

they've got your back

Looking to lighten—or at least better manage—an increasingly heavy load? The following **backpacks** all earn their straps.

Everybody carries around the weight of his or her own world. For a toddler, it may consist of a blanket and a juice box. For a student, textbooks and an iPod. For Mom and Dad, any combination of a laptop, a BlackBerry, and the aforementioned toddler. While it's hard to limit what you lug around, there is a way to make the load more bearable: Get the weight out of your hands and up onto your shoulders. After slinging on more than 100 backpacks, *Real Simple* staffers (and a few willing youngsters) picked the best models for adults, teens, and toddlers. Carry on!

for the adults You don't need a backpack fit for a week's worth of camping—just one good for a jaunt to the park or the office. But you still want all the bells and whistles. These bags smartly combine fashion and function to suit all your adventures, in and out of the woods.



best for new parents

JU-JU-BE, \$120

Unlike most diaper bags, this style (hallelujah!) frees up your arms. There's a changing pad and room for diapers, clothes, and toys. Two Thinsulate-lined interior pockets keep bottles warm or cold, and the exterior organizer has magnetic closures (read: no fiddling with zippers). Anti-microbial fabric keeps germs at bay. Comes in 12 colors and prints.

to buy: www.ju-ju-be.com for store locations.