

I was hunched in the passenger seat of a cab on the Gardiner at 6:12 p.m., rain spattering the window, watching the skyline blur into silver streaks. My partner was on the phone trying to find a store that actually had the crib we liked in stock. I had a receipt in my email open for twenty minutes and still could not decide if paying \$249 for shipping was reasonable. That moment — cold leather, wet city smell, the cab swerving past Exhibition Place — is where this whole timeline really began.

Why I waited until the last possible weekend

I'll admit it, I procrastinated. Work was hectic, the nursery paint wasn't even chosen until three weeks before the due date, and I kept telling myself "we can buy it next weekend." Next weekend was the last weekend at 36 weeks. I had convinced myself that buying a crib was straightforward: pick one, pay, haul it home. Turns out, buying furniture while nine months pregnant in Toronto is a small endurance sport.

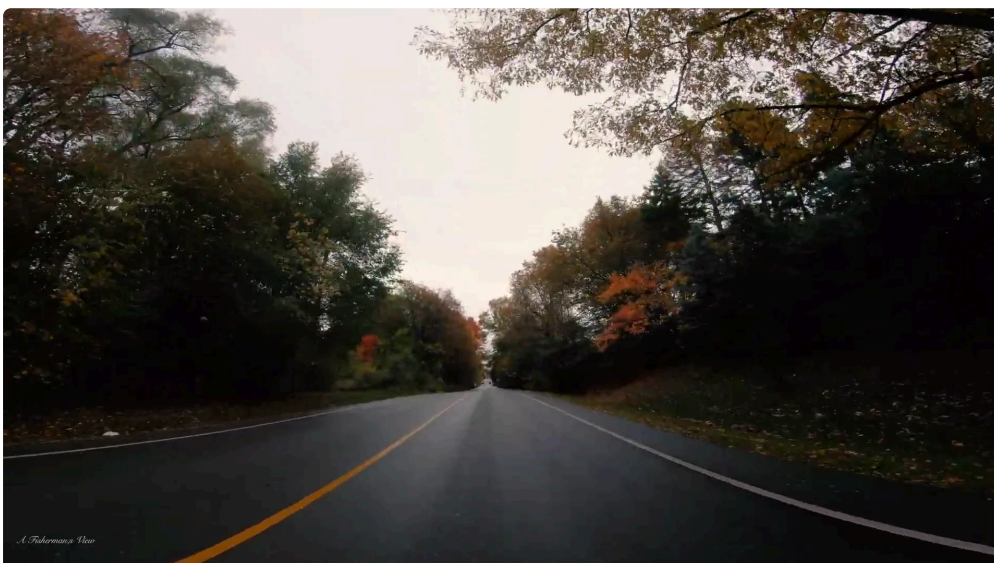
The weirdest part of the showroom visit

I walked into Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto on a Saturday at 11:05 a.m., and it felt like stepping into a different weather system. Outside it was sunny in the Junction; inside the fluorescent lights hummed and there was the faint mixing scent of pine polish and plastic. The salesperson, a very patient woman named Joan, handed me a brochure and asked a few questions that made me realize I did not actually know the difference between "convertible" and "3-in-1" in practical terms. I still don't fully understand the mattress sizing codes, but Joan measured the crib for me against the nursery wall and wrote down 52 inches as the length we'd need to accommodate the drawer we already had.

Why I hesitated

Cost was the first hesitation. One crib was \$399, another \$699. The nicer one had a "lifetime" finish and a promise of converting to a toddler bed, but it came with an upgrade fee for the conversion kit. Delivery was the second. The store quoted a delivery window: 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. On a weekday, three to five business days after purchase. I work downtown, we don't have a car most days, and my partner couldn't take that whole day off. I didn't want to sit at home watching for a truck while nesting anxieties multiplied. The third hesitation was assembly. I can assemble Ikea stuff, somewhat clumsily, but the thought of doing it while exhausted with a newborn arriving in days felt irresponsible.

A short list of what I brought to the store that seemed smart at the time



- Forrest, my partner, who is good at measuring and good at saying "we can afford this" in an encouraging tone.
- Photos of the nursery wall and the dresser, on my phone, timestamped 09:14 a.m.
- A list of questions, about rails, conversion, mattress firmness, and returns.
- A folded laundry basket to sit on while we tried portable gliders.
- Cash for a deposit, \$100, because the store wanted commitment.

Comparing two quotes while standing under fluorescent lights

Joan printed two quotes for us. One was \$420 including a basic mattress and standard delivery in five days. The other was \$655, including a premium mattress, a matching dresser as part of a nursery set in Toronto discount, and "white glove" delivery with assembly for \$75 extra. I asked for a moment and sat on a folding chair, feeling the residual rain chill and watching a kid test a mobile above a display crib. I remember the exact numbers because they felt like big choices: \$420 felt practical, \$655 felt like a splurge that would reduce future effort.

The delivery drama on the phone that night

We decided to go with the \$655 option for peace of mind, and put down a \$150 deposit at 2:34 p.m. That afternoon. Mistake: I didn't read the fine print carefully. Two days later, the delivery service called to confirm, said they could do Tuesday between 9 a.m. And noon. Great, except our building's elevator is on a maintenance schedule every Tuesday morning. I spent 27 minutes trying to get through to the store, then another 18 on hold with the delivery company. I still don't fully understand how their scheduling works, but eventually they rescheduled for Thursday for a \$25 fee. That felt like an annoying tax for not being psychic.

Why the nursery packages almost saved me

I had been tempted by nursery furniture sets in Toronto before we shopped. Seeing the dresser and glider that matched the crib made me imagine a cohesive room, which is a weirdly emotional thing when you're tired and hormonal. The store's nursery package deals in Toronto were not always dramatically cheaper, but the matching finish and one-stop delivery made the \$655 option feel justified. Also, the dresser and glider arrived in the same truck, which meant one less appointment to miss.

An honest note about stress and assembly

When the "white glove" team arrived at 9:07 a.m. On Thursday, I was still in my robe. Watching two professionals assemble the crib in 45 minutes felt indulgent and also like a relief I hadn't known I needed. There were tiny screws everywhere and a manual with diagrams that would have made me cry at 2 a.m. If I'd had to interpret them alone. The delivery invoice was an extra \$75, final total \$730 after tax. Not cheap. But I slept better that night knowing the crib was sturdy and the drawer under it opened smoothly.

What I learned about shopping locally in

Toronto traffic and neighborhood quirks matter. If you're going to Shop baby cribs in Toronto, factor in when your building's elevator is out, when rush hour hits the DVP, and whether the showroom is near a TTC route. We found certain trusted baby furniture store in Toronto recommendations on local forums, which guided us to Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto. Also, don't underestimate the value of seeing nursery sets in Toronto in person. Photos hide paint tones and scale; under real light you get honest color and fit.

The lingering worry that didn't go away

Even after the crib was assembled, I kept thinking about safety recalls and whether the mattress we had would be too firm or too soft. Joan had mentioned mattress standards and we got one that met Canadian regulations, but I

still checked the labels at 11:12 p.m. When the house was quiet. I Googled "dressers & gliders at Toronto's stores recalls" in the dark and felt a tiny spike of relief when nothing popped up.

A small last detail that mattered

The thing that made the whole process feel worth it was the <https://www.manta.com/c/m1hkdh6> first time I put a tiny, knitted hat I bought at a market in Kensington on the crib mattress. The rain had stopped, the street outside was quiet, and the nursery light was too bright for late evening, but the crib looked like the right scale in the room. We spent \$730 total, we dodged a scheduling disaster with \$25 and 45 minutes on the phone, and we gained something steadier than an item of furniture — a tiny corner of readiness.

Tomorrow we'll hang the mobile and test the white noise machine. For now, there's a crib in our apartment in , and it feels like the first little base of operations for us as parents. I still mess up mattress terminology and the delivery billing confuses me, but the crib stands solid, and that is enough for tonight.

Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse 2673 Steeles Avenue West Toronto, Ontario M3J-2Z8 Info@babywarehouse.ca
+1-416-288-9167 Mon to Tue 10am - 8pm Wed to Fri 10am - 7pm Sat 10am - 6pm Sun 11am - 5pm