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With so many vehicles now being targeted at families with children, it can sometimes feel daunting trying to choose which one is best for your household. This selection process can be made simpler by considering what you really want from a vehicle, as well as other practical considerations such as your available budget.

Experience

If you owned a family car previously, thinking back to what you did and didn't like about the vehicle will enable you to make the most of your experience. Speaking to friends and family about their own cars could give you more insight, though you should always go with your own judgement rather than relying too greatly on the opinions of others.

Car type

You may have a preferred make or model of car already, but if you don't, it can be more useful to think about types of cars rather than specific brands. Do you need a roomy people mover or a standard hatchback or saloon? Do you need a large amount of boot space, if you're planning on using the car for family holidays and day trips?

Car features

You can then start comparing different models of car based on features that are important to you, such as the number of doors and the car's fuel economy, which will help you lower your carbon footprint as well as save money at the fuel pump. If you have a young child in a booster seat, you should also check how many anchorage points are included and where these are located. The amount of internal storage space could also be an important factor if many people will be present in the car on a regular basis. And if you're worried about your kids spilling or dropping food, choosing dark upholstery could be a wise decision to avoid showing marks as easily between cleanings.

Safety rating

Researching the Euro NCAP safety ratings of the model of car you're thinking of buying could give you greater confidence in its ability to protect all passengers in the event of an accident. Check for aspects such as the number of airbags and their positions, too.

Budget

You should be realistic about how much you're able to spend, and shouldn't pay more than you can comfortably afford if there's a much cheaper model that still satisfies your basic criteria. The price of family cars can vary considerably, but will often be open to negotiation.

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