

Ready For the Baby: The Preparations

My wife is pregnant and we expect our first baby, soon. The doctors tell us the baby should be here in a few weeks. That means: the end of this month or the beginning of next month there will be a big change in our life: a tiny, crying baby.

It's impossible to know how our life will change, exactly. Different people tell us different things. Some say we will be tired all the time. They say we will never sleep and the baby will only cry. Others say that it will be the most beautiful time in our lives. They tell us that holding a baby is the best thing that can happen to us.

It's easy to understand that we want to hope that the second group of people—the ones who tell us to expect a beautiful time—are right. For me, 'having a family' always meant having children. I'm excited to get started.

Even now, before the baby comes, our life is changing. We moved to a new apartment. . . for the baby. We started shopping. . . for the baby. My wife's stomach has become as big as a house. . . for the baby. I even told my job that I will need some time off, soon. . . for the baby.

For me, the hardest thing to do is the shopping. First, it's hard to find things that you can use for a boy *or* a girl. Because we want to have more than one baby, we want to be able to use the things we buy now for a boy or girl. After all, we don't know what our *next* baby will be. Second, when I stand in a store and look at the tiny clothes that I am buying. . . It is hard for me to believe that I will soon have a tiny person to fit inside these clothes!

Right now, our strategy is to buy only the things we know we will need. We think it is better to buy too little than to buy too much. So, we do go shopping, but not very much. We spend most of our time just being excited.

What are the things that you think a baby will need? What should we buy now?