

I was hunched over my laptop at 10:14 p.m., rain tapping the condo window like someone impatient, scrolling through crib photos with one hand and scrolling through a long forum thread with the other. The streetlights on Queen West made everything orange and a little blurry. My phone buzzed twice from an unknown number because I had called the Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto earlier and they were confirming the appointment for tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. I kept thinking: why did I wait until the last week of my partner's maternity course to actually look into cribs?

The weirdest part of the night was how random things felt important. The finish on the crib, whether the mattress fit snugly, the size of the dresser so it could squeeze into the nursery beside the window that opens inward. I made a crude spreadsheet — yes, a spreadsheet — with columns for price, finish, availability, and whether the store mentioned certification or just "meets standards." Most entries were vague.

Why I started online first

I did what felt sensible and lazy at the same time: I researched from bed. That meant opening three tabs at once. One tab was the Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto site because I'd heard about them from a neighbour in Leslieville. Another tab was a messy Reddit thread where someone complained about cribs that squeaked. The third was an aggregator that advertised nursery furniture sets in Toronto with free delivery if you spent over \$999.



I called two stores that night, just to get a sense of pricing. One gave me a price range for cribs in Toronto — \$299 to \$899 depending on style and mattress inclusion. The other quoted a nursery set price around \$1,200 if I bought a dresser and crib together, and then cheerfully offered a "nursery package deal in Toronto" with a 10 percent discount on gliders if bought with a set. I scribbled these numbers on a Post-it and stuck it to the laptop like a tiny, judgmental flag.

The weirdest part of the meeting

I admit, I still don't fully understand all the safety jargon. The listings said things like "JPMA certified" and "meets all Canadian regulations," but lots of product pages threw in cozy phrasing too, like "timeless design" and "hand-finished." When I called a local trusted baby furniture store in Toronto, the salesperson was patient and said, "Bring the measurements and we'll help you figure out the fit." That was reassuring. It cost me a little calm to realize I had no idea what the mattress thickness impact was, and he patiently explained why a mattress that was too soft was a problem, which I appreciated.

What I actually did before stepping foot in showrooms

Here's the short list of practical things I brought to the store the next morning:

- floor plan with measurements, including window swing and heater location
- a tape measure
- pictures of the exact crib finishes I liked
- the Post-it of price ranges and two store names

Traffic and the showroom smell

Driving across the city at 10:50 a.m., the Gardiner was inching like a river of molasses. I hit a stretch of roadwork near Dufferin that added 12 minutes to the trip. Toronto drivers showed their usual mix of patience and sass: one person honked when someone dared to merge, another let me in with a wave. By the time I walked into the Baby & Kids Furniture Warehouse Toronto showroom, my hair had <https://maps.google.com/maps?cid=10497623806724502236> a few rain droplets and I had that too-alert feeling you get after a late night and caffeine.

Showrooms always smell the same to me: a mix of sawdust, a little chemical polish, and coffee. This one had several cribs set up with different mattresses, and a row of nursery sets in Toronto along the back wall. I ran my hand along a white crib slat and it left a faint dust trace. A staff member named Maria greeted me and said, "Take your time. Ask if you want to try folding the glider." I didn't know there was such a thing as testing a glider in a showroom, but I did it anyway. The glider squeaked the tiniest bit on the second push. Not a deal breaker, but now I knew to ask about the glider warranty.

Real conversations, not polished ads

I appreciated the bluntness of one salesperson who told me, "That cheaper crib will be fine, but you won't be able to convert it into a toddler bed later." That matters because we had planned for a room that could evolve. Another staffer walked me through the nursery furniture sets in Toronto and explained how dressers & gliders at Toronto's stores often come with different seat fabrics that change the price by about \$80 to \$200. I asked about delivery windows and was told two to three weeks for stocked items, four to six for custom finishes. That was more realistic than the "in stock" label on a website.

The quotes I scribbled down felt real and human. One crib, simple and beech-colored, was \$359 with a \$79 mattress. A more elaborate conversion crib was \$799, or \$999 if I wanted the three-drawer dresser package. There was a nursery package deal in Toronto that bundled the crib, dresser, and glider for \$1,450, which seemed decent after math and exasperated sighs.

The friendly surprises and the annoyances

Surprises: some stores were running small discounts if you bought a nursery set and a mattress together, which knocked off about \$60 to \$120. Delivery people at one shop promised they would assemble the crib at the door for an extra \$50, which felt worth it.

Annoyances: online photos rarely showed the inside of a drawer or the back of a crib. One online listing for "espresso finish" turned out in person to be much darker and redder than the photos, which would have clashed with our grey walls. Also, conflicting advice from forums made my head spin: one parent swore by a firmer mattress, another insisted on a specific brand. I learned to treat those as anecdotes, useful but not gospel.

Why I left without buying

I left the showroom feeling oddly accomplished and also a little naive. I had talked prices, tested gliders, and measured space. I still didn't buy because of one dumb reason: the crib I loved most was the right price, but the finish would likely clash with the old oak floor in the nursery, and I couldn't justify ordering without seeing a

sample in our light. Maria told me they could bring a finish sample with delivery, but I wanted to live with it for a day in natural light.

What I'll do next

I scheduled one more showroom visit across town and set up a delivery quote for the crib I like. I plan to sleep on it for two nights and then lean on the neighbour in Leslieville who actually has a crib from the same line. If the finish reads warm in the morning light, I'll call and place the order. If not, I'll go back to the warehouse and ask to see other finishes in person.

I still feel a little overwhelmed by choices and a little thrilled that these small decisions will be part of a room where someone tiny will sleep. I don't have everything figured out, but I do have numbers, a better idea of what squeaks and what doesn't, and a Post-it stuck to my laptop with three realistic prices. For now, that counts as progress.

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