

Best Baby Monitors

SEO Title: 4 Best Baby Monitors for 2020 [Buying Guide]

Meta Description: If you're a mommy looking for some peace of mind and some me-time, take a look at our list of the best baby monitors that will give you your much-needed break.

The bond between a mother and her baby is a special one, which, more often than not, leads to sleepless nights for mothers who function purely on their baby's smiles. Even when we, as mothers, do sleep, the constant worry and irrational fears and made-up scenarios never go away.

While each of us does her best to stay side by side with our newborns and have as many skin-to-skin moments, at one point, we have to reconcile the baby's needs with life's demands. This is where baby monitors make their entrance!

These convenient devices give you an extra pair of eyes and ears to watch your baby 24/7 even when you're not nearby, putting an end to those mini panic attacks you get when you think you heard your baby cry while sleeping and you have to rush into the room only to find them fast asleep. Now, you can actually get things done and enjoy some much-needed time off that's anxiety and stress-free.

Having been in your shoes, I've decided to give you a detailed review of the best baby monitors on the market to help you choose the one that will give you some peace of mind. Also, I've provided a helping guide on what factors to consider for this purchase along with frequently asked questions, from one mother to another.

At a Glance:

1. V-Tech DM223 - Best for Large Houses
2. Infant Optics DXR-8 - Top-Selling Video Monitor
3. Owlet Monitor Duo - All-in-One Baby Monitor
4. Nanit Plus - Best for Sleep Stats

Comparison Table

Model	Range	Battery Life	Night Vision	Two-Way Communication
V-Tech DM223	1,000 feet	15 hours	Yes	Yes

Infant Optics DXR-8	700 feet	12 hours	Yes	Yes
Owlet Monitor Duo	100 feet	18 hours	Yes	Yes
Nanit Plus	3 feet	10 hours	Yes	Yes

The 4 Best Baby Monitors for 2020

Without further ado, let's look at a few of the crème de la crème baby monitors and showcase what makes them stand out and why they're a must-consider during your buying journey.

1. V-Tech DM223 - Best for Large Houses

The V-Tech DM223 is your best bet for an audio-only and budget-friendly monitor that serves the essential purposes of a baby monitor without necessarily breaking your bank, meanwhile offering you an exceptionally long range.

It features a crystal clear transmission free of all buzzes and white noise through the DECT 6.0 digital technology. It also comes with a rechargeable parent unit, and a range up to 1,000 feet, which is particularly suitable if your house has a garden in which you enjoy spending quality time.

Most audio-only monitors come with one-way communication, so you basically only hear your baby but don't have the option to respond. The V-Tech DM223 is an exception, featuring a built-in intercom that allows you to soothe and calm your little one right through it.

Not just that, that parent unit further incorporates a belt clip for when you have nowhere to put it down, like when you're in the kitchen, or if you forget it in another room since forgetfulness comes with the motherhood package.

What's more, to cater to those with hearing impairments or are hard of hearing, the monitor has a vibrating option, and it lights up to sounds indicating that the baby is awake.

You can also make use of this feature if you have a migraine (which is probably common for you these days), and you want to be silently alerted of sound in the baby's room. Through a 5-level sound indicator, the monitor tells you the level of sound as well.

Furthermore, you can adjust the settings for the monitor to allow it to beep when the battery is low or when your connection is about to be lost.

Lastly, on the security-front, the V-Tech DM223, the DECT transmits encrypted signals from the room to the unit to ensure that you'll be the only person to listen to your baby.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High range, up to 1000 feet ➤ Budget-friendly ➤ Rechargeable parent unit ➤ Easy to use ➤ 5-level sound indicator ➤ Belt clip for free movement ➤ Two-way communication ➤ Vibration and lighting up as alternative forms of alerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some parents have complained about its loud voice ➤ Average battery life ➤ Dim night-light performance

Our Take

The V-Tech DM223 is the choice that will fit the bill for you as an audio-only monitor if you live in a large house or one with outside space due to its high range that will enable you to undertake your normal activities and communicate with your baby without being confined to the nursery.

2. Infant Optics DXR-8 - Top-Selling Video Monitor

The Infant Optics DXR-8 has made headlines among parents worldwide as one of the prime baby monitors providing the optimal mix when it comes to both listening and watching your baby without stepping foot in the room.

For starters, the Infant Optics DXR-8 was the initiator of interchangeable lenses. The included lens gives you viewing and zoom options, while the interchangeable one is wide-angled and delivers a panoramic view with customizable options on a wide 3.5-inch screen that's handy when your little one is playing around.

Also, it's a very intuitive device that cares for the baby almost as much as you do. That's why you'll find that not only does it monitor room temperature and report back to you, but you'll be able to turn your heater or air conditioner on or off to adjust it.

Since it offers both audio and video monitoring and since your needs will likely vary throughout the day, the baby monitor has an Audio-On mode that switches the screen off to save on battery consumption, almost cutting it down to half.

Additionally, if on any occasion you have the volume turned down, don't worry about missing your baby's tantrums because the monitor will display a row of lit-up LEDs to alert you.

For even more convenience, the Infant Optics DXR-8 offers two-way communication, so if your baby is the kind that sleeps to the sound of your humming and soothing, you can still do that without moving from the couch when your baby wakes up during the nap.

Lastly, if security is a concern for you and you feel at risk of hacking, you'll be happy to hear that the baby monitor uses a secure 2.4 GHz band connection, known to be hack-proof.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sound clarity➤ Two-way communication➤ Interchangeable lens for all-round room view➤ High-quality video feed➤ Audio-On mode for battery saving➤ Can handle four cameras➤ Utilizes secure 2.4GHz band connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Doesn't video record➤ Not compatible with smartphones

Our Take

The Infant Optics DXR-8 is one of the best baby monitors you can get to help you stay sane while managing your new life as a parent by taking a considerable amount of load off your feet by being your extra set of both eyes and ears in your little one's room.

3. **Owlet Monitor Duo - All-in-One Baby Monitor**

During the early months of motherhood, the top priority is always ensuring the baby's health. Knowing that, the Owlet Monitor Duo took features to a new level by tracking your baby's heart rate and oxygen level to alert you in case of abnormalities.

When you receive the monitor, all you do is that you download the monitor's app on your smartphone, and slip a sock-like wrap on your baby's foot. Since babies grow in a blink of an eye, there are three different sizes included, and by wearing them, your baby's heart rate and oxygen levels are tracked all day, along with how long and how well they slept.

You know all of those vaccines that babies have to take in their early months? Some of them are known to cause general restlessness. This is precisely when you will need the Owlet Monitor. In addition, it will be beneficial during your baby's sick days.

Above these exceptional tracking features, the monitor streams live HD 1080 video and audio to your smartphone, along with the live health readings. You also get to sing your favorite lullabies to your toddler via two-way communication.

In the case that your baby's measures are irregular, you will receive lights and sounds that notify you via a Base Station that's connected to Bluetooth and shows you the baby's wellness status at a glance.

On average, the monitor's battery has an 18-hour life and can recharge back in about four hours. Finally, it only supports 2.4 GHz band connection, basically forcing you into security.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Easy installation➤ Different socks sizes➤ All-in-one video, audio, and wearable monitoring➤ Heart-rate and oxygen tracking➤ Mobile support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Costly➤ Sometimes gives false alarms

Our Take

The Owlet Monitor Duo is unrivaled when it comes to vital signs tracking, doing it subtly through tiny monitors in the form of a machine-washable sock worn by your baby, packed with live-streamed video and audio all-in-one.

4. Nanit Plus - Best for Sleep Stats

If you're a mommy, but you're also a fan of analytics even when it comes to your baby, and you want to witness their sleep development process and patterns, you'll love what the Nanit Plus has to offer.

The monitor uses computer vision to collect information and understand how your baby moves and then analyzes it to develop patterns that are converted into insights on your baby's sleep development, from how long it took your little one to fall asleep and how well their sleep was, all the way to how many times you went into the room.

Based on those insights and sleeping patterns, the Nanit app provides you with personalized sleep coaching and breathing tips for your baby. You just need to subscribe to Nanit Insights through the app, noting that a one-year trial already comes with your purchase.

Now, back to basics, the Nanit Plus streams both live video and audio on your baby monitor in addition to your smartphone or tablet, so you can be with your besties at a cafe or catching up with your workouts at the gym and still check on your newborn while you're out and you can communicate with them too.

During sleep time, night vision is supported by the monitor's 10-infrared LED light array that's preset to be activated in low-light conditions, and it doesn't turn on and off with any noise.

Therefore, if you want to train your baby on sleeping in low light or total darkness, you can do that. On your end, the app has a night mode to dim the screen for glances in the middle of the night.

It can even play some sounds, including the sounds of birds, waves, wind, and white noise for your little one to soothe them back to sleep.

In terms of setup, the monitor has to be wall-mounted; it's designed especially for that, but if you don't prefer that, you can pay an extra amount for the movable floor stand. There's also a separately-sold multi-stand travel mound for taking the monitor with you on trips.

Lastly, the Nanit Plus connects using 2.4GHz or 5GHz networks, ensuring your baby's privacy and security.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sleep tracking data➤ Video and audio monitoring➤ Two-way communication➤ Breathing monitoring➤ Excellent image quality➤ Amazing night-vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sleep stats require a subscription after the first year➤ Relatively expensive

Our Take

The Nanit Plus Smart is an investment worth making for the parents concerned with understanding the ins and outs of their baby's well-being in terms of sleeping and respiratory data, among many other features.

Should You Get a Baby Monitor?

If you plan on sleeping next to your baby for a while or placing their crib in your bedroom, you're unlikely to need a baby monitor. That's even more so if you live in a small space.

However, some parents find comfort in the idea of having a baby monitor regardless, since you probably won't stay next to the baby 24/7. You'll want to move, take on your regular household duties, make a phone call, or even nap, in which case the monitor will offer you the freedom of doing that and more.

For the mummies keeping their babies in a nursery, a baby monitor purchase is a generally a no-brainer for security reasons such as knowing when someone enters your baby's room, seeing when the baby is trying to get out of a crib (they tend to do that!), keeping track of the baby's sleeping patterns, and more.

How to Choose the Right Baby Monitor for You

Baby Monitor Type

Speaking from experience, many mothers are presented with anxiety and fear over the safety of their babies, particularly in the early years. When it comes to monitors, you have several options to choose from depending on what you feel will bring calmness to your heart.

- **Audio Monitors:** These are the most common types of monitors. Audio monitors are basically your listening ear, allowing you to hear your baby when they wake immediately, even when you're out of hearing distance. They also include temperature sensors that track the room's conditions.
- **Video Monitors:** If you can't seem to separate yourself from your baby or you feel that audio won't suffice, a video monitor will come in handy for you since it enables you to keep an eye on your little one through a live feed via a camera on your smartphone, which is why video monitors are often referred to as 'baby cams.'
- **Wearable Monitors:** How many times have you gotten so close to your baby just to check if they're still breathing? We've all been there, and no matter how many times you do it, you still worry! With a wearable monitor, that will no longer be the case since it will track your baby's breathing movements and vital elements to inform you in case of abnormalities.

Battery Life

As a new mother with too much on her plate and juggling different tasks all day long, the last thing you need would be another entry on your to-do list, which is a battery for your baby monitor.

For that reason, it's best to consider baby monitors with rechargeable batteries, especially if you're choosing one with Wi-Fi or video monitoring, since both consume significant power. These can save you a hassle by lasting between 8-10 hours before needing a recharge.

Range

The entire purpose of a baby monitor is to remotely listen to your newborn without having to be next to them, right? Well, to effectively serve its purpose, you also need to consider the size of

your house, which in turn, affects your choice of range, the extent to which you can be further away from the baby's room without losing your monitor's connection.

For instance, if you're living in an apartment, you would opt for a lower range, while if you're living in a duplex, you'd want to consider a higher range.

Night Vision

This feature mainly applies to video monitors. The most crucial time for monitoring your baby is usually bedtime, so you need to be able to have a crystal clear view of your baby in the dark. The top video monitors usually have sharp night visions with a black and white view.

Zoom Capabilities

Instagram, Facebook, and social media have gotten us used to zoom in any photo or video we come across. What more would you love to zoom in other than your baby?

Today, baby monitor cameras have zoom functionalities that allow you to digitally zoom in and out for up-close views of both the baby and the room. Besides, they enable tilting and panning to give you a 360-view.

Features

If you're a new mother, you know that every ounce of support matters. That's why a few extra features in a baby monitor can never harm! Some can really make your life easier by alerting you when you're going far from the nursery and will lose your connection, give a low-battery indication, enable two-way communication, temperature-check the room, and more.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How Secure Is a Baby Monitor?

It's as secure as your home wireless network; if your baby monitor is Wi-Fi enabled, then secure your home wireless network first to ensure that the connection is encrypted with a strong password.

In addition, digital monitors with a 2.4 GHz FHSS wireless transmission are the most secure and hack-proof. Lastly, keep an eye on your monitor's updates since they're mostly related to security changes.

How Should I Safely Use a Baby Monitor?

It's pretty simple: just make sure to install it away from the baby and certainly out of the crib. You know how babies love exploring, so you don't want your little one to get a hold of the monitor and start nibbling on it or pulling its cords.

Where Should I Place a Baby Monitor?

At least 6 feet away from your baby would be the ideal placement to limit your baby's exposure to electromagnetic radiation. Then, ensure that your chosen installation will give you a wide viewing angle. Wall-mounting and on high-shelves are the best places for a baby monitor in general.

Can I Use a Baby Monitor as a Security Camera?

No, baby monitors weren't produced to serve as security systems, even if they have video recording capabilities. Their maximum ability is keeping tabs on your babysitter or watching the baby's crib overnight, not more.

Can You Have 2 Baby Monitors in the Same House?

Yes, you should be able to use them at once without interference. Yet, it's good to note that some baby monitors can be connected to multiple baby units.

Final Thoughts

Let's be honest with one another. We know that motherhood is a difficult job, and we don't need to sugar-coat it, but on the bright side, we're lucky to be living in the tech era where watching our babies can be a hassle-free experience.

It's a luxury that many before us didn't get to enjoy, so let's make the best out of this list of the best baby monitors and make an attempt to go about our normal lives while still taking care of our little ones without being stressed out of our minds!

Now that I've reviewed only the top brands and tried to make the list as short as possible to save you the confusion, and provided you with the necessary information you need to take your pick, it's time to take the lending hand that's offered to you. I assure you, you'll consider it a blessing.
