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Traveling with a little one is stressful, and that is only compounded when you have a work itinerary to stay on track of. Many hotels have found ways to cater to <u>business parents'</u> needs, from activity programs to babysitting.

The best family-friendly hotels realize that it's not enough to keep your child safe while you're working. They should be constructive with their time and have a little fun too.

Read more below about the 9 best hotels for business travelers and their kids. With daycare services available via concierge, full-fledged entertainment programs and more, you have plenty of options no matter where work takes your family.

# Best Hotel Chains For Business Parents

You don't need to be staying in Orlando to find a hotel that goes above and beyond in the kid entertainment department.

Thanks to these popular hotel chains, a sufficient property may be located not far from your satellite office.

#### 1. Riu Hotels & Resorts

The only problem with Riu Hotels & Resorts is that you might be jealous of your kid!

Their all-out children's entertainment program is called <u>RiuLand</u>, and it'll keep kids 4-12 occupied during the entire workday.

Before you head off to the office, check in with Calú (the program's sea turtle mascot) and his staff, called the animation team. For more specialized childcare, they'll send participants to one of two age groups: 4–8 or 8–12.

From there, your kids may be even busier than you with activities like:

- Beach and pool time with water slides
- Drawing
- Singing
- Face painting
- Dancing
- Team sports

The fully-staffed animation team will be able to keep a close eye on your kids to make sure they're having fun and staying safe.

Riu Hotels <u>are located</u> in Miami Beach, New York City, San Francisco and dozens of other beachfront international locations.

#### 2. Radisson Hotels

While it's hard to find a close competitor to Riu, Radisson Hotels is a strong candidate with its Rad Family program.

If you're bringing your kid along on a company trip to Europe, Africa or the Middle East, check for a participating Radisson nearby.

As soon as you check in, your child under 12 will receive a welcome bag with the following items:

- Activity booklet with quizzes and tasks
- "Passport" adventure to collect stamps from different hotel sections
- Toys
- Box of crayons

Some locations even offer matching robes and flip-flops, so you can relax in style after work and order a movie on the in-room TV.

Check with your location's front desk to confirm which specific amenities they offer.

### 3. Best Western Italy

As one of the most recognizable chains on the planet, Best Western may already be your go-to for business and leisure travel.

However, the company's Italian affiliate has a whole program dedicated to showing your child a good time.

Called <u>Best Western Kids Hotels</u>, these 28 locations are uniquely qualified to handle business parents traveling with very young children, including babies and toddlers.

You can request the following from the front desk before checking in:

- Changing station
- Crib
- Bottle warmers
- Baby bathtub

- Baby food
- High chair (at the restaurant)

They are also happy to arrange discounted babysitting via concierge.

Read more: A Travel Manager's International Travel Checklist

### 4. Extended Stay America

Are you planning an extended business trip in the states for a few weeks or even a couple of months? Are your kids on summer break?

On a longer stay, the extra occupancy fees could add up at other locations, especially if you're already over your <u>per diem</u>.

But at Extended Stay America, kids stay free (under 17).

And with a larger space and kitchenette, you'll have room to stretch out and even be able to make some meals yourself instead of paying for restaurant kids' meals out of pocket.

# Kid-Friendly Choices In Popular Business Areas



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Besides the worldwide hotel chains, there are also plenty of independent properties with strong youth programs and amenities.

We've picked out a few solid choices for workers in their most likely business travel destinations.

### 5. Silverado Resort — San Francisco Bay Area

Heading to San Francisco on business but would rather stay in serene Napa Valley instead of busy downtown areas like Fisherman's Wharf, Nob Hill and Chinatown?

Silverado Resort has you covered.

While you commute in for an afternoon of meetings (or take a few hours off with your colleagues to check out a winery or two), your kids will keep busy with the hotel's Golf and Tennis Camps.

Their three or four-day camps at the golf course or on the courts are designed to teach the basics to kids 6 to 12 years old. Courses run year-round, and box lunches are available depending on class times.

### 6. The Plaza Hotel — New York City

In the concrete jungle, it's natural to be concerned about your child's ability to be safe and have fun.

If you're heading to New York on business with family in tow, consider The Plaza Hotel.

Their <u>high-end facilities</u> and staff will keep your teenager comfortable; just make sure they don't charge extra lavish amenities to the room.

With little ones, the concierge will arrange childcare services just blocks away. That way, you can drop them off on your way to work.

## 7. Loews Hollywood Hotel — Los Angeles

When work brings you to Los Angeles, the centrally-located Loews Hollywood Hotel is the best choice for your family to tag along.

There is a \$21.64 daily destination fee, but that includes a whole host of perks and nearby activities to keep your teenagers busy all day:

- Fifth-floor outdoor pool with scenic views
- Daily yoga
- Hop-on, hop-off sightseeing tour
- An hour of free bowling
- Video game consoles

#### Board games

Contact the concierge ahead of time so they can make babysitting reservations.

Concerned about potential hotel fees? Learn <u>how to get corporate discounts</u> at hotels.

### 8. Horseshoe Bay Resort — Austin Area

Setting up shop in Austin for a while?

Bring your son or daughter along for a magical getaway at the <u>Jungle Kids</u> <u>Club</u> at Horseshoe Bay Resort, a popular local family vacation destination.

The club boasts an impressive two-story jungle gym, and there is a full staff to offer activities like rock climbing and arts and crafts.

Call or email them ahead of time to reserve a spot for your child.

#### 9. Icon Residences - Miami

Employees heading to Miami for a considerable amount of time will want to stay at the Icon Residences, a tower of fully-furnished aparthotels. Each has multiple bedrooms, so your kids can have their own space and you can concentrate on work.

And with <u>options</u> like a separate kid pool, beach access and a full game center, they'll never get bored.

### Hotel Advice For The Business Traveler With Kids

Before heading off to the airport, remember that going on a business trip with your child is a lot different from going alone.

For one thing, going with only a small carry-on bag and a suit won't quite cut it. Depending on your child's age and other factors, you may need to bring baby food, toys, medicine and comfortable clothes.

Consider the following when bringing your child with you on a company trip.

#### What If You Can't Find A Full-Service Hotel For Them?

Every hotel can't have two-story jungle gyms, sea turtle mascots and babysitting on-demand. And not everyone is headed to a major city <u>corporate</u> meeting; you might be a <u>traveling nurse</u> going to a quiet town.

That said, check with the front desk of any hotel you have in mind before traveling with your children. They should be able to refer you to quality babysitters in the area.

It's also not unreasonable to expect these features from most hotels:

- Pool, especially during hot weather
- Computer center to play games and do homework
- Crib/baby bed included or for a fee upon request
- Smart TV so you can log into your kid's favorite streaming apps
- Continental or full breakfast buffet
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free snacks in the lobby

Also, try to pick a hotel centrally located near the major tourist attractions. If you don't have time, your teenagers can still go and check them out.

# Don't Leave Your Young Child Unattended

Even if you'll only be out for a couple of hours for a meeting, it's never a good idea to leave small children in the room by themselves.

Hotels have attentive staff, security cameras in common areas and sometimes a whole security team. But they won't be able to stop your child from drawing on the walls with crayon or accidentally breaking the desk lamp.

The last thing you want is to incur damage charges that you must explain to your company.





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It's not your house, so you can't change all the furniture and install padding.

But you can bring certain <u>baby-proofing products</u> such as:

- Plugs for electrical outlets
- Childproof gate

- Removable toilet lock
- Corner guards
- Night lights

Door knob covers are also a good idea, but always lock the deadbolt at night and use the chain (if provided).

Once those are set up, be sure to place fragile items out of reach.

## Conclusion

Traveling for work with kids is inherently difficult. They're destined to get bored sitting in an empty conference room all day. If you're inspecting a construction project, they may not even be allowed on-site.

Thankfully, the 9 hotel chains and bustling independent properties above can watch your child and provide all the fun they need.

When you're ready to book, use <u>Hotel Engine</u>. It's a <u>Lodging Performance</u> <u>Network</u> specifically designed for business travelers, enabling you to find the best destination hotels with the amenities you'll need.