

I was hunched over the half-built crib at 2:13 pm, sweat on my upper lip even though the day had been rainy and 10 degrees, and the IKEA Allen key felt like a medieval torture device. The baby monitor box sat unopened on the kitchen counter. Outside, a TTC bus sighed to a stop and someone two floors down was arguing in Polish, loud and earnest. I remember thinking, of all the things I expected from becoming a parent, dismantling and reassembling furniture in a tiny Leslieville condo at mid-afternoon was not on the list.

The weirdest part of the delivery

The delivery truck from the baby & kids furniture warehouse Toronto place showed up exactly at 9:05 am, which was a relief after they'd texted a vague window of "between 8 and 12." The two delivery guys were cheerful and professional, except one of them kept apologizing because the nursery sets in Toronto they'd dropped off before us had been missing a crib rail. He promised to check inventory, and I nodded like that made sense, while imagining my future toddler on a rolling mattress. They carried the boxes in, leaving a trail of cardboard down the hallway like confetti. I still don't fully understand how they manage returns or exchanges, but they did hand me a receipt with "nursery package deals in Toronto" scribbled in the comments. It felt oddly official.

Why I hesitated before buying

We had walked past the storefront a few times — the sign said trusted baby furniture store in Toronto in a simple font — and one Saturday in late March we finally went in. The store smelled faintly of wood varnish and baby shampoo, there were a couple of strollers being tested by exhausted-looking parents, and a salesperson named Marco offered coffee. He showed us a nursery furniture set in Toronto that matched our apartment's aesthetic: white crib, changing dresser, and a glider that folded like origami when not in use. The crib mattress was 52 cm by 130 cm, which sounded precise and terrifying at the same time.

The hesitation was mostly price. Marco quoted us \$1,150 for the crib, \$420 for the dresser, and \$300 for the glider, plus \$60 for a mattress. He mentioned package deals, and after some back-and-forth we ended up paying \$1,700 for everything, which saved us about \$170. I had imagined paying much less, but then I also remembered the late-night forum threads warning against tiny cheap cribs. So we paid, because you pay for sleep in ways you don't anticipate.

What I brought to assembly (short and honest)

- patience: lasted about 30 minutes before thinning
- a cold cup of coffee, now warm
- the instruction manual, which used 87 tiny words for "insert screw"
- my partner, who kept saying "we can do this" and was right

The assembly saga

Putting the crib together took 2 hours and 10 minutes, with a 12-minute argument about which side was the headboard. There were seven screws that refused to behave until I used the wrong screwdriver and then the right one. The mattress fit like a glove, but the mattress cover smelled faintly of plastic, so I left it by the open window which let in the smell of wet asphalt and the faint scent of frying from the diner on Queen Street East. I learned the hard way that the manufacturer's warning "do not overtighten" is advice, not a suggestion. One strip of veneer split and now I have a tiny permanent scar to the crib's finish.

The dresser was heavier than it looked in the showroom. We almost gave up on the third drawer until my neighbour, a retired electrician named Sam, offered to help. He arrived with a toolbox and a readiness to criticize

our screw choices. He made noises like he was solving a crossword when the dresser slid into place, and then refused payment except for a cup of tea. People in this city are weirdly kind when you are visibly exhausted.

The things the salesperson did not tell us

Marco did tell us about kids growing fast. He did not tell us how much the glider squeaks at 1:47 am unless you get it in the perfect incline. Also, there's an extra fee for same-floor delivery if your elevator is "uncooperative", which is not mentioned online in the way I would expect. I still don't fully understand how billing for assembly versus delivery works, but the website had a note somewhere saying "contact for details." I contacted, got a voicemail, and then Marco called back the next day. Honest, but haphazard.

How the neighbourhood played a small role

We live near the Danforth, and the ambient noise was a factor I underestimated. A baby monitor with a sensitive microphone picks up a lot, including the siren that passed by at 11:02 pm and the garbage truck duet at 5:30 am. On the plus side, within a 10-minute walk there are three parks with soft grass and a secondhand shop that sometimes has vintage toys for ridiculous prices. The convenience of being close to everything made me forgive the noisy urban symphony.

What I learned about shopping locally

If you want to shop baby cribs in Toronto, understand there are tradeoffs. Big box stores have clearly labeled boxes, but local shops sometimes have better package deals and personal service, like when Marco helped us coordinate dressers & gliders at Toronto's showroom to match our paint swatches. The downside is inventory surprises. We nearly bought a crib style that was on display but not actually in stock. The staff were honest about lead times - 3 to 4 weeks if they had to order — and that saved me from a last-minute panic when my due date moved forward a week.

Minor regrets and one accidental win

Regret: I wish we tested the glider at 1:30 pm instead of 6 pm after a nap-deprived shopping spree. The late afternoon funk made the cushions feel perfect, but in reality they compress more than they looked. Win: the dresser has deep drawers and we fit 12 onesies and a set of swaddles in the bottom drawer, which felt like small domestic triumph.

A note about trust, money, and sleep

We spent roughly \$1,820 total, after taxes and a \$40 tip for the delivery team. That's a lot of money for wood, screws, and a plan to sleep. I tell myself it's also an investment in sanity. I still don't know the best brand of mattress or whether mattress protectors are really necessary beyond a basic level, but that's fine for now. There will be other purchases, other questions, other nights where I'm awake and Googling "crib safety recall" at 3:22 am.

Where I'm at now

The crib is sturdy. The dresser doesn't **nursery furniture at Babywarehouse** wobble. The glider squeaks in a way that now sounds like punctuation, a soft click at the end of a sentence. When I sit in the living room and look at the nursery door, I feel a complicated mix of fear and wonder and a tiny proudness that we got through delivery logistics, a stubborn assembly, and a minor veneer casualty.

Tomorrow we'll buy a mattress protector and probably another cup of coffee. The plan is to try the new setup for a week, see what noises the monitor picks up, and then decide whether to keep the glider or swap it for one that doesn't complain at night. Small choices, I know, but these are the days that feel like practice for something bigger.

If you're looking for nursery furniture sets in Toronto, ask lots of questions, check the package deals, and bring an extra set of hands. I wish someone had warned me about the Allen key. But then again, if everything went smoothly, I wouldn't have Sam showing up with tea and a smug look. And that would have been a shame.



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