

Ali Larter Pregnant!



Heroes star Ali Larter and husband Hayes MacArthur are expecting their first child, [People](#) reported this week. The couple married last August, but the actress admitted to telling MacArthur she wanted to marry him after only three weeks of dating. She also told [Cosmopolitan](#) in 2007 that she was looking forward to having children. Their child will be born this winter.

How soon is too soon to have a baby after marriage?

Cupid's Advice:

Plenty of people want to jump straight from marriage to children. The exact time frame depends on the couple, but there are certain things you should consider before making that decision:

1. Dating game: Couples who get married shortly after they

start dating should take some serious time to have a relationship with each other before they have one with a child.

2. Age matters: For couples who marry young, as well as those who wait until later in life, should consider age when thinking about children. Talk to your doctor and get a professional opinion.

3. Talk it out: The biggest key is to know what you both want, both in terms of when to have the child, and how to raise it after its born. Do this before trying to have a baby – it's not something you want to have disagreements about when you've already brought a life into the world.

Jesse James Wins Custody of Daughter





Monster Garage host and Sandra Bullock's ex, Jesse James, won physical custody of daughter Sunny on Tuesday, reported [E! Online](#). James and his ex-wife Janine Lindemulder have gone through a tug-of-war custody battle over their child, specifically because James wanted to take Sunny to his home in Austin, TX. The reason? James told the judge that he wanted Sunny to live close to Bullock, who has a positive influence on his daughter. Sunny will remain with her mother until the end of the summer, and will then head to Austin with James.

How can you make a move a smooth transition for a child?

Cupid's Advice:

A big move can be a very traumatic experience for a young child, particularly in the case of a family being split up. James has the right idea in taking Sunny to a spot where she already has roots – thanks to Bullock – but there are other key steps to help the child settle in and start a new life.

1. Lay groundwork: By keeping a child involved in the moving preparations, they will feel more in control of the move.

This will enable them to not feel as if they are being forced from their home, and make them more open to new arrangements.

2. Make it quick: Drawing out goodbyes before a move and the move itself can lead to a more upsetting experience for a kid. Plan the move so it runs smoothly before setting it in motion, and have a goodbye party to make leaving people seem a lighter affair.

3. Nesting effect: By nature, people are nesting creatures, who like to have their own space where they can create a home. Children have those same needs. Let them pick their room and have a say in how it's laid out, painted, and decorated. This will, again, give them a feeling of control.

Jane Krakowski Won't Elope





30 Rock star Jane Krakowski told [People](#) magazine last week that she and her designer fiancé, Robert Godley, will not elope à la Calista Flockheart, her *Ally McBeal* costar. Krakowski and Godley became engaged over the holidays this past year, but have no wedding plans as of yet. The actress *did* reveal, however, that though elopement is not for her, she does think it fits Flockheart and husband Harrison Ford.

How do you know if elopement is for you?

Cupid's Advice:

Eloping is a personal decision that can only be made between you and your partner. Before you jump on a plane to Vegas, read Cupid's advice to see if it's right for you:

1. Family: Though the wedding is ultimately about you, you may want to first consider the thoughts of your family before making the decision. Bring up the idea of eloping and see how mom reacts.

2. Serendipity: Are you a spontaneous couple? Do you believe in the fates and flying by the seat of your pants? If not, a spur of the moment commitment may not be in your best interest. Planners and list-makers beware.

3. Money matters: For couples that are tight on cash, an elopement is often cheaper than a full-blown wedding. Depending on where you go, it can double as a honeymoon, thus saving even more time, planning, and even your wallet.

Bristol Palin Wants More Kids... Someday



It appears that being a one-time-mommy just won't do for Bristol Palin. But don't worry – the recently engaged mother of 18-month-old son Tripp isn't planning on expanding her family anytime soon. "I'm going to wait a while, definitely," the 19-year-old told [People](#). "I'm not going to rush into having another kid." Bristol hopes that she and fiancé Levi Johnston, 20, can provide Tripp with "a brother or sister, eventually."

When will you know if you're ready to enlarge your family?

Cupid's Advice:

Thinking about giving your child a brother or sister in the future? Examine these areas of your current family life to see if you and your clan are ready to expand:

- 1. Talk to your little one:** No matter how young they may be, discussing the prospect of a new baby brother or sister with your child is a good way to get them used to the idea, while also reminding them that they will always be loved and cared for, regardless of future family size.
- 2. Budget:** Kids are priceless, but raising them is not. Before you become a mom or dad for the second time around, get familiar with your spending patterns. Analyze your financial decisions and commitments with your last child, and consider whether or not you could make it work again. Check out MoneyNing's guide to [Planning and Budgeting For a New Baby](#).
- 3. How much time is on your side?:** Baby planning and pregnancy can be time consuming, but nothing is more of a commitment than maintaining a family. If you or your spouse are already inundated with career-related responsibilities, or have trouble making time for each other or your current child, then you may need to hold off on adding another baby to your household right now. Take time to fully develop your current family dynamics so that you can all be well-adjusted and

welcoming of any future little ones!

Oksana Grigorieva's Son to Be Questioned



The Los Angeles county sheriff's department is seeking Alexander Dalton, son of Oksana Grigorieva, for questioning on his mother's relationship with Mel Gibson, [TMZ](#) reported last week. The department believes that Dalton, Grigorieva's son with actor Tim Dalton, will be able to give critical evidence about the fights between Gibson and his mother.

How can a child be protected from parental problems?

Cupid's Advice:

Grigorieva and Gibson's fights have been public due to the release of recordings by RadarOnline.com, but until now, the fight has not involved anyone outside the couple. It's important to separate the the legal issues for the benefit of the family, and the quality of life of the children.

1. Keep it professional: Even if a child gets involved in the legal matters, it's important that those matters are kept within a legal setting. Don't discuss them at home, or bring them up when talking about other things.

2. Leverage: As in, don't use it. Fights between parents should never be used as a bargaining tool to play the child against a mother or father. The kid isn't a pawn in the parents' problems and situations.

3. Allow for distance: If it looks like a child is being taken advantage of, or used to tip the scales in one person's favor over the other, it is up to another family member, or close friend who is aware of the situation, to step in and remove the child. Whether it's staying with grandparents for awhile, or just getting them out of the house, it's important that the kids have their own space.

Craig Ferguson: Daddy-to-Be!





And baby makes four! Craig Ferguson announced via Twitter that he and his art-dealer wife, Megan, are expecting their first child together, reported [People](#). Last Wednesday, the host of *The Late Late Show* on CBS tweeted, “Holy crackers! Mrs F is pregnant. How did that happen? ...oh yeah I know how. Another Ferguson arrives in 2011. The world trembles.” The new addition will give Milo Hamish, Ferguson’s son from a previous marriage, a baby sibling to look forward to.

What can you do to prepare your child to be an older sibling?

Cupid’s Advice:

A new baby can take up most of your time, and it’s easy for older ones to feel left out. Here are some of Cupid’s ideas on preparing your child for a baby on the way:

1. Involvement: Keep your child involved by letting him or her help with baby preparations, like decorating their room, or picking out clothes.

2. Minimize jealousy: Don’t make too many changes to your child’s routine right before the baby is born. This might

foster resentment towards their new sibling, as those changes will be associated with his or her birth.

3. Practice: Give your child an idea of what he or she has to look forward to by visiting friends or relatives who have infants.

Jesse James Wins First Round of Custody Battle



Jesse James, ex-husband of Sandra Bullock and West Coast Choppers CEO, won the first round of his custody battle with second wife, the [New York Post](#) reported Monday. James and ex-wife Janine Lindemulder, an ex-porn star, both provided

statements against each other, including James claiming Lindemulder told him she was on anti-depressant drugs. For now, James has sole custody of their daughter, Sunny.

Can a custody battle lead to a solid family life in the end?

Cupid's Advice:

A custody battle should end up with the child placed in the best home possible. A messy fight between parents doesn't help an already hard situation, especially if the child(ren) aren't old enough to understand what's going on. Keep them away from the proceedings when you can.

1. Lips are sealed: Don't talk about the custody issues outside of the courtroom unless lawyers are present. This protects both parties from bringing any private matters into the battle later on, and also protects the kid from becoming involved.

2. No place likes homes: Make both parents' living arrangements a real home for the child. Regardless of how the custody proceedings end, the youngster should feel comfortable living with either parent. A stable home environment for the child must be provided when all is said and done.

3. No one new: This is not the time to bring any new relationships into the child's life, especially a romantic one for either parent. In a time of uncertainty for a kid, including a new face in the home will only add to the confusion.

Sandra Bullock & Baby Louis Leave Austin



Spotted! Sandra Bullock was seen last weekend at an airport in Austin with baby Louis, [People](#) reported Monday. The mother-son duo was en route to California, where Bullock attended a funeral. Since her much publicized divorce from Jesse James last month, the actress has slowly stepped back into the public eye, attending award shows, and toting Louis around, enthusiastically accepting her new role as a mom.

How can you make traveling with kids easier?

Cupid's Advice:

Kids will almost never sit still, and taking them on a plane ride can be a hassle. Cupid has some tips to keep you sane –

even through some turbulence.

1. Airline help: Visit your airline's website for information on flying with an infant or child. This can give you heads up on how helpful they will or won't be when you fly.

2. Mealtime: Always check your child's food before giving it to him or her. Airline food can be too hot for a young child, and depending on your airline, baby food may not be available.

3. Remember some entertainment: Pack at least four or five toys for your child to play with, but don't let him or her have it all at once. Once you're on the plane, bring the toys out one by one. This way, you can get the most out of one toy's ability to entertain your child before you move onto the next.

Bristol Palin & Levi Johnston Engaged





Bristol Palin, daughter of politician Sarah Palin, is engaged to Levi Johnston, [US Weekly](#) revealed yesterday. The couple told the magazine that they have been engaged for two weeks, despite not having the approval of their parents. The two have rekindled their romance after splitting up last year, just months after the birth of their son, Tripp, in December 2008.

Can a baby-daddy turn into a good husband and father?

Cupid's Advice:

Johnston's actions during and after the birth of his son, from posing for Playgirl magazine to his public war of words with Palin's family, shows he has a lot of making up to do. Here are some of Cupid's tips for dealing with an unplanned pregnancy:

1. Be involved: Both partners need to be involved in their own relationship with each other, as well as the impending relationship with their child, from the get go. Make real plans for the future – a child you created together is on its

way!

2. Time to grow up: No matter how old you are, having a child means it's time to act like an adult. Another life will depend on you for survival. It's imperative you take on a parental role.

3. There's no 'I' in 'team': This isn't about just one person anymore. Your and your partner's needs must be balanced with what will be best for you as a couple, and for your child. Even if you aren't yet officially a family, you must function like one for things to run smoothly.

Melissa Etheridge's Custody Battle





Melissa Etheridge is singing a different tune these days as she and her ex, Tammy Lynn Michaels, are facing off in a custody battle. According to [RadarOnline](#), Michaels filed for full custody of the couple's 3-year old twins last week. The couple broke up after nearly nine years together, when Etheridge filed to officially dissolve their partnership earlier this month, citing irreconcilable differences. The singer asked for joint custody of the children, and that the court not award any financial support to Michaels. The actress has been verbal about her feelings concerning the issue.

What should you know before you engage in a custody battle?

Cupid's Advice:

A custody battle may be one of the biggest fights of your life. Let Cupid help:

1. Why the fight? Are you engaging in a custody battle for legitimate reasons, or are you fighting just to make your ex suffer? Regardless of what happens, you're both parents to

the child, and his or her best interests should be put first.

2. Remain civil: As difficult as it may be, remain polite when it comes to the kids. You don't want the court to see you as a person who can't control their feelings.

3. Become a record keeper: Prove you are a good parent. Record all activities you do with the child, as well as any problems you have with your ex.

Larry King & Shawn Southwick Call Off Divorce



Television legend Larry King and wife Shawn Southwick

collectively filed to dismiss their divorce papers, [TMZ](#) reported last Thursday. The couple had mutually filed for divorce on April 14, citing irreconcilable differences. [The Huffington Post](#) reported that in his announcement to step down from his television show, King said he was looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children.

Can you come back from a divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

Filing for divorce is a huge step that should not be taken lightly, especially when both parties feel it is necessary, as in King and Southwick's case. However, Cupid has some advice for couples who wish to give their marriage a second chance in making it work.

1. Put each other first: Though not everyone can leave their job for their family, King made a conscious decision to to announce his desire to make his marriage and family a priority. In order to give love another try, both people need to put that chance first in their lives.

2. Spice things up: When revitalizing a marriage, take some risk. Try something new on your date night... or revisit an old haunt to relive good memories. Remember what your relationship was like in the beginning, whether you're creating new sparks or reigniting old passions.

3. Don't hold a grudge: Obviously, something drove you to the brink of divorce, and those issues need to be addressed. More importantly, don't hold past actions against each other in the future. Take advantage of the fresh start.

Levi Johnston Makes Nice with the Palins



After many months of a bitter war of words, Levi Johnston apologized to Bristol Palin and her parents last week. Talking exclusively with [People](#), Johnston said, “Last year, after Bristol and I broke up, I was unhappy and a little angry. Unfortunately, against my better judgment, I publicly said things about the Palins that were not completely true.” He continued, “I have already privately apologized to Todd and Sarah. Since my statements were public, I owe it to the Palins to publicly apologize.” Johnston is the father of Bristol Palin’s one-year old son, Tripp. The two called it quits in March 2009 after campaigning together during Sarah Palin’s 2008 vice presidential run. The two are making a conscious effort to reconcile and do what’s best for the baby.

What's the best way to mend a relationship with your ex and his or her family?

Cupid's Advice:

It's unfortunate that a breakup can sometimes lead to exchanging harsh words, not only between the couple, but by the entire family. Here's Cupid's advice on making amends:

1. Accept responsibility: Being aware that something you said or did was wrong makes your apology more genuine. Explain this, and reassure the family it won't happen again. No one is perfect, and everyone makes mistakes.

2. It's really about you and your partner: Before you can move onto the family, make sure both of you can forgive each other, and understand what you want out of the relationship.

Trusting each other, despite being exes, should always come first.

3. Children are key: If children are involved, as is the case with the Palins, reconciliation is even more important.

Everyone can agree that it's important to create a healthy environment for the child.

19 Kids & Counting: The Duggar Family Welcomes Baby Josie Home



[People](#) reported Friday that Josie Duggar, the latest addition born to Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar of the reality show *19 Kids and Counting*, was finally brought home. Their 19th daughter entered the world during Michelle's 25th week of pregnancy, and Josie has spent the last six months in neonatal intensive care. Healthy and finally home in Tontitown, Ark., Josie weighs 9 lbs., 1 oz. The TLC reality show chronicles this family's daily routine, and the Duggar's have easily added Josie to the mix.

How do you run an efficient household?

Cupid's Advice:

Managing a family's busy schedule is never easy, especially with a family as large as the Duggar's. See what Cupid has to say about running a tight ship, regardless of your family's size:

1. Schedule, schedule, schedule: Whether you have one child or

19, you need to manage your time more effectively than when you didn't have a family. Always leave room for the unexpected.

2. Involve everyone: When your family expands into multiple children, time disappears right before your eyes. Delegate tasks to your partner and older kids. Get everyone in the routine of pitching in, and before long, it will become a natural thing!

3. Breathe: When you feel the stress of managing a busy life, give yourself a little breathing room – even if it means letting the dishes sit for an extra five minutes!

Mark-Paul Gosselaar & Lisa Ann Russell Split After 14 Years!





After 14 years of marriage and two children together, Mark-Paul Gosselaar (better known as Zack Morris from *Saved By the Bell*) filed for divorce on June 18 from Lisa Ann Russell. [TMZ](#) confirmed the split on Friday. The couple's rep told [UsMagazine.com](#) that they will remain "focused on their family and are jointly committed to their children."

How can you focus on the kids when you dissolve a marriage?

Cupid's Advice:

No one wants to end a relationship, but there are times when parents find themselves sitting with lawyers to divide their assets – and figure out what to do about their children. Here are some ways to help alleviate stress when the kids are involved:

- 1. Let the older kids speak:** When dealing with something as permanent as divorce, always put the kids first. If they're old enough, talk with them and ask if they have any questions. If they're too young to understand, ensure that you spend positive quality time together as frequently as possible.
- 2. Play nice with your ex:** You may think this an easy task,

but when a relationship ends, you're bound to strike an occasional sour note. Try to keep tempers and attitudes in check, especially if the kids are within earshot.

3. Separate the issues: Ending your marriage shouldn't be a nasty fight to the finish. Work things out amicably and make sure you work out child custody arrangements. When the kids see that the two of you get along better now that you're apart, they may feel that the divorce was a better choice versus seeing their parents fighting constantly.

Mel Gibson vs. Oksana Grigorieva: Restraining Orders





[RadarOnline](#) reported Friday that 54-year-old actor Mel Gibson filed a sealed restraining order against ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, the mother of his seven-month-old illegitimate daughter, Lucia. However [TMZ](#) reported an hour later that Grigorieva filed a domestic violence restraining order against the actor, claiming he was violent towards her. Gibson's restraining order was filed to keep his ex from releasing certain information, as well as ensuring child visitation rights.

How do you deal with child visitation after a not so amicable break up?

Cupid's Advice:

While no breakup is immune to problems, there are ways to ensure your children don't bear the burden of your issues.

- 1. Ask for help:** If you and your ex can't stand to be in the same room together, find a close friend or family member that can assist with figuring out a schedule that works for the both of you.
- 2. Hire a mediator:** A professional can meet with each of you

separately and come back with an arrangement that gives both parents equal time with the kids.

3. Include the children: Ask the older ones about their wishes. It's important to include them in your decision if you can. This will go along way to help them understand the breakup isn't about them.

It's A Boy for Sean Patrick Thomas!



A rep for actor Sean Patrick Thomas and wife Aonika Laurent Thomas announced the birth of their son, Luc Laurent Thomas, in a [People](#) exclusive on Tuesday. He was born on June 9 in Los Angeles and weighed

7 lbs., 6 oz. The couple also has a 2-year-old daughter, Lola.

How can you ensure enough time for everyone when increasing family size?

Cupid's Advice:

Families are growing larger in the 21st century, which can often translate to family members – especially children – feeling left out. To combat this, you'll need to be strategic about your time. Here are some easy methods to keep the household from feeling neglected:

- 1. Create a routine:** From the moment you have a new baby, a routine needs to be worked out so older siblings can spend time with the little one, and also have one-on-one time with you.
- 2. Offer special coupons:** Depending on the age of your older children, creating 'coupons' for together time can provide them with control over their needs. These tickets can be for hugs, story-time, or a game – anything to show your kids they haven't been forgotten.
- 3. Special moments:** There are bound to be unexpected games, recitals, or plays you'll need to attend. If you've gotten short notice, make every effort to make it. Can't? It's time to bust out an IOU card.

Halle Berry & Gabriel Aubry

Take Nahla to Disneyland



Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry and her ex, model Gabriel Aubry, took their 2-year-old daughter Nahla to Disneyland in Anaheim, California last week, according to [UsWeekly](#). The three were spotted in the land of Mickey Mouse taking pictures, and of course, wearing smiles!

Is an outing with an ex (who also happens to be the biological parent to your child) an ideal situation when kids are involved?

Cupid's Advice:

Sure, as long as any disagreements or other dramas remain behind closed doors and away from the kids. Staying platonic with your ex for sake of family ties can strengthen the bond you have with your children. If you're planning an excursion

with an ex and the kiddies, Cupid has some tips for a successful day:

- 1. Lay the groundwork:** Talk with your ex in private beforehand. Communication is crucial to maintain peace and civility while you're out. Any ulterior moves from either of you will be counterproductive.
 - 2. Keep it simple:** If it's your first attempt at devising this type of plan, keep it light. Instead of a huge theme park like Disneyland, try the local park – think swings, trees, and paths to stroll down.
 - 3. Keep conversation light:** If you experience any awkwardness during the day, bring your focus back to the kids, and enjoy the time you've set aside for them.
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Tiffani Thiessen Welcomes Her First Child





It's a girl! [People](#)

reported that actress Tiffany Thiessen and her hubby, Brady Smith, welcomed their first daughter, Harper Renn Smith, on Tuesday. Thiessen's rep said Harper, who weighed in at 8 lbs., 3 oz., is "doing great." This is the couple's first child.

What can first moms expect once the baby is born?

Cupid's Advice:

A lot! But with some basic tips and the help of family and friends, you can get through this exciting (and sometimes scary) new time.

1. You'll be tired – constantly: Long gone are the mornings you can sleep in. Be prepared for this, and prepare your partner for this as well.

2. Don't expect anything...: Since this is your first child, you don't know what to expect or what road you should take. Realize that you can only control so much.

3. ...but expect to be surprised: What amazes most first-time moms is how fast time flies, and how quickly their newborn turns into a walking, talking mini-mom or dad. Embrace the

moments allow you to forget how stressed out you are, and remember that motherhood is a gift that shouldn't be taken for granted.

Jesse James & Ex-Wife Janine Battle for Sunny James



Last Friday, Jesse James allowed a long-awaited supervised meet-up between his 6-year-old daughter, Sunny James, with her mother, porn star Janine Lindemulder. The reason for the long delay? Up until the recent admission of infidelity by Jesse James, Lindemulder was considered to be the “bad” parent (Bitten and Bound). The former couple will be heading to court in two weeks to discuss more formal arrangements, provided Lindemulder has learned to

put a filter on her conversations when near their little girl, as [US Weekly](#) reported.

Visitation is hard enough on kids these days. What can adults in this situation do to ensure equal, quality time?

Cupid's Advice:

James and Lindemulder need to take their daughter into consideration when making plans to spend with their child. In any visitation battle, it's best to take the necessary time to plot out important events so that all parties involved are able to have a successful, yet separate, relationship. Here are some ways to assist:

1. Make a list: Each adult needs to write out the special days they wish to share with their child(ren), whether it's a holiday or a school play, then compare each list with each other and choose which days are the most important.

2. Compromise: Whenever there's a conflict, you must be willing to concede when appropriate. You should always consider the child and their needs first. Talk it out and see if both of you can share a special day.

3. Talk with your child(ren): Once the two of you have come up with a plan of action and are in agreement, consider sitting down with your little ones (if they're old enough to understand), and let them know what you've come up with. At this point, you can ask how they feel about the arrangements, or if they have any questions.

Families are the backbone of society. They support you when you venture out into the world, and they are there to comfort you when you stumble. If you're part of a family living in separate houses, it doesn't mean that it can't work.

Katherine Heigl Wants to Adopt Again



While attending London's red carpet premiere of her new movie, *Killers*, with Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl was asked by a reporter if she and husband Josh Kelley want to add another baby to the family. [People](#) reported that Heigl responded, "I hope so," and she explained how hard it is to balance a career and motherhood. Heigl and Kelly already have an 18-month-old daughter Naleigh, who was adopted from South Korea last September. **What does it take to balance motherhood and a life?**

Cupid's Advice

Plan for everything!

1. Expect the unexpected: One of the first rules of parenting is that the unexpected happens more often than not, so you must be willing to work outside the box in order to maintain any semblance of normalcy.

2. Be flexible: You want to go out to dinner with your spouse, but your child has a class project due tomorrow and you promised to help. What do you do? Assist with the project and reschedule the date. If you are going to add to this family dynamic, you need to be able to split up your time effectively between the kids, your partner, and your own life.

3. Make time for yourself: You've just added another child to your family, and there seems to be no time for anything but work, kids, partner, sleep. If you continue on that path, you will eventually crash. Set some time each week for yourself. Whether it's a day at the salon, hanging out with friends, or going to a concert, take a breather. You need vegging out time, too.