

PersonWORKS

IN THIS NEWS LETTER, WE WILL DISCUSS...

- Traveling Tips for the Month of January – From a Mom with Twins!
- Our trip to Hawaii
- Scanning Photos



Traveling Tips for the Month of January – From a Mom with Twins!



When it comes to baby proofing go the whole nine yards. Don't just do 90% of what is necessary, do the whole 100%. When you only partially baby proof it is easy to get a false sense of security, for your child(ren) and yourself. You may think that they are perfectly safe, but there's always a chance your child will get behind the chair you had blocking dangerous cords. Or maybe they find a way to climb over the chairs blocking the steps. None of us can afford even the most "minor" mishap in the area of safety. Bottom line: 100% baby proofing is the way to go.

Tip: While on vacation, don't bother baby proofing the whole condo, or hotel room, just do 100% in one room or one area and you are set! One way to baby proof 100% is to get down on your child's level and see the potential dangers, such as outlets and cords. Another good thing to do is watch them closely and see what they get into as well. That way you may catch things you never thought of – such as them using the oven drawer as a step to reach the burners on the top of the stove!

Tip: Instead of having to lug the car seat(s) throughout the airport, I suggest purchasing these amazingly handy car seat straps: <http://tinyurl.com/yh6meax>. These straps are a lifesaver. Not only do they allow you to tote your child's car seat and your carry-on, but your child too! Tip: I suggest a trial run with these straps before you head to the airport. They can be tricky the first time you use them. No joke, we almost missed a plane trying to figure them out right before a trip!



Our trip to Hawaii



Over the winter holiday we were lucky enough to go on a trip to Hawaii. Although we had caring and supportive family to help with our twins, I discovered along the way that even as an organizer, and even if you have assistance, you can never plan enough! Let me share with you all the mistakes I made preparing for, and during, the trip.

Before the children I never made a packing list, I always had the list in my head. Now that I have kids, I find (not surprisingly) that things are way too overwhelming to pack myself, my children, and my husband: I simply can't keep it all in my head. To avoid the immense chaos that might have ensued, I created a master list. I will tell you that the kids' bags were packed to perfection. The gaps in my logic presented themselves upon our arrival, when it came to unpacking my personal bag and my husband's carry on. I forgot essential items that were either expensive or impossible to replace during our vacation. Here are the two critical things I forgot:

Medical Supplies: We forgot the mask to my husband's CPAP machine. This was a disaster. By the time it could have been mailed to Hawaii, we would have been long gone. The CPAP machine and other medical supplies are sometimes hard or impossible to find.

Medication: Triple check your pill supply to make sure you're packing enough. THEN pack extra pills just in case your flight is delayed or other unforeseen circumstances occur. I somehow miscounted and didn't bring enough with me and had a hard time getting a refill while in Hawaii.

Perfect the master packing list by adding what you forgot to bring with you to your list when you get home. For example, in addition to the CPAP machine, we didn't bring our snorkeling gear, so I added it to my master list upon our return. This way, the next time we go to Hawaii we won't leave this gear behind. I now have a master list for tropical getaways, as well as one for family holidays.

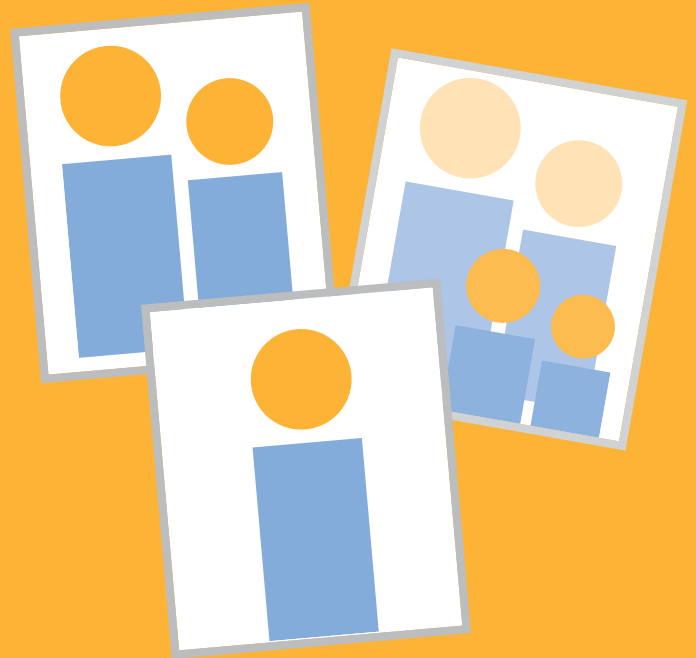
Tips about your drivers' license:

First of all don't use it as collateral for a bathroom key. You may think you will remember it, but you probably won't. Especially, in a place like Hawaii where everyone around you is very low key and relaxed, you'll find yourself equally relaxed and may forget it.

If you do lose your drivers' license, you may be able to get through airport security with your Costco card, birth certificate or passport. I recommend you definitely call the airport ahead for advice. With the last unfortunate terrorist threat over the holidays this may not be possible anymore.

Just remember when packing even an organizer can make mistakes, so don't beat yourself up if you forget your toothbrush!

Scanning Photos



Over the thanksgiving holiday, I was looking through photo albums with my family. A few of the photos were so old they were deteriorating. My husband and I were worried about these family treasures, so we decided to scan all of the old photos to keep our visual family records intact. This is one way to create amazing, and unique, family trees!

As I started the scanning process, I was labeling the photos with generic names like, "mom with me at the beach" or "mom holding me". My husband came up with this **Tip:** label your photos as if a stranger would be looking at them. For example, use your loved ones' full names, including your own. "Mary and her daughter Grace at the beach," for example.

We also decided to scan the photos so that each and every family member would have the photos. That way there would be no disagreements about who would get the photos. Plus, it is nice to have them. We posted our photo collection on www.photobucket.com and www.facebook.com so that our families could access the photos for quick viewing. Another way to distribute photos to everyone is to burn them onto CDs. We save our photos on an external hard drive. However you decide to scan the photos and store them, just be sure to label the photos for future generations.

