

Great Ideas for Your Baby and You!



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Table of Contents

1. Fun Ways to Announce Your Pregnancy.....	3
2. Planning a Baby Shower.....	4
3. Baby Shower Gift Ideas.....	7
4. What to Do About Baby Names.....	8
5. Baby Crying 101.....	10
6. The Baby Bedding.....	12
7. What is Baby Colic and Colic Relief?.....	14
8. Play Encourages a Child's Development	16
9. Great Baby Gift Ideas For After Baby's Birth.....	17
10. One Baby Bash Coming Up!	18

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Fun Ways to Announce Your Pregnancy

Whether you just found out you're pregnant or you've known for a few months, announcing your pregnancy to family and friends can be a lot of fun. Some may want to wait until a certain time during their pregnancy, while others want to call everyone immediately after finding out themselves.

Telling The Father

Have a romantic dinner for two with candle lights, it may be your last time for a while, between morning sickness and raising your little one. Serve up baby carrots, baby back ribs and anything else you can think as baby. At the end, pour apple juice instead of wine and hand him a present. Inside you can have a tiny baby bib that says, "I heart My Daddy" or a pair of baby booties.

If you can't tell the father right away because he's away on business, or deployed try sending him a care package. Inside the box place a few baby items, everything in blue and pink and a baby naming book in the center. Place a note on top of the book with, "I need a name soon, I'll be here by June" (or whenever the baby is due).

You can also see how long it takes him to figure it out. Go to the dollar store and pick up a bunch of small baby items, a bib, rattle, bottle, booties, etc. For a week, leave items laying around the house where he is bound to find them. At the end of the week if he hasn't figured it out yet, prepare the big gift. Have a large teddy bear sitting at the dinner table in the seat beside him, make sure there is a bib wrapped around him and maybe a sign that says "Hi Daddy."

Telling Family and Friends

Show up to a family gathering wearing a shirt that announces your state. These days there are a ton of shirts out there with clever sayings, "Baby on Board," "A Bun in the Oven," or something related to the pregnancy. The moment you walk in or take off your jacket everyone will figure it out without you ever having to say a word. Now, get ready for the tears and excitement. You'll be answering a ton of questions.

If you already have children, you may want to call the grandparents up and tell them that the next Christmas they may want to add one more to the list. If this is the first grandchild, you may want to get a bracelet for your mom that reads, "#1 Grandma" or grandparent t-shirts. These are not only great gifts but something they'll cherish always. No matter when you spread the news, a little creativity can make it a lot of fun!

Planning a Baby Shower

Baby showers are a lot of fun, especially for the mom-to-be. Not only is this something for the baby, but it's a helpful event for the pregnant guest of honor since now she'll have less to go out and buy. During a baby shower party, guests bring baby gifts! Now the burden of searching and looking for baby stuff is passed on to the invitees.

The only headache mom-to-be would have then is the menu she would have to prepare on that day. Or, if it's a surprise, then she doesn't even have to deal with that! So the first thing you need to do is figure out if this will be a surprise shower or not. There are benefits to both. The big benefit of mom-to-be knowing is that she can help you with a list of people that she would like to be there and perhaps with gift suggestions as well. However, if it is a surprise she'll be touched with the surprise - but be careful and don't shock her too wildly- you don't want to give her so much of a surprise and put her in labor!

Before you throw a baby shower for someone here are some other things you should do to prepare.

Making the Guest List

When it comes to making the guest list things can get a little tricky. Find out if there is anyone that would be upset if they weren't invited. Never leave out close family or friends, at least give them the option of showing up.

Themes

Themes help to organize and guide the flow of the baby shower. There are several ways of choosing and deciding on a theme. Do you want it to be based on color? In case you already know the gender of the baby, pink or blue is used to universally represent a baby girl or a baby boy. Or baby items such as a pacifier or a baby bottle? How about character-themed baby shower such as Sesame Street, Power Puff Girls, Barney or the Looney Tunes? It could also be a time-of-the-day baby shower whereby each invitee is tasked to bring something the baby would need or use during that time of the day.

Games

Babies are so much fun. It seems fitting to make baby showers fun too, and that's so easy to do by just having guests enjoy playing baby themed games during the baby shower. Moms-to-be, godparents, grandparents, and other invitees in the baby shower can get to play childish games again. Some of the baby shower games that can be played include Sing It, Baby!, Measuring up Mommy, Here's Looking at You, Kid!, Don't Say Baby, Baby Truth or Dare, The Seventh Gift, and Dig out the Pins.

These baby games are popular baby game showers that are usually played. They are a great way that would let the guests mingle and get to know each other, if they aren't

acquainted yet. This is also another great way to give honor to the mom-to-be for having that precious baby on the way.

Here is a run-down on how to play some baby shower games and create great memories. But also, remember to have a few inexpensive “prizes” for the winners to add to the spirit of competition and to the fun...

In Sing It, Baby! the guest participants form a circle. They can sit or stand. Then, each guest must sing a line or two from a song that has the word "baby" in it. When the first game player has finished, the next person seated on her right has ten seconds to sing another "baby" song. "Baby" songs cannot be repeated, thus, participants who repeat a song or cannot think of a "baby" song get booted out of the game. Last person singing wins the prize!

How big has mommy become? Measuring Up Mommy is the baby shower game to play as this gives the guests the freedom to measure mommy's size. Have a couple of toilet paper rolls ready and ask each participant to estimate the size of mommy's girth by cutting the toilet paper to their guess size. Then each one wraps around the new mommy's stomach the toilet paper they cut. The nearest length approximating to the mommy's stomach wins the prize!

Remember how you looked when you were a baby? This game takes you down memory lane as you need to dig up those baby pictures of yours. Because you need them to play the baby game shower Here's Lookin' At You, Kid! Before the party itself, request all the guests coming to bring the cutest baby picture of themselves. Upon their arrival, secure each baby picture and assign a number per picture. During the game, lay all baby pictures and give each participant paper and pen and ask them to identify as many baby pictures as they can. The guest with the most number of correct guesses is the big winner.

This baby game shower makes you NOT say what you are suppose to be attending to! The game Don't Say Baby is precisely that! Don't say "baby" during the entire length of the baby shower game or the diaper pin that was given to you upon your arrival will be taken away from you. The person with the most number of diaper pins collected at the end of the shower party wins a prize.

This baby game shower is for those who love baby trivia and the like. Play Baby Truth or Dare by writing down some baby trivia, some correct and others purposely written incorrectly. During the baby shower game ask randomly if the baby facts are either true or false. Those who guess correctly get a prize while those who don't will be dared to perform in front of everyone else.

We all know that the single lady who catches the bride's wedding bouquet is said to become the next bride. In The Seventh Gift, it is not so much a baby shower game but more of a fable that says that the giver of the seventh gift unwrapped will be the next expecting mother. However, avoid "planting" the seventh gift.

Dig Out the Pins is the baby shower game that tests the agility of the guests as they fish out the most number of diaper pins from a large bowl filled with uncooked rice and diaper pins in under two minutes. The participant that has the most number of pins brings home the prize.

Guess the nursery rhyme- Give each guest a sheet of nursery rhymes and have them guess the nursery rhyme or finish it.

Did you say Baby Game? Each guest is given small clothespins to wear around their neck on a necklace or on their shirt. Every time someone says "Baby" the guests try to tag another guest within 5 seconds and if someone catches them, then they get to take one clothes pin. At the end of the party the guest with the most pins wins a prize.

Memory- Using a plastic tin of some sort place a bunch of baby items in it such as, bib, thermometer, baby spoon, diaper rash ointment, etc... anything you'd use on a baby. Let each guest get a chance to look in the bin for a few seconds and then take it away. Once everyone is finished have them write down everything they remember seeing in the box. The person with the most correct answers wins.

Baby Food Tasting - Have a variety of baby food in jars, take off the outside wrapper and place a number at the bottom of the jar, on a separate piece of paper write the name of each jar. Each guest is dished out a spoonful of baby food to try. Have them write down what they think each one is. The one with the most correct answers wins a prize.

Just another few tips for a successful baby shower: most prefer to hold it four to six weeks before the due date (unless it's an after baby is born baby shower, popular in the workplace), remember to send out invitations with plenty of time and clearly specifying the time and location of the baby shower party, plan the menu/food, and create or buy baby shower party favors to give out as small token gifts to the guests for sharing this special day of welcoming the baby on the way! Have a great baby shower!

Baby Shower Gift Ideas

Gifts can be from the practical to the frivolous, for either baby or for mom-to-be. Wonderful baby shower gift ideas can include a baby gift basket, a layette gift set, vital baby equipment, cute baby linens, a baby massage set, a baby store gift certificate, or a personalized baby bracelet. Here's another idea, personalized wind chimes for mom and dad and their growing family with a special sentiment engraved on the wind plate (see <http://www.giftsprings.com/category/personalized-gift-wind-chimes>).

For the baby gift basket, some ideas could be to create your own baby gift basket or go for the classical clothing baby gift basket. Themes of items you can buy to include in gift baskets could be: monogrammed items baby gift basket, fun and games baby basket, mother and baby basket, gift basket for twins, or a pampering baby gift basket.

Below are more ideas for gift baskets you can make yourself or purchase premade. Alternatively, you can buy one or a few of the items that interest you and present them by itself/themselves.

Nursery room items. These include colorful mobiles to keep the baby busy, lullaby music to soothe the infant, and nursery rhymes CD's. Bigger items like layettes, changing mats for tables and cribs, and other furniture for the baby. Educational toys are also beneficial in stimulating the baby's mental development.

The following toys or feeding items are good possibilities for including: Rattles, pacifiers, teething rings, feeding bottles, infant cups, bibs and spoons. These can be useful add-ons to a baby gift when you feel you need a little something more as well.

Baby Bath Items. Bath products for babies are commonly given as baby gifts. These include baby shampoo, baby powder, baby towels, wipes, bubble bath, brush set and tub toys that the baby will surely enjoy in the near future. Baby clothing's could also be considered as baby gift basket goodies that one can give. Just be sure that the clothes you'll give suit the gender of the baby or that it will be suitable for use whether it's a boy or a girl. (Yellow, green, aqua, and white are colors that can be great for either baby boys or baby girls when the gender is unknown.)

What to Do About Baby Names

Choosing a baby name for your child is almost like choosing his identity. Ever heard about the association of a person's name with his personality? That's how our names really work. A name molds a person's identity like a cookie-cutter. So, better get that best baby name for your son or daughter. Read on for some tips on how to provide that best baby name for your little angel.

1. Choosing the right baby name does not have to always rely on what your elderly relatives deem to be the best baby name. It is your baby's name, not theirs. Once your baby is born he will be stuck with that baby name for life, so be careful. That means it's not wise to just settle for any baby name that will suit your grandma's or auntie's taste. Now, if you like that traditional name, you think your child will enjoy the name, and believe it will stand the test of time, then go for it!

2. Take a look of a picture of his future. You don't want your baby to be always called with a name that will forever ridicule him or will allow his playmates to make a big laughingstock out of him. Research about the meaning of the baby name you are eyeing to give to your baby. Don't consider Beelzebub as a prospective baby name just because you heard it from a TV show and you find it cute. Don't use Rodelfa just because a certain Mexican TV show's hunky lead actor is called Rodolfo. Just plainly saying yes to your gut feeling, trying to follow a fad by naming your baby a certain celebrity's (sometimes notorious) name or not even thinking much about what you're your precious little one name could be, are not the best ideas.

3. Consider reading the initials of the baby name you are planning to give your baby. Make sure they don't stand for anything funny, disturbing or something utterly stupid. Christine Sue Irving? What will happen on the next episode? Alvin Stephen Stuart? He'll surely remember not to get near any hole. Fran Ursula Catherine Klein? Uh-oh! See? Can you imagine the sickening situation you may put your child into when he or she grows up?

4. Go check your family tree once and for all. Some can't still get away from some traditions regarding baby name decisions, especially when they have a special bond with a certain family member and they want that person's name to be a part of their baby's name. If your planning to still follow the tradition of putting a part of your elder relative's name on your baby's name, you need to find out whether anybody else in your family uses that name too. You don't want to confuse people when they're calling a name that's owned by two or three others in the family.

5. Don't go for the overkill. Being too creative with a baby name can backfire. Examples are extremely unique spellings of a name. It will be hard for the child to keep on spelling his or her name to people who only know the common spelling of such name and the child/adult later on will have to deal with folks constantly misspelling his or her name.

6. It's a good idea to come up with the best baby name as a joint decision with your partner. It wouldn't be great to always be blamed when people ask who chose that awful baby name, right? Okay, kidding aside. Sharing on this kind of decision-making is a good way of furthering your bond as a couple, not to mention the possibility of coming up with a better baby name. Remember that the "two heads are better than one" thought also applies to dealing with the challenge of finding the most suitable baby name for your darling baby.

So in general, when in your quest for the perfect baby name, avoid just appeasing relatives and friends, embarrassing initials, and make sure you discover disturbing or unflattering name meanings are some of the major concerns that should be considered in your quest for the perfect baby name. In the long run, you'll see that doing your homework will make your baby name well loved, and a perfect fit!



Decor idea with baby's name:

Want to see your baby's name etched into stone? Get a custom engraved stone with your child's name or any other sentiment or birthdate, etc etched into the rock. It's a great addition to your nursery decor. Available at <http://www.giftsprings.com/category/estones>



Read on... I won't be smiling soon ☹ ... you'll see why...

Baby Crying 101

Communication - that's why baby is crying. This sweet thing that suddenly turn into a fit of tears is just craving for your sweeter attention and help with something needed.

It's typically reported that a baby cries the most during his or her first three months. The crying time period may vary from minutes, to an hour, to most of the day- and this could still be considered within the normal range.

Some think that a baby cries more during the afternoon associating it with the anxiousness of the mother or the stressed mood of the father after coming home from work. But a more accepted assumption now is that babies start off with an automatic screening ability they use to shut off all the noise that may stimulate them too much in order to get sufficient rest. However, with time, and at approximately six weeks of age, it is believed that this filter weakens and essentially disappears. Then, this makes baby very sensitive to external factors such as noise, movements, etc. and so these stimulating factors elicit a reaction from baby of crying.

There are other ideas about why a baby succumbs to crying. Deciphering these reasons is the major feat a parent faces. Here are some of the things your sweet baby can be trying to make you understand through crying.

Hunger/Thirst. Yes, your attention-hungry baby is craving to let you know that his tummy is grumbling. This is the most common reason for a baby to cry, especially during his early months. The pattern of the hunger howl could be characterized as being persistent, demanding and almost rhythmical. But that rhythm is not at any rate close to becoming musical.

Discomfort. Pain is another precursor of the baby's crying. Who won't cry when in pain, right? Babies are little, vulnerable beings that need to be attended to when injured or when in an inconvenient situation. This cry could be more persistent, louder and more demanding. Shrieking and screaming, those are words that better describe the crying pattern roused by pain. Changing a diaper that is soiled or wet can help the baby to be more comfortable and avoid diaper rash pain. Making sure that nothing is poking the baby or painful in another way is important to ensure less crying when the communication from baby is about their comfort level. An illness that causes discomfort to a baby may also be the reason for a baby's bursting into a fit of tears. If you have investigated all other sources of crying and it continues for what you consider too long, it's possible the crying could be illness related, and so you may want to consult with your child's pediatrician at that point, just in case. Also, some babies have tummy problems with colic. Research this as a possibility and try recommended ideas that can soothe baby during those episodes.

Boredom. Crying can be the baby's way of telling you, "Hey get me a life here!" Aside from a need for food and comfort, babies need a lot of stimulation. And when they don't get this, you are likely to start hearing the crying. The trick is to pick the baby up and

play with him or her. This move may be frowned upon by some because of its amounting to spoiling the baby. But it is important to know that stimulation is also one of the major necessities of an infant and it won't hurt to provide him with some while in his growing age. Some gentle movement in your arms or on your legs, or a ride in the car or carriage may be all that's needed to stimulate and thus calm the baby. This boredom cry is said to be also rhythmical and full of sobs and moans.

Sleep Disturbance. Another cause to your baby's crying may be sleep disturbance. Crying can begin with some babies just when they're about to sleep or are already fast asleep and suddenly gets surprised by some noise or movement.

So after you have me feeling better with a ride in the carriage...



It's time to get back inside and head to the nursery- I think I'm getting v-e-r-y sleepy- but wait- you first need to learn about...

The Baby Bedding

One important thing to consider while awaiting the arrival of the baby is the kind of baby bedding he or she will use. According to experts, the first rule to follow in choosing the right baby bedding for your precious infant is safety. That would be the second and third rules as well! So, it's vital to find and use baby bedding that emphasizes safety as well as comfort for your baby.

It has been suggested that the perfect baby bedding, must be neither too hard nor too soft. In the past, sudden infant death syndrome or SIDS was attributed to very soft baby bedding. When the baby's mattress is too soft, then his nose and mouth can get covered and the air he exhales becomes the air he breathes. This is dangerous for him then, since he would breath in too much carbon dioxide rather than oxygen and the effects could lead to drowsiness, coma or even death. Bedding that is too hard may be excessively uncomfortable for the baby and increase difficulties with sleeping or prompt crying due to discomfort.

There are a lot of makes and styles when choosing the baby's bed and bedding. It follows that the baby bedding must be a perfect fit with the chosen equipment. The three major selections for infants are: a bassinet, a crib or a cradle. What differentiates one from the other? A bassinet is an oblong-shaped basket that serves as a bed for an infant. But sometimes, round bassinets are also available. A crib is a bed that is flanked with high side bars for a baby or young child's safety. Cribs are usually more economical since the baby can use it from infancy to two years of age. A cradle is a small low bed that an infant uses that has rockers on its stand.

Bassinets are usually lacey and full of trimmings. The baby bedding must fit the bassinet so that the baby's space is enough for him or her to be able to roll from side to side.

The crib is usually square, thus, mattresses can be fitted to the size of the crib. The baby bedding usually is a set of coverlet and small pillows, although you can certainly remove the pillows when baby is in the crib since that is a safer option seeing that babies don't need to use pillows anyway. Also, don't keep too many pillows in a crib for another reason- eventually baby could stand on them and then fall out of the crib.

The cradle can come in various sizes and shapes. Some moms prefer cradles so that when the baby is cranky, he or she can be rocked to be calmed down. The baby bedding for a cradle should follow the shape of it. Not much can be placed inside it since it is used mainly to rock the baby to sleep.

And what about the baby bedding? Just remember the essential point that the baby bedding should fit the sleeping equipment very well to avoid accidents or other safety concerns. A good material to use is cotton as it is absorbent and cool to the baby's skin. Different designs can stimulate the baby's color and pattern recognition. If the colors and designs also match nursery room wall colors and other accessories to make it more aesthetically pleasing for the parents, then that's a bonus.

Remember, you don't usually need to have more than one bed for baby to be kept safe, warm and snuggly. One baby bed is generally just fine but which one just depends on the parent's preference. Overall, the most preferred bed is typically a crib since it can be used over a longer period of time.



Love me always, even if I'm fussy because of ...

What is Baby Colic and Colic Relief?

Baby colic is a condition believed to be related to abdominal and digestive distress where a baby cries or screams frequently and for extended periods without any apparent reason at all. The condition usually appears within the first few months of the baby's life and will almost always immediately disappear as quickly as it arrived, at around the time the baby nears its eight months of life. Baby colic is more common in bottle-fed babies, but can also occur in breast-fed infants. The crying frequently occurs during a specific time of the day, often it's in the early evening.

Since the cause of infant colic has not yet been fully understood and the amount of crying differs between babies, there is no general agreement on the definition of infant colic. But parents should keep in mind that it is just a condition that can go away in time and not a disorder that may need immediate treatment. The only way to distinguish if the baby is colicky is by ruling out other causes of the crying. An accepted rule of thumb is if the baby cries intensely more than three days a week, for more than three hours each time, and for more than three weeks every month, then it may be colic. Always consult your baby's doctor to determine what is ailing your baby when there is excessive, ongoing crying, though. Don't just assume it is colic. The pediatrician will try to rule out other possible causes of your baby's crying episodes. Among the problems that may cause the same reactions are intestinal blockage could be infection in the abdomen, an ear infection and sometimes even a scratch in the baby's eye. Other possible medical reasons for the crying could be obstruction in the digestive tract, hernia or problems in the bowel.

Although the actual cause of infant colic is not known, medical professionals have made some observations as to why the condition might be experienced by infants. When born, babies may still have an immature digestive system that has never started on processing food. The gastrointestinal system is just starting to learn its function. Digestive muscles may have not yet developed the proper rhythm for moving food efficiently through the digestive tract. This might cause frequent and uncomfortable stomach upsets in infants and might be able to explain why there is such a condition as infant colic and why almost all infants outgrow colic within the first six or seven months of life.

Another explanation for infant colic may involve the breastfeeding mom's diet. There may be certain foods eaten by lactating mothers that may contain unsafe chemicals and allergens that can result in colic discomfort and digestive upset in babies. Through lactation, trace elements of cruciferous vegetables and other gas producing foods may be passed on to the baby through the mother's breast milk and cause gas and bloating in the infant.

Also, keep in mind that babies often swallow air while feeding or during crying, which might further increase gas and bloating and add to their gastrointestinal discomfort, whether fed by breastfeeding or through bottle feedings.

There is currently no generally accepted medical treatment for infant colic. Medical professionals may take different approaches in trying to treat the symptoms. Many doctors believe that infant colic is currently untreatable, and is best left to normally run its course.

What parents can do is try to make the baby a little more comfortable, if possible. Soothing measures, such as the use of pacifiers and gentle rocking can be effective in calming the baby during crying periods. Sometimes gentle bouncing or rocking of baby while baby is on its tummy, when you are sitting down holding baby either along your arm (your arm on under baby/baby face down on your arm), or on your thighs/bent legs while sitting down with baby, can make baby feel a little better. Alternatively, some parents take turns holding the baby upright which also seems to lessen the pain and crying of the infant. Some find that walking the baby or wrapping him or her up in a swaddling calms baby. You can also try playing some soothing music to see if that calms baby during a crying colic episode. Avoid overfeeding your baby- feeding is something many parents try often as an attempt to help baby stop crying, but be careful to not overfeed when you know that baby has already been fed and is not likely hungry. Consider checking with your pediatrician to see if your baby is allergic to some foods or liquids that he is taking in. Also, homeopathic remedies may be of some use for treating infant colic symptoms, so they are worth researching and discussing with your baby's pediatrician as well.

Mostly, it'll be trial and error to see what you find effective for handling the colic symptoms with your unique sweet baby.



Well, I think I'm feeling better now. So, can you play with me now? What? Why should you? Got you covered. Read on for "the rest of the story"...

Play Encourages a Child's Development

We've all heard the term, "Oh, that's child's play." It implies something is easy, frivolous and unimportant in the overall scheme of things. However, to a child, child's play is essential to their mental, social, emotional, and physical development.

We all know that children like to play. But what we may not know is the importance of play in a child's life. Play is essential to every area of a child's growth and development. Play provides a means for energy to be put to use. It strengthens and refines small and large motor skills, and it builds stamina and strength. Sensory learning develops mostly through play. Play is significant to physical development in that without it the body could not grow and develop normally.

Children possess a natural curiosity. They, explore, learn and make sense out of their environment by playing. Parents and educators alike can support this learning activity by ensuring age-appropriate toys, materials and environments are available to the child.

Play enables children to know things about the world and to discover information essential to learning. Through play children learn basic concepts such as colors, counting, how to build things, and how to solve problems. Thinking and reasoning skills are at work every time a child engages in some type of play.

Children learn to relate to one another, negotiate roles, share, and obey rules through play. They also learn how to belong to a group and how to be part of a team. A child obtains and retains friends through play.

Play fulfills many needs including a sense of accomplishment, successfully giving and receiving attention, and the need for self-esteem. It helps them develop a strong sense of self, creativity, and is emotionally satisfying to them. They learn about fairness, and through pretending learn appropriate ways of expressing emotion such as anger, fear, frustration, stress and discover ways of dealing with these feelings.

So encourage your child's play. Color pictures, make finger paintings, build buildings and imaginary cities with blocks, and built a tent in the middle of the living room and go camping! And as we all know, childhood is fleeting, so let them enjoy being a kid (while you secretly know your child's emotional and intellectual development are thriving because of it)! You s-n-e-a-k-y parent!

Great Baby Gift Ideas For After Baby's Birth...

If the one giving a baby gift decides to give the gift after baby's birth, there are bonuses to this! You'll know the name and gender of the baby then and you'll also know what the baby still may need and the parents still didn't get. Also, it's easier and becoming common for the workplace of the parents to give baby showers after the child's birth because of the above conveniences and once the parent has returned back to work.

If you intend to give a baby gift during a christening celebration or baptism, you can consider gifts of a small bible, silver cups and any symbolic item that adheres to the theme of the celebration and that the recipient's religion appreciates.

A personalized baby blanket or other items that are personalized are easy to give after a baby's birth or for their 1st birthday party since you'll have firm data after the baby has made his or her arrival. For those with more formal tastes and preferences, monogrammed baby linen would give that sense of tradition.

While those with eclectic tastes and full of an adventurous spirit may enjoy baby wall art or other nursery decor. Have you considered a baby gift of personalized jewelry? Nowadays they make safe personalized baby bracelets which can be quite a hit with the parents and look beautiful on baby. Giftsprings has a changing selection of such items including baby name engraved stones and sterling silver personalized baby bracelets as of this writing (browse at <http://www.giftsprings.com/category/personalized-jewelry>).

Baby gift baskets have been mentioned as good gifts for baby showers before baby is born as well. But they are also popular ideas as baby gifts during the first year of life for various occasions too. They can be made as unique as you are because you can personalize it, make it a blue or a pink basket, and you can make it a gourmet baby food basket or a baby bath gift basket or some combo creative idea basket of goodies only you can think up and put together.

If you have the funds, why not start the baby in a starter savings account or get baby a savings bond. Start that baby towards its million dollar goal early on! Remember compounding interest is the key! Later, these have been cashed in by the baby who grew up to pay for college, new cars or car repairs, trips... especially when the child is given more savings bonds throughout the years.

Clothing is another popular gift for babies during the first year. Be careful with colors though due to gender differences, frequently changing size of baby, and preferences of parents.

Rest assured that the gifts baby receives will be appreciated by the parents and great for baby. Try not to get too anxious about finding the "right" or "perfect" baby gift. You'll undoubtedly make the right choice just because you care.

One Baby Bash Coming Up!

Birthdays are one of the most important events in our lives. This day signifies our arrival in the world and the celebration of it. The birthday party or bash, commemorates that first time we came into the world. The first birthday bash is especially touching to celebrate the year's anniversary of precious baby's arrival.

Here are some tips to get your baby's bash on the roll and be the talk of baby land. First, create a theme that you would like to follow. Would you like your baby's first birthday party to be a sci-fi adventure? Or would you want a costume party? Or, you could go to an amusement park complete with merry-go-round fun, or hire a clown or two for your party. Whatever you decide, the baby bash needs to be well-thought out to keep it organized and to assure the safety of the guests.

Keep in mind too that the baby bash depends on the age of the baby. For one year olds, clowns can work out fine. Magic shows or puppetry could be a fun way to keep the children happy. While for two years old and older, since by this time, they are already mobile and have learned to walk, a costume party or an amusement park theme could be the solution to keep the kids happy. Have balloons on hand to keep kids smiling, and cotton candy and lots of kiddie food like pizza, hot dogs, or chicken nuggets, to also get the kiddie tummies merry. Make sure the guest of honor baby is not afraid of clowns before you book them. Also make sure the food is baby's favorite and not a choking hazard. For example, popcorn is not a good idea for little children for that reason.

Then put attention to sending out the invitations. And make sure how you orient the invitations and general party gathering. It seems that babies are conversational pieces. Thus, your network of friends increase since you meet other moms and dads who have babies near your baby's age group. They can become your friends, perhaps even swapping babysitting time when you need to unwind and relax. But remember that their kids are your guests in the baby bash and not the parents. Thus, the baby bash must be geared towards the enjoyment of the children. Although sometimes, a baby bash becomes an adult get-together when there are no other babies or kids that can be invited.

Finally, after all the food, favors and trimmings are gone, it is time to clean up. A convenient way to finish all the food is to ask mothers to take home a portion of the leftovers. Use plenty of large plastic bags for food and wrapping paper garbage. More plastic bags are useful for collecting the baby's gifts, especially if you are elsewhere and need to take gifts home. Don't forget to have a designate a photographer for the party too. You'll want someone to capture at least some of the memories from baby's party!

Then baby bash need not be a strenuous and nerve-racking activity. With just a little bit of planning, it will be as enjoyable for parents as for precious baby! Have fun babies and grown ups!

The End...

Well... not really! Your parenting adventures continue. So enjoy your dear baby! ☺