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Six of the best child-safety gadgets

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Baglite

Reasons to buy This set is designed to attach permanently to a cyclist's backpack, and comprises two white lights to the front, one red light to the rear. They can be set to flash or to be constantly on, and will never require batteries.

Reasons not to They are not intended as a replacement for proper lights, but as a back-up safety system.

Verdict These lights are brilliant. When they are not on, they use natural light to recharge themselves via built-in solar cells, so when you switch them on again they're ready to go. They are not the brightest, but flashing lights such as these are a good extra alert for motorists.

Price £26 from www.amazon.co.uk

www.pedalite.com

Mummy Stay Close

Reasons to buy This is a cheap and cheerful way of stopping toddlers from straying too far. When your child wanders a maximum of 20 metres away it automatically emits a warning beep.

Reasons not to It feels cheap and cheerful, and the garish colour scheme may not appeal to either parents or their offspring.

Verdict Simple to set up and easy to operate, this does the job that it's supposed to quickly and effectively. The emergency alarm button on the child's bear-shaped wristband is a nice touch.

Price £17.99

www.mummystayclose.co.uk

Doro Handle Plus 334 Mobile phone

Reasons to buy You want your children to stay in touch, but not run up huge mobile bills? This four-button phone, originally designed for the elderly, may be just the job. It's contract-free, so can be used with any carrier.

Reasons not to Design is not the most elegant, and initial programming of phone numbers on to the four buttons is not as easy as it might be.

Verdict Of all the scores of gadgets that come through the Playlist office, this one provoked the most interest. It's not only functional but it also has a sort of retro cool feel about it. Whether your kids will see it that way in the school playground, we really couldn't say.

Price Around £115 from www.easytousemobiles.com

www.doro-uk.com

My Baby's Home Safety Starter Set

Reasons to buy You have a new baby or a crawler in the home, and you realise how dangerous your house is.

Reasons not to Your children have grown up and already have been electrocuted into respect for danger.

Verdict This 32-piece set comes at a bargain price and comprises 8 corner cushions; 4 door slam stoppers; 12 socket covers; 6 drawer and cupboard latches; and 2 cabinet slide locks. It has won a host of awards from parenting publications.

Price £7.82 from Tesco

www.tesco.com

SPOT GPS

Reasons to buy If your child is off globe-trotting, this device will not only help you keep tabs on them, but send emergency alerts to rescue teams worldwide. Position can be updated every ten minutes using Google Maps.

Reasons not to On top of the initial purchase price, Spot GPS requires an annual subscription of 99 euros, and GPS location will cost you a further £30 per year.

Verdict This is a serious bit of kit, a version of the sort of high-tech equipment that's normally carried by mountaineers and jungle explorers. We did not have time to take one to the top of Kilimanjaro, but its ability to send automatic e-mails and location data is impressive, even if you do have to pay for it.

Price £134.10 plus annual subscription from www.iwantoneofthose.com

www.findmespot.eu/en

Weeride Bicycle Seats

Reasons to buy You want to take the little ones with you when riding around, and spare them the danger of traffic and the hazards of perching on the handlebars.

Reasons not to The Weeride can cost as much as a bicycle.

Verdict By positioning the seat and child between a rider's arms, the Weeride does not interfere with the balance of the bike too much. Because the child faces forward, he or she can enjoy the ride as much as you do.

Price From £69.99 from www.mothercare.com

www.weeride.com

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