



Camping with Kids

Nature delivers a full-on sensory experience, and a family trip is a great way to bond! Use this guide to gather some tips for getting started and making camping with kids a good experience for everyone.

Practice Camping at Home

- Pitch a tent in the living room to let them hang out in for a day and even sleep in for the night
- Once they get comfortable with the tent, put it in the backyard
- Be sure they are comfortable in a new sleeping environment
- It is also a good idea to have a family day at the park, so they are aware of their surroundings and being in nature

Let Them Help Pack

- With the help of our What to Pack Guide, let them pick out their own clothes and personal belongings to take with them
- This gives the child responsibility and a sense of importance

Pack Their Favorite Food

- Pack foods you know they'll like so this new adventure isn't totally new
- Be sure to keep ready-to-go snacks on hand

Choose A Family Friendly Campsite

- Some campgrounds have ballfields, beaches or other swimming areas, picnic tables, etc.
- For your first camping trip as a family, start small by sticking close to home and choose more developed campgrounds with lots of amenities that suit your family's needs
- Ask your kids what they would like to do while camping and find a campground that provides that

Add Special Touches

- Buy a couple special items that can add to your child's camping enjoyment
- Consider glowsticks, their own headlamp and flashlight
- To make them feel extra special, buy camp chairs and sleeping bags with their favorite character or animal on it

Involve Your Kids

- Teach them the basics like how to set up the tent, start the fire, prepare the meals, etc.
- Give them small tasks to do that makes them feel like an adult

Stick to a Familiar Bedtime Routine

- Young kids love routine, do not skip it!
- Pack their favorite pajamas, brush their teeth and read them a few stories about the great outdoors