

Tinies

The Childcare Experts

Recouping Cash from Baby & Children's Items

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There is no denying that babies and children are expensive! Every parent will associate with the seemingly endless amount of things they need... clothes, toys, equipment and more. So many items are used for such a short amount of time and on occasions are grown out of before they are even used.



In this short article we outline some ideas for recouping some of that cash...

Start selling on the internet from the comfort of your home

Before putting outgrown and unwanted items away in drawers, cupboards and garages consider joining a growing number of parents who are selling their items online.

The secret to successful online selling is a good advert:

- Describe your item(s) accurately, honestly and include ALL relevant information that you can think of. A good trick is to ask yourself what you would want to know about this item before deciding whether to buy it. Good sites will give you reminders of information you might like to include. For example, age suitability, sizes and dimensions, brand or make and special features
- Realistic pricing... Put yourself in the buyer's shoes and ask yourself truthfully what you would pay for it. Brand new (never been used) items will fetch a higher price, whereas with used items you must give special consideration to the age and condition, so it is important to price accordingly.

Most importantly, be realistic with your pricing! Buyers will be looking for a bargain and it is always better to make that sale and enjoy the extra cash it generates

- Adverts with photographs tend to generate more interest and sell faster. People like to see what they are going to buy. Always photograph your item against a clean, uncluttered background so that it stands out clearly
- Creating only one advert instead of several saves valuable time and also offers a better bargain to potential buyers. So if you have a collection of similar or relevant items consider selling them together as a bundle instead of individually, for example a bundle of clothes or toys.

And finally, do it today! It is easy to have those good intentions to sell your items but never actually get round to it. So don't put it off until tomorrow... do it today!

Shift the lot at a car boot sale

If you have a spare day one weekend then why not try a local car boot sale, which may have the added benefit of shifting a lot of stuff in one go! Search the internet or local newspapers for a car boot sale near you.

A few basics to remember before tackling a car boot sale:

- Get there early (pack the car the night before), prepare to be accosted as you unpack and ask over-eager buyers to wait until you are ready. Take a good sturdy table and some plastic sheeting in case it rains. Make your pitch stand out (e.g. a colourful tablecloth or homemade sign) and display your items attractively
- Take someone else to help; it's much more fun with two! It's best not to take children who may quickly get bored and could potentially wander off. Charm your customers with some friendly banter but remain impersonal about items (no buyer wants to know the history behind each item)
- Consider prices for your items in advance but don't use price labels; let people ask the price. State the price firmly with no upward inflection in your voice (answering a price query with "£3?" invites the buyer to knock your price down). Take plenty of small change (coins and notes)
- Think about security. Lock your car doors and keep money securely about your person.

And finally, always remember why you are there! It's often best to make a sale than cart items home again... so price or be prepared to haggle accordingly.

A few more ideas...

Getting back to basics, don't forget some of the more 'old fashioned' methods of recovering some cash for those items you no longer want and find out what's happening locally:

- Noticeboards are still a useful way to advertise your items, check out your local Post Office, shop or newsagent. It doesn't take much time or effort to write a quick advert on a postcard. If you can make more eye catching with a photograph
- Many local newspapers take adverts for less valuable items for free in classified sections

And finally, don't be afraid to ask! It's fabulous to give outgrown items to friends or family for their children but when the budget is tight don't be afraid to ask for a bit of money or something in return... perhaps some free babysitting!

Selling outgrown and unwanted items can recoup some cash to buy the necessary new stuff and to ease pressure on the family budget. Just a bit of effort can reap valuable rewards.

This resource has been written in association with beansprog.com. It's an online marketplace for parents to buy and sell their new and second-hand baby and kids items - check it out today.

