertically as well as horizontally. Connectivity issues became apparent during setup in my tests, but you can consider returning a product that doesn’t connect well. If you’re concerned about

range, a Wi-Fi monitor may be the way to go.

Security

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Many parents are worried about the security of a Wi-Fi monitor, but there are some simple precautions that can help keep it safe. In addition to password-protecting your network, Shapiro suggests "changing the password regularly, turning the monitor off when you're not using it and making sure you only give the password to people you trust, [along with] updating the software regularly on it." Some units, like the Chillax Giraffe Cam Pro, only let viewers you authorize see the camera feed, adding another layer of security. All said, the best way to ensure you stay hack-free is to opt for a non-Wi-Fi monitor.

App User Experience

Accompanying apps should be user-friendly, and you can partially explore many of them—just take a browse in the app store—before purchasing the monitor. Some monitors come with some level of additional tracking and content, and many have paid memberships or subscriptions that you can level up to after a trial period. You can likely view parenting content for free from other

baby publications, but if having all of the information in your baby monitor app is more convenient, you can add a subscription.

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My Expertise

I'm a parent to five children between the ages of 1 and 10 years old, and I've spent my parenting years testing, analyzing and reviewing baby equipment for publications like *The Washington Post*, *Popular Science* and *Consumer Reports*. I've also tested the best baby swings, the best bassinets and the best high chairs for Forbes Vetted.

I've seen monitors evolve through nearly a decade of parenting and watched brands add numerous features that are sometimes helpful—and sometimes unnecessary. For this article, we also consulted with a number of experts. That includes:

- Jada Shapiro, a postpartum doula, parenting expert and founder of Boober, a site where parents find providers and resources and are matched with experts such as doulas.

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- Tamiz Ahmed, co-founder and CTO of Poppylist, an online registry and parenting resource
- Courtney Zentz, founder and CEO of Tiny Transitions Sleep Coaching, to help answer some of the most frequently asked questions regarding baby monitors.

I continue to test the top-performing monitors in my home, as well as analyze newcomers to the market to consider if they're worthy of our list as well.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What Is The Best Baby Monitor On The Market?

What's The Difference Between A Wi-Fi And Non-Wi-Fi Baby Monitor?

How Do I Choose Between A Wi-Fi And Non-Wi-Fi Baby Monitor?

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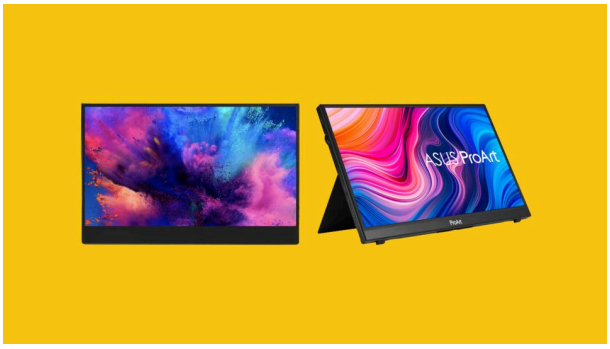
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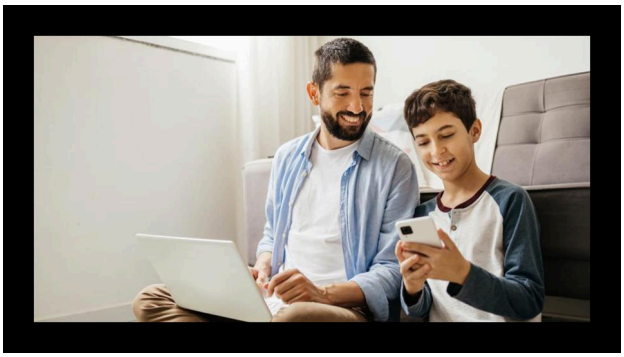
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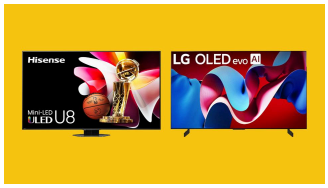


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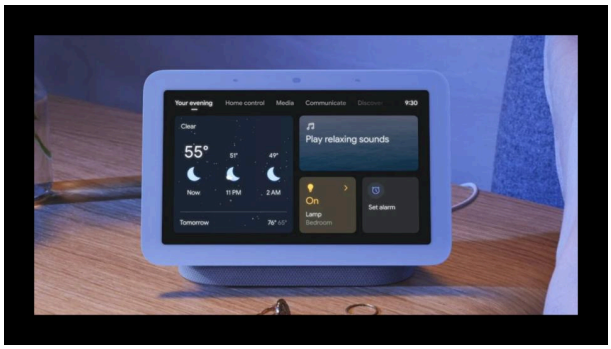
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