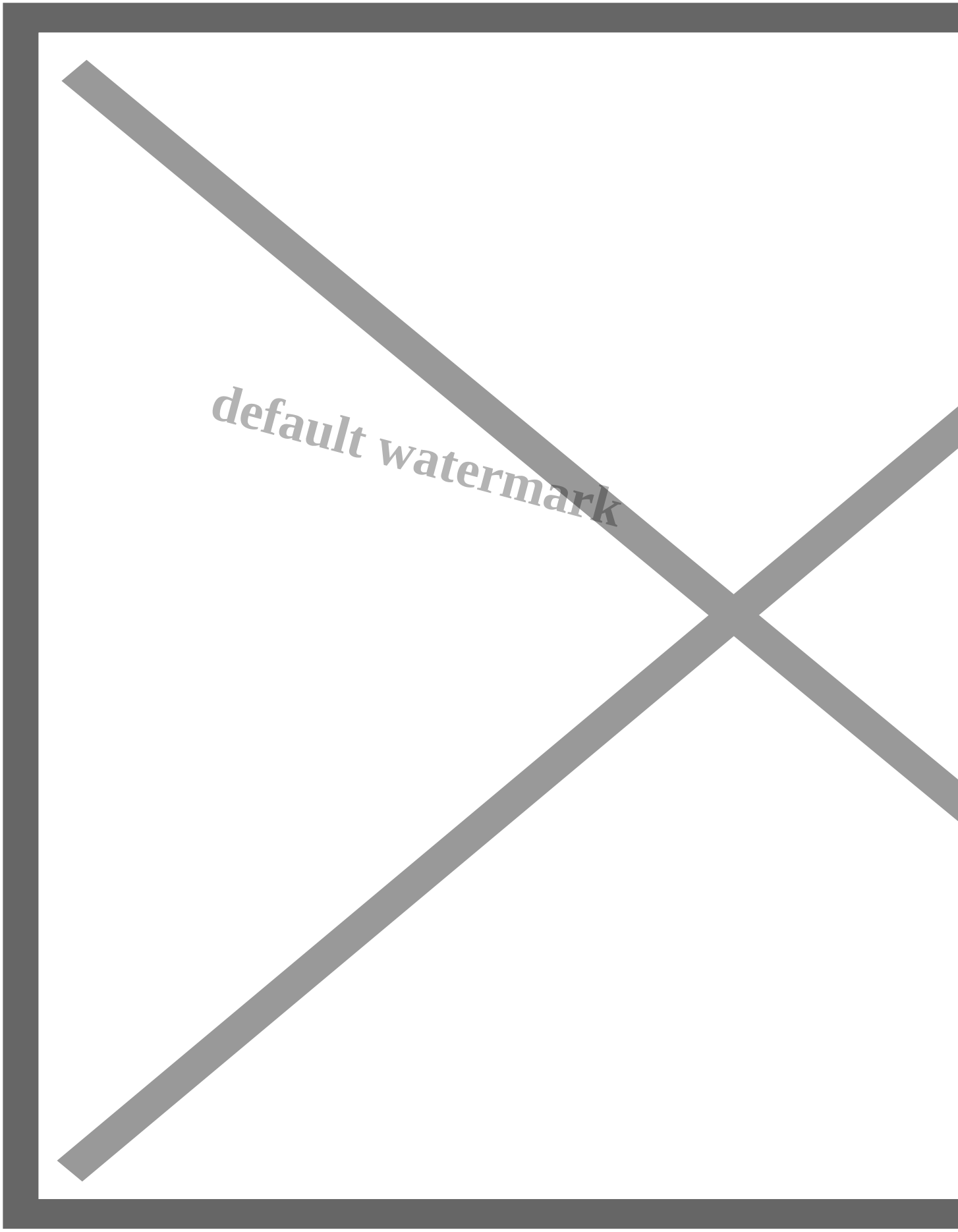
Tips: How to Save Money in Your Newborn Babyâ??s First Year

Description

Raising a baby doesnâ??t have to be expensive, and Iâ??ll be sharing my own tips on what worked for me along the way as I raise my own baby Nate. But first, let me let you in on a secret: I paid only $15 for my babyâ??s diapers (newborn size) and almost nothing for his toiletries in the first few months, largely thanks to free samples. That saved me a ton of money! Hereâ??s how I did it.

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Thereâ??s a LOT of stuff to buy for a newborn baby, but not everything is essential, so focus on just what you need if your budget is *reallllllly* tight. *(eg. you can skip stuff like a changing table because you wonâ??t need it after 2+ months once your baby learns how to flip)* Iâ??m a huge advocate of baby products with **dual-functions**, or even repurposing stuff so that I get more mileage back on my dollar! Some of the bigger costs involved in caring for a newborn baby includes stuff like diapers, baby-safe toiletries, furniture, healthcare and insurance. Iâ??ll share with you how I got around them and kept my costs low.

1. Attend Pregnancy Conferences

This is my #1 tip for any expecting parent in Singapore. Weâ??re extremely lucky to have a myriad of pregnancy conferences organised every year to help us (especially first-time parents!) ease into parenthood. Not only do you get to learn about nutrition during pregnancy, what to expect during labour, how to deal with labour pains, etc, you also usually get a free goodie bag if you stay till the end, and thereâ??s tons of great value in those bags!

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For instance, check out my goodie bag from Thomson Medicalâ??s pregnancy conference:

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The ticket price you pay (ranges from $5 â?? $20) is honestly too cheap considering the value of the items you get to bring home from most of their goodie bags! I attended 4 pregnancy conferences during my time and accumulated so many free samples that I didnâ??t have to pay for any breastmilk storage bottles or bags, and saved on baby toiletries in my first few months!

2. Go For Baby Fairs

This is another great way to not only check out awesome deals but also get free samples at the same time. I attended 2 baby fairs in 2017 when I was pregnant and got a box of 10 MamyPoko diapers each time. If you walk around the booths, many of them will give you samples as well to try out!

3. Get Free Diaper Samples Online, or by Contacting the Diaper Brands Directly

Every babyâ??s skin is different. For instance, some people like Drypers because itâ??s the cheapest, but surely their baby must have some thick skin because Drypers doesnâ??t work for baby Nate â?? it scratches his skin and leaves nasty red marks. Hence, it is worth getting samples from all the different diaper brands in order to find what works best for your baby before you commit to one.

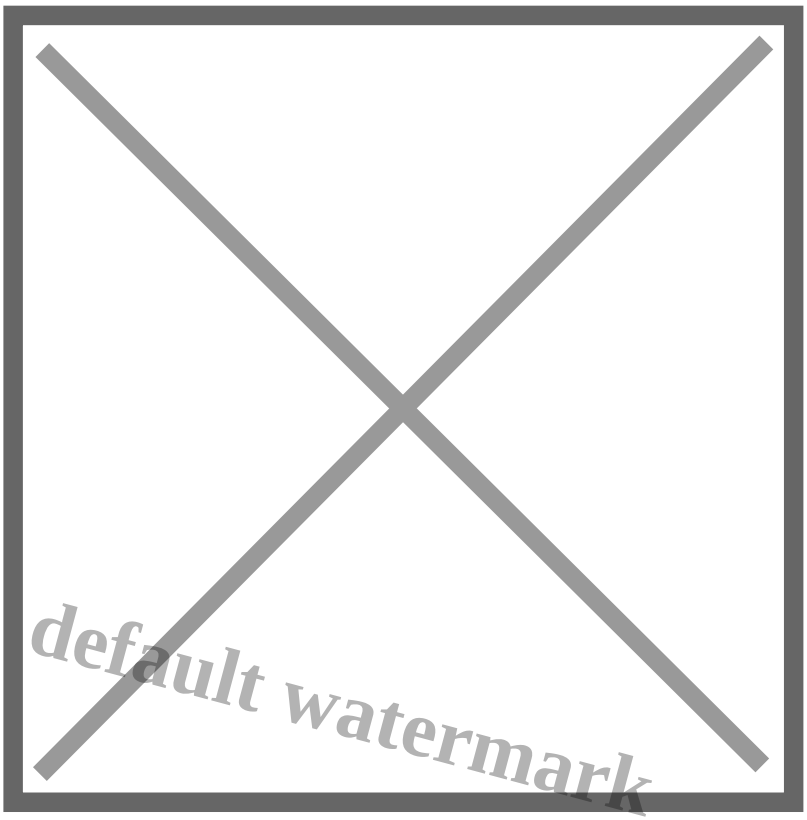
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Many of the brands are only happy to send you samples to try, for once youâ??re a customer, youâ??ll be buying LOTS of diapers from them for the months and years to come! Hereâ??s where I got mine from:

- Huggies
- Merries
- MamyPoko / Moonyâ??s
- Drypers
- Sensi
- Pee Ka Poo
- Babioniq
- Rascal and Friends

4. Get Free Skincare / Toiletries Samples Online

- Cetaphil
- **Cherub Rubs**
- **Suu Balm**
- Bepanthen
- **Aveeno**



Abbott Family / Similac

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5. Get Free Maternity Milk Samples / Bundles Online

- Abbott Family
- Dumex
- Nestle Baby Club
- Similac
- Anmum

6. Claim Your Free NTUC Good Start Bundle (after youâ??ve given birth)

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You can read my post here on whatâ??s included in the bundle.

Tip: it includes â??freeâ?• hospitalisation insurance for the first year!

7. Get Insurance For Your Baby

Trust me, one way to keep your costs low will be to insure your baby with a hospitalisation plan as soon as you can (typically after 2 weeks of birth). If you can afford slightly more, I would also highly recommend a personal accident cover to supplement it, given that babies are extremely prone to falls and injuries. In this way, you basically pay a few hundred dollars each year to avoid being slapped with bills in the thousands. Go figure for yourself if thatâ??s worth it.

Iâ??ve previously written about how they work here, so you can read the post to understand more. Another way to save money would be to claim the free ones, such as from NTUC Income (free for the first year with the NTUC Good Start Bundle) or Aviva (complimentary for mothers who deliver in Thomson Medical or Mount Alvernia Hospital).

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8. Get Your Child Vaccinated at a Polyclinic Instead of Going to a Paediatrician

If you go to the polyclinic, as a Singaporean, youâ??ll get the compulsory vaccines for FREE! (Otherwise, if youâ??re a PR you can get subsidised rates, which are still cheaper than at most paediatricians.)

Baby Nate is fully vaccinated at our nearest polyclinic!

9. Breastfeed On Demand

I know this isnâ??t always possible for some mothers (including myself, as I yield only 30ml every 3 hours), but if youâ??re blessed with a good supply of breastmilk, that will help you save tons of money on formula milk!

If not, read my post here on what brand of infant formula milk we use for baby Nate and why.

10. Buy Secondhand Baby Furniture Online

Because babies outgrow their cots and playpens so quickly, there are many parents selling their baby furniture online for cheap just so they can clear space. We got our rocker, baby cot and play gym for less than $300 combined simply by buying on Carousell. Hooray!

11. Buy From Taobao

I bought a whole bunch from Taobao which were not only super wallet-friendly but also of great quality. You can check out my Taobao shopping links here in my previous post.

12. Buy From Shopee or Qoo10

These sites are great for baby stuff like diapers and more, as they often run timed sales so do keep a lookout for them! Stack with coupons and claim shop vouchers as well, and check out with a cashback card to get even more money back from your online shopping! I was able to buy milk powder and diapers for cheap thanks to a combination of these hacks.

13. Buy From iHerb

I love iHerb for baby toiletries, skincare, and nursing tea. Brands that I get from iHerb which are wayyyyy cheaper than buying retail in Singapore would be Aveeno, Desitin, Avalon Organics, Earthmama, Babyganics, Gerbs, and more.

14. Buy Via Shopback

Use a cashback site like Shopback together with a good credit card to chalk up cashback or miles for all your online spending! Need a referral code to get $5 off your first order? Feel free to click through my affiliate link if you like ð???

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15. Install the RateX Chrome Extension to Help You Apply Promo Codes Automatically!

Always searching for the latest (and valid!!) promo codes to get a discount off your online shopping? Get it done with just one code now with the RateX Chrome extension, which Iâ??ve been using for my purchases on RedMart, Lazada, Honestbee, and more! Click here to install and get $8 instantly, or read my review here first.

16. Donâ??t Rush To Buy Toys

You might receive them as a gift from friends or relatives who canâ??t wait to spoil your baby, so donâ??t make the mistake of buying toys too early! I almost did until a good friend reminded me, and thankfully I heeded her advice because baby Nate received quite a number of toys as gifts during his 100th-day bash! Another good friend of mine also dropped off a bunch of toys that her own kids no longer needed. You can also buy secondhand ones for cheap from Carousell, or even DIY your own! Iâ??ve DIY-ed a few toys for baby Nate (to help train his motor skills) and he loves them â?? will share photos of them on my Instagram soon so you can keep a lookout there if youâ??re keen to learn how to DIY your own toys too!

And thatâ??s how I save money even while caring for a newborn ð??? thereâ??ll be more expenses to come as they grow older, but in the meantime, you can save some money this way while saving up for their education. Remember, youâ??ve got this!

With love,
Dawn

Category

1. Family
2. Pregnancy

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