



In the Media: Droolicious - August 2008

Droolicious



You don't live in Brooklyn and not see a million baby-wearing options. I recently spotted someone sporting a cool-looking Belle Baby Carrier, so I thought I'd give it a spin myself. It's recommended for babies 10 to 25 pounds, works with the baby facing front or back, and comes in attractive color combos. For those green-fiends, there's also an organic version, the Belle Pure. And not to forget the celebrity name-check, Julia Roberts has been spotted wearing a Belle.

Pros:

- The front-support baby carrier is amazingly light with very little extra material or padding to weight it (and you) down.
- The waist belt takes about half of the baby's weight and removes pressure from the shoulders associated with other front-support baby carriers.
- The shoulder cross-straps are easy to buckle when loading your baby.
- The fabrics are durable and strong while also being soft and breathable--and, again, light--you're really supporting only the baby, not the carrier weight.

Cons:

- Despite the waist belt and crossing back straps, there is still some shoulder strain. Much of it is, I believe, inevitable when you're carrying a baby, but if you have very weak shoulders or back, you may be better off looking into a hip carrier or a backpack-style carrier.
- If you like the extra padding with your carrier, then you'll likely find this one lacking.

Overall: This will be my go-to plane/train baby carrier, as it can be easily stuffed into a purse or carry-on bag. I'd also recommend it for everyday around-town trips. Parents with stronger shoulders may not have a problem hiking with it (as the promotional materials brag), but if you're a little weak up top, you may find the strain of mountain hikes a bit much for you, even if the carrier itself is made from the same materials as high-end backpacks.