



45

THE PERCENTAGE OF COOKIEMAG.COM POLL RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY OFTEN WORRY ABOUT THEIR KIDS HAVING MELTDOWNS IN RESTAURANTS ON THEIR VACATIONS.

## MY TRICKS

## CYNTHIA ROWLEY

The fashion designer and her family—which includes daughters Gigi, 3, and Kit (shown below), 9, as well as husband Bill Powers—are no strangers to travel. “Our general MO is to keep our trips short and go often,” Rowley says. And, of course, to tap into her genius for ways to keep young kids entertained while traveling. Here are some of her favorite strategies. —Julie Alvin



**1**  
FOR THE CAR

Not ones for rounds of “The Wheels on the Bus,” the girls turn the volume up on the radio and play along to the songs with tambourines or other kid-friendly instruments. “Kit has a recorder, which is brutal but entertaining,” says Rowley.

**2**  
FOR THE PLANE

Any parent knows to pack toys for long flights, but Rowley increases interest (not to mention distraction time) by wrapping them in paper. “The littler one doesn’t even know I just wrap her old, regular toys,” she says.

**3**  
FOR THE RESTAURANT

Rowley averts meltdowns due to slow service and grumbling tummies by playing three-card monte with sugar packets. “We mark the back of one, and they have to follow it,” she says. “That really keeps them quiet for a while.”

**BETTER BOOSTER** | “The Clek Olli (\$90, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)) is so portable that I always pack it instead of paying for the booster in rental cars. It uses the LATCH system, so it clicks in easily and securely.” —Dede Hacker, Olympia, Washington



(education vacation)

## TRIP TUTELAGE

AS MUCH AS YOU WANT YOUR VACATION TO teach your children something, you don’t have to choose a destination where the guides come with butter churns and fake bad teeth. Sometimes you need look no further than your hotel to get a hands-on taste of the local culture. The Peninsula Hotels ([peninsula.com](http://peninsula.com)) recently launched the Peninsula Kids’ Academy, year-round educational programs with activities cleverly matched

to their locales, in eight cities around the world. Kids can learn to write and film a movie in Beverly Hills, to make kites in Beijing, and to make Filipino food in Manila. Loews Hotels ([loewshotels.com](http://loewshotels.com)) have similar U.S.-based packages for young guests, who can sign up for private surfing lessons in Coronado Bay, California; learn how to write songs in Nashville; and take golf lessons from a PGA teaching pro in Las Vegas. —Sarah Engler