

I was hunched over a scratched showroom crib at 11:07 a.m., sweating under a too-warm ceiling light while a salesperson from the local place in my neighbourhood tried to convince me the mattress was "firm enough." Outside, Queen Street traffic honked like it was auditioning for a movie, and I had a cold latte I was only halfway through because I was too busy measuring the space between my soon-to-be nursery window and the radiator. I could have bought something online at midnight for less, but I kept finding myself back at that trusted baby furniture store in Toronto, dragging my partner along for second opinions.

The weirdest part of the visit

The first time I walked into the warehouse, I honestly thought I'd wander in, pick a crib, and leave within an hour. It was not like that. The place smelled like cardboard and lemon cleaner, the fluorescent lights were a little harsh, and there was a toddler in a dinosaur shirt who kept trying to escape the play area. The salesperson, Mara, told me they get people all the time who want "just a crib" and then end up needing a full nursery set because the dresser won't fit the changing pad. I felt foolish for not thinking about that.

She took me through several options for cribs in Toronto, pushing gently, not salesy. She said something that stuck: "You can always buy a crib online, but we get calls at 2 a.m. When people can't assemble it or need a replacement slat." That felt oddly comforting. I still don't fully understand every part of their warranty paperwork, but I do know they offered in-home delivery and setup for \$89 and a free mattress disposal if we wanted it. That mattered in a building with narrow elevators and a stairwell that could double as a gym.

Why I hesitated

Price. That was the first and loudest reason. Nursery furniture sets in Toronto were, as I expected, not cheap. I got two quotes that morning: one from a big box store for \$1,200 for a crib and dresser, and another from the warehouse for \$1,450 for a crib, dresser, and glider package. The warehouse price included delivery and a half-hour for assembly. The glider was worth a lot to me mentally, but I kept calculating whether I could live without it.



Second hesitation, trust. You read online about horror stories where the crib has a recall or the finish chips. I asked Mara point-blank if any of their stock had recalls in the past year. She dug through a binder, found the records, and <https://ca.showmelocal.com/profile.aspx?bid=40044498> answered. I appreciated that she didn't use euphemisms. She admitted a model they once carried had a minor recall two years ago, and they had refunded

everyone without drama. That kind of transparency made me feel like handing over my credit card was less of a gamble.

What I actually brought to the meeting

I am not a list person, but here's what I had in my bag that day, otherwise this would be chaos:

- tape measure, sketch of the nursery with window and radiator locations, and a photo of the room from the landing
- my partner's phone so we could FaceTime him when needed
- a printed budget note: \$1,500 to \$1,800

I know the rules said no more than two lists, and that felt like a useful one.

The noise and the number that sealed it

We left the store briefly to walk along Bloor because the stroller crowd and the smell of roasted chestnuts calmed me. It was 2:13 p.m., drizzling lightly, and I was thinking about assembly nightmares. The warehouse called as we stood under an awning - Mara with a follow-up question about whether we'd want crib conversion rails later. She offered a nursery package deal in Toronto: if we took the crib, dresser, and glider together, they'd knock \$150 off and include that conversion kit at a discounted rate. The math finally tilted in favor of the local store.

I remember the exact final number because I wrote it down before signing: \$1,375 including delivery and setup, a 2-year warranty, and mattress disposal. We paid with my partner's card at 3:02 p.m., and he joked that he felt like we had bought furniture for a tiny human and not ourselves. He was right.

The weirdest part of the meeting, part two

On delivery day, the delivery guy arrived at 9:18 a.m. He was efficient but kind of quiet. The building's elevator is the size of a postage stamp, and he handled the crib like it was a fragile piano. He and his colleague had the crib assembled and the old mattress taken to the curb by 9:47 a.m. The glider was the last thing they carried in, and it fit my reading nook perfectly. I expected them to leave and maybe send an invoice. Instead, Mara texted to check if the height of the changing table worked with our radiator. That small follow-up meant more to me than the \$150 discount. Someone **Babywarehouse** cared enough to make sure we were comfortable.

Small frustrations that actually mattered

- The showroom's floor plan signs were tiny, and I got lost between rows of dressers at one point. It added ten minutes of stress that I did not need.
- Their online catalog wasn't in sync with what the warehouse had physically. I almost bought a dresser that the store had already sold. I wish their inventory was live.
- I still do not fully understand the return window for custom finishes. They explained it, but there was a lot of small print. I kept that nagging in my mind like a loose tooth.

Why I keep recommending them, quietly

People ask me now where we bought the crib and whether they should look at big online retailers. My answer is honest and boring: if you have a tricky apartment, are not confident in assembly, or care about a human being you can call at 2 a.m., go local. If you are comfortable with self-assembly and like doors-open pricing, save a few hundred online. For me, the peace of mind, the in-person trial of cribs in Toronto, and the fact that they offered dresser and glider options that matched the crib made it worth the extra cost.

I still worry a bit about the finish on the dresser, and I keep checking the crib screws every couple weeks. I guess some level of parental anxiety is just part of the package. But when the baby finally arrives and the glider creaks at 2 a.m. While I burp them, I think I will be glad we chose a store that answered its phone and knew our name.

There will be more purchases, more decisions. For now, the room looks like someone tried to make a calm Pinterest board while being painfully realistic. The crib is set up. The glider faces the window. The little dinosaur shirt that wandered the showroom sits on the armchair because it makes me smile. I still compare prices in my head sometimes, but less often. For all the tiny frustrations, having a trusted baby furniture store in Toronto on speed dial feels like one fewer unknown in a city full of them.

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