

Katy Mansfield Shares her Real Nappy Secret!



I have 2 boys, William who is 3 years and Edward who is 9 months. I decided on Real Nappies before William was born, picked out Mothercare Smart Nappies and bought the starter set in the small size.

I wanted to use Real Nappies because they cost less, because of the environment and my parents were also encouraging as with their three children they used Terry nappies. It was only once we got stuck in that I realised the other benefits.

There are loads of good things about reusables, cost is one of the main things but also that we never run out. A full set is just a wash away and there are no midnight runs to the supermarket because we've run out!

Changing on the go is part of the fun. Smart nappy expansion bits come in these nifty plastic zip wallets so I go out with a prepared nappy in a wallet, this makes it smaller and easier to find in the bag. Some parents might worry about having a bulkier nappy to carry around with them but for me it just means that I can have a really cool changing bag, and be that mum who always has everything in the bag!

The most unusual place I've changed a nappy would be a window sill of a pub. An old pub with thick walls and deep window sills!! There were no changing facilities there so it seemed the best place! My quickest change was on a corner bench in a cafe, they had nowhere to change a child so I managed to change Edward without anyone noticing. My mum was acting as lookout!

As for stashing dirty nappies on the go, well I found that a Smart Nappy or two fits very nicely into a small Harrods carrier bag. Folded over at the top you can't smell even the smelliest nappy. If we have the luxury of being near a bin the liner is thrown away. The Harrods bag so far has lasted ages, and it makes me smile to use something posh for the job!

If you want to give Real Nappies a go, make sure you research what suits you and pick the best. The 3 different sizes of nappy we have meant I could have two in nappies for a few months without buying any more for my second. Also you need to get into a routine; I put all dirty nappies into the washing machine at the end of the day and hang them to dry overnight. Then I collect them up in the morning to make up for the day. Oh and make sure you have a reliable source of consumables like liners and soak, either local or online. I bulk buy on the Internet to save delivery cost as we are in Cornwall and nowhere stocks these things locally.

My Real Nappy secrets are: use reusable wipes; so easy when you are washing nappies too and I find them easier and quicker at their job compared with disposables, to be blunt less poo on the fingers when your toddler is trying to run the hundred meters with a full nappy!

Also reusable nappies hide the smell of a stinky nappy from the public when you're out. I can smell toddlers a mile off at play group when they need a change, with Edward however I have to watch for the poo face, as I can't smell it until I am holding his bum to my nose!

Real Nappies are so much easier and quicker to get on compared to disposables and because of the Velcro you can have as many resets of the tabs as you like! Also they don't look like nappies so changing in odd places is a lot easier!

My husband who just went a long with it all to start with is a full convert, especially to the wipes and the robustness of the nappies. My husband, who is a strong guy, has a few disposable tab breakages which lead to a repeat of putting on a nappy and some moderated language towards the nappy manufacturer!!