

100ISH QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE BABY ARRIVES

Just glance & answer.

*There are no right or wrong answers.
Use these points as a kick off for conversation.

*When it comes to the division of household chores, proceed with caution

100ISH QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE BABY ARRIVES

Naming Bebe

- Whose last name will the baby take (if either of yours)?
- Will the baby have the dad's last name, mum's, or be hyphenated?
- Will you create a new last name?
- How will you choose a middle name?
- Is it important that the middle name is a family name?
- Will the middle name be something meaningful from partner's side of the family who didn't get the last name?
- Are there any naming traditions on either side of your family?
- How do you feel about nicknames?
- How will it feel for one partner if you have separate last names, and the baby takes one of them?

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Feeding and Breastfeeding

- Will you breastfeed your baby, exclusively pump, or formula feed?
 - If you formula-feed, do you have a strong stance on the type of formula?
- If you choose to breastfeed, how long are you hoping to do so?
- If you choose to breastfeed, how hard and how far are you willing to try to make breastfeeding work?
- If breastfeeding comes at the expense of her mental health, your sexual relationship, or body image, what is more important?
- Do you have any plans for or strong stances on feeding baby solid food?
- Do either of you have specific food and nutrition preferences for the baby? (ie no dairy, vegan, gluten free etc)
- If family or friends are looking after bubs, do you expect them to stick to your food preferences? If they don't, will you communicate this to them and how?

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Family Unit and Values

- Will you (or do you plan to) co-sleep? Side sleeper? Own bed? Something else?
- Will you sleep train your child? If so, at what age? and what method?
- Will you raise kids to believe in Santa, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, Elf on the Shelf?
- What are your core family values (ie feminist values, religious values, etc)?
- What parenting choices are a hard line for you, where you absolutely will not budge and where are you willing to be flexible?
- Swearing around kids – yay/nay?
- Do you expect your teenage children to work a part-time jobs?
- If yes, at what age is it ok for your kid to get a job?
- Do you expect certain grades in school?
- What are the expectations for your child to contribute to the household?
- Are smoking, drugs, alcohol (parental usage) okay around children?
- How will you react if your child is gay? Transgendered?
- What if your child makes a mistake (like gets pregnant/impregnates someone in high school?
- Are sleepovers okay?
- Are mealtimes together important?
- How will you make time for 'family time', and how important is it?
- How will you each approach baby and child interaction (eg are you always playing with him or her, or do you expect self entertainment at least a portion of the time?)
- Are extracurricular activities important? How many is too many?
- Do you make your kid stick with something even if they don't seem into it, or is it important they they follow through and don't quit?
- What family traditions do you hope to establish?

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Relationship

- How will you make time for your relationship after the child is born?
- How will you resolve conflicting parenting styles arguments?
- What actions will you take if you come against a point of friction that can't be resolved?
- If you're not already married, is it important to one or both of you to get married?
- What is each of your love language?
- How will you show each other appreciation?
- What issues need to be resolved before you conceive/have the baby?
- Libido changes, how will this be managed and what expectations do you have around sex during pregnancy and postpartum?

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Family and Family Involvement

- How will you divide Christmas and other holidays?
- Who will you let babysit? This isn't limited just to family, but it's an important question. Who are you both comfortable having babysit your children?
- Who will you let your children stay with for an extended period of time?
- If your mother, father, in laws, sister, brother, etc want to take your child on a trip, or offer to give you a weekend or week away, will you take the opportunity?
- How important is extended family involvement?
- How you're going to take unsolicited advice from important friends and family?
- Who will the baby go to if something happens to both of you?
- Will you assign 'godparents'? If so, who?
- What will each grandparent be called?
- Who are you comfortable with your child calling 'aunty', 'uncle' etc?
- What is the role of step parents, spouses or partners of divorced parents etc?

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Discipline and Boundaries

- What do you imagine is your discipline style with children?
- Is physical discipline okay?
- If so, how far are you willing to take physical discipline?
- Is raising your voice and yelling okay?

How would you parent a child who:

- Displays bully behaviour or has been identified as bullying others?
- Is having a challenging time in school?
- Swears?
- Hits another kid?
- Is hit by another kid?
- Bites someone?
- Runs from you?
- Won't share?
- What is your stance on time outs?

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Money

- Will you have a budget?
- If you haven't already combined your finances, will you when the baby arrives?
- If not, how will you split child-related expenses?
- Who/How will you manage expenses of the pregnancy?
- If one partner earns less than the other (either because of staying home with children or otherwise), how will the finances be managed and divided?
- How will stay-at-home parents or lower-earners be protected financially in the case that your relationship doesn't work out?
- If not both of you, who will assume a leadership role in the family finances?
- If you have the financial means, will you pay for uni for your children?
- What is your stance on giving children an allowance?
- Will you make a will for your family before the baby is born?
- Do you have life / health insurance? Is this important?
- How will your spending habits change with a baby?
- How will you approach baby gear and acquiring all the things needed to support a child and baby?

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Screen time and Social Media

- Is children watching television okay?
- Will you restrict screentime?
- How many hours per week are you comfortable allowing children to watch?
- Will you post on social media about your children?
- Are you comfortable if other people post photos of your children without your permission?
- If not, how will you handle photos being posted of your children or family without permission?
- Will you allow children to be on social media?
- If so, at what ages?
- Will you monitor their social accounts if you do allow them?
- Will you monitor children's overall computer usage?
- What age do you think appropriate to have devices, if deemed ok?

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Lifestyle

- Where will you live?
- Will you move from where you live now?
- How important is it to have your children grow up in one constant town?
- How many children do you each want?
- What happens if one partner desperately wants a second (or third, etc) and the other doesn't?
- What happens if you experience infertility or secondary infertility?
- What will you do to make it happen (adoption, surrogate, IVF, etc) if you experience this?
- What are non-negotiables for you each as far as lifestyle goes?
- Are you homebodies, or would you like to be able to travel with your children?
- What type of hobbies do you want to engage in on your own, as a family, with kids?

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Household (possibly the most explosive topic)

- Who will be responsible for what portion of the household work when the baby arrives?
- Is the division of household labor dependent on workload/schedules?
- What duties ie: washing, dishes, dusting, gardening etc will each of you assume around the house?
- How important is a clean home vs. a tidy home to each of you?
- When your child is old enough, will you expect him or her to contribute to the household chores?

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Work and Careers

- Is it important that one of you stays home to take care of children?
- If one of you plans to stay home with children, who will that be?
- Will you take all of your parental leave? Will you take additional time to be at home with baby?
- If you plan to take unpaid time off with your baby, who will do this?
- Will each partner's work impact the portion of childcare each one does when at home?
- Will sleep schedules change based on each partner's work?
- If your child is sick and needs to be picked up from daycare, preschool, or school, who will usually be responsible for leaving work to do so?
- If you're both working, how will the working partner manage their schedule to allow not only for family time but also for couple time?

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Safety

- Are there any unsafe hobbies or activities you're uncomfortable with your significant other or yourself doing after children (i.e. motorcycling, contact sports, etc)?
- What is your stance on health precautions? (Is it okay for your child to eat dirt, put something in their mouth that's been on the floor?)
- How do you feel about medication for your baby and child?
- Will you baby proof the house? Will you have a 'playpen' for baby?

As a matter of safety, please ensure you complete a comprehensive First Aid training course, knowledge is power!

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Random Theme Q's but also important ones

- Will you raise your children to practice any specific religion? If so, which?
- If babe is a boy, what is your opinion on circumcision?
- Will you allow religious influence from people outside of your immediate family, such as grandparents, aunts or uncles?
- Will you vaccinate your children?
- What do you envision being each of your parenting styles?
- What is your stance on physical punishment (smacks, hitting, etc)?
- How do you feel about gender stereotypes, gender norms?
- How important is organic/non-organic to you?
- Will you cloth diaper / disposable or do elimination communication?
- Do you have any strong stances on traditions?
- Will you undergo genetic testing during pregnancy?
- What will you do if, during genetic testing, it is shown that the baby has a chromosomal abnormality/disability?

The parenting gig is hard and beautiful all at the same time.

Breathe.

Be kind.

Communicate.

& don't forget to eat.