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Four Tips to Keeping Your Kids Happy While Driving by [Sebastian Gaydos](#)

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Picture yourself preparing for that long summer drive with your spouse and kids, nervous at how your kids are going to behave. Maybe the day has come when you and your family are scheduled to meet their grandparents in the neighboring province. One thing youâ€™re probably hoping for is that your kids donâ€™t suddenly count to three and cry out in chorus, â€œAre we there yet?â€•

Imagine living in a city like Edmonton, Albertaâ€™s capital and economic centre. If your kidsâ€™ grandparents live in Jasper, which is about 362 kilometers west of Edmonton, then you have a long trip to prepare for, and your kids will surely go bonkers along the way. Youâ€™re in good company, though, because some car dealers and their families have also gone through similar experiences and picked up some tips along the way. While there are lots of tips to try, here are four of them that have been known to work.

Ask your kids

Sounds deceptively simple, but your kids are really the best ones to say whatâ€™ll make them comfortable. The key here is to plan ahead and consider what your kids may want to be busy with on a long haul like that. Map out two-hour stops for everyone to stretch, prepare some activities, anything that can allow them to enjoy while taking a respite from sitting through that long drive.

Make hi-tech work for you

Remember those hi-tech gizmos (portable music and video players, handheld console games, cameras, digital tablets, and mobile phones that have all the above functions) you recently bought for your kids and have always thought to be too frivolous for their price? Nowâ€™s the time those same gadgets can come in handy in keeping your kids engrossed as youâ€™re driving. Oh, and donâ€™t forget stock up on extra batteries when you can.

Have some good old activity time

Some Edmonton used car dealers still do recommend the old fashioned way: crayons, activity books, stickers and water-soluble markers for kids to be creative with. This is a great alternative once your kids start getting bored with their hi-tech gadgets. Word of caution, though: have these activities done one a time so your kids donâ€™t lose interest on them all too soon.

Pack a picnic

If youâ€™re driving an Edmonton Subaru Outback or Tribeca, itâ€™s okay to let kids have their way for a change by letting them go picnic at the cargo space at the back where youâ€™ve neatly folded the third row seats into the floor. To make eating less messy, have your kids spread towels or large sheets over their laps to catch any crumbs. Consider foods like crackers, fruit sticks and juice boxes to keep mess to a minimum.

Most Edmonton car dealerships would agree that the trick here is to plan ahead on what to do and what to bring along. These can help you and your kids have a pleasant and safe long trip. You can read more on kids on road trips at [Travel.Kaboose.com](#) and [CanadianLiving.com](#).

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