

HAPPY FAMILY PACKING LIST

Create a Budget

Decide how much you'd like to spend, and if your budget is realistic for the type of vacation you want. If you're looking to save a little money, consider booking through discount vacation sites, planning to stock up on food and snacks from the grocery store, or splitting the cost of a rental home with friends or extended family.

Include Everyone

Encourage family members to make a list of where they'd like to go, or what types of things they'd want to be able to do on a vacation. Work together to find a place that will be the right fit for your family.

Do Your Homework

Research costs, activities, hotels, transportation, etc. The more you know about where you're going, the better prepared you'll be.

Schedule Downtime in the Itinerary

Make sure you have the time and space for breaks, naps, and a little R&R during your trip. The vacation will be miserable if it's so packed with activities that everyone gets burnt out quickly, and is tired and cranky the rest of the trip.

Be Flexible

Schedules are good, but let it be okay to tweak plans when necessary. The less pressure you put on making sure everything goes according to plan, the more opportunity there will be for everyone to enjoy themselves and get their needs met.

Don't Waste Time

Don't lose precious vacation time by booking a hotel room that's so small it takes hours for everyone to get ready, getting lost on the way to activities because you didn't look up directions, or waiting in long lines because you didn't know to buy tickets in advance or make reservations. Obviously, there are some things you can't control. But plan ahead as best you can to make the most of your vacation days.