

One of the most important tasks of parenting is naming your child. This is because when you choose a name for your baby, you are creating the baby's future. Your baby's name is the single most important influence on the development of your child's personality and destiny.

## Choosing a Baby's Name



Choosing an appropriate name for your baby may not be as easy as you expected. Husbands and wives are not always in agreement about the choice of a first name or even a middle name. You will certainly have plenty of names-and suggestions of names- from which to choose. Sometimes compromise is the best solution.

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Naming customs vary from culture to culture, yet name giving is as universal as language. In America we are very democratic about naming babies; mothers and fathers listen to family, friends, strangers, and their own impulses before bestowing a name on their newborn.

Many of our names come from the Bible, which means they are often of Greek or Hebrew origin. Our most common biblical names-John, James, Mary, Ruth, Mark, Rebecca, Joseph, Susan, David, Daniel, Jason, Matthew, Judith, and their variations-count for more than fifty per cent of our forenames. Another large group is derived from the Teutonic [or Germanic] languages. These include such names as, William, Brenda, Roger, Frederick, Caroline, and Emily.

Our last names, or surnames, have long been used as first or middle names. English, Teutonic, and Norse surnames, including Ashley, Marion, Clayton, Kimberly, Adair, Shirley, and Mildred are commonly given as first names. And the lines between masculine and feminine

## BABY GIFTS & GIFT BASKETS

You should also consider your family history when deciding on a name. Does your family have any traditions that you wish to follow, such as naming the first born male after the paternal grandfather? You can also look further back in your family tree to find a name.

[Baby Gifts and Gift Baskets](#) provides timely and practical information for new moms, as well as gift ideas for pregnancy, baby showers, and to celebrate birth:

### New Baby Gift Ideas

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names are also blurring. Names like Pat, Chris, Leslie, Robin, Sydney, Lee and Hilary could all raise the question whether a letter should begin "Dear Ms." Or "Mr."

Along with the Bible, our families provide the source for baby names. These traditions can pass on such interesting first or middle names as Taylor, Tyler and Huntington. And the maiden name of the mother is often given to a child as middle names as to keep the family name alive.

## Precious Baby Moses Basket



We've taken a large Moses baby carrier (20" long x 10" deep) and filled it with some beautiful baby keepsakes and newborn essentials. Mom & Dad will love getting this gorgeous basket full of useful items. Gift includes a Baby's First Handprint kit, 5"x7" Baby Picture Frame, a pastel-colored Plush Hippo, two Receiving Blankets, two pairs of Baby Booties, two 100% Cotton Baby T-shirts, Baby Teether Keys, 4 piece Terry Washcloth Set, a Johnson & Johnson Baby Soap and 9 oz Baby Lotion, and a reusable acrylic box filled with Baby Q-Tips.

**Price: \$ 65.00**

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While you are free to name your child according to tradition, family custom, or creative impulse, consider first your responsibility in bestowing an appropriate name and then think about the following:

- Is the name easily spelled and pronounced?
- What nicknames or pet names can be derived from it?
- Do the initials form a word? Is that word objectionable or apt to be embarrassing?
- Is the name so unusual that it will draw undesired attention?
- Be sure the name fits the gender of the child.
- Give full names rather than diminutives; Robert Joseph is preferable to Bobby Joe.
- Use care in naming your baby for well known personalities; celebrities fade or fall out of favour and your child will be left with a dated or unpopular name.
- Consider how your choice of a first name flows with the last name,

particularly if your last name is hyphenated.

- Avoid choosing a first name that becomes "cute" in conjunction with your last name [Barbie Doll, Sandy Rhodes, Holly Wood].
- Finally, both parents should agree on the name - as much in advance of the delivery as possible.

Many baby books are available, should you feel a need for outside help in your decision. Read them, make notes, and discuss your reactions with your partner. Your child will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

