

Katie Holmes On Having More Kids: “Maybe In A Couple Of Years...”



Are Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise making plans to add to their brood? “Maybe in a couple of years, but right now I want to make sure I’m really there for Suri,” says Holmes recently, according to [Us Magazine](#). While there are no immediate plans for expansion, Holmes is still young at 31, and plans to keep her baby options open for the future.

How can parents prevent an only child from being spoiled on the road?

Cupid’s Advice:

When a couple only has one child, all of their attention naturally focuses on him or her. When you add traveling for work into the picture, it becomes easy to spoil the child.

Cupid has some ways to help keep that from happening:

1. Have a consistent schedule: No matter where you lay your head at night, keeping a regular schedule for your little one will help to give him or her a sense of normalcy.

2. Plan activities to share: You can treat your children and your spouse while traveling to experiences by taking in the sights in your free time. This will cement the family bond and perhaps ignite a spark between parents.

3. Don't give them everything they want: The most important way to keep from spoiling your only child is to refrain from giving them everything they want. Explain to them why they can't have what they are asking for, and don't cave when they ask again.

Lauren Graham and Peter Krause: Friends First





Former *Gilmore Girl*, Lauren Graham, recently revealed that her low-profile relationship with *Parenthood* co-star Peter Krause started as a friendship. The two met 15 years ago when the actress first moved to Los Angeles. Instead of playing the “dating game” like most couples do when they’re first attracted to each other, Graham and Krause got acquainted over board games. As the actress told [People](#), “I think we liked each other [but] he asked me over to his house to play a board game – and that’s exactly what we ended up doing. So I was like, ‘This guy doesn’t like me. Who actually *plays* a board game?’ ... The timing wasn’t right. I don’t think either of us was ready.”

Does starting out as friends make you a better couple?

Cupid’s Advice:

Your significant other is usually also your best friend. It’s very important for couples to not only to share a physical relationship, but also to be able to relate to one another on an intellectual level. The best relationships tend to have a healthy balance between both physical and emotional

attraction.

1. The friend zone: Anyone who has seen the film *Just Friends* starring Ryan Reynolds knows just how frustrating it is when one party is interested in pursuing a relationship, while the other is content with the “status quo.” This proves that being good friends doesn’t necessarily mean that more than that is possible.

2. Getting to know each other: To have a serious relationship, you really have to get to know your partner. Hanging out as friends at first is a lot less pressure than going out on a date. People tend to open up more in a relaxed environment.

3. Staying friends after a breakup: Many find it hard to stay friends with their exes. However, if you were friends with them before a relationship bloomed, it could be easier to stay on good terms after a breakup.

Cannon-Carey Baby Buzz





Nick Cannon is speaking out about the rampant rumors surrounding wife Mariah Carey, and the possibility that she is pregnant. Cannon, a self-proclaimed “big kid,” denies any bouncing bundles of joy in the near future, but he did attest to her mothering potential, nurturing nature, and mean waffle-making skills, according to [OK! Magazine](#). “She’s very nurturing, you know, nurturing and private. She makes me breakfast, and that’s my favorite food,” Cannon said. “It will be like 3:00 in the morning, and she’ll still make me breakfast. [She makes me] Waffles. I’m a waffle guy. With like the iron, she’s talented.”

Does the way you behave in a relationship dictate your parenting style?

Cupid’s Advice:

The way someone behaves in any relationship is an indicator of how they relate to others. If a person is helpful, loving and giving, chances are they’ll be just as loving as a parent. The one thing no woman needs is having a big kid for a boyfriend/hubby. Cupid has some suggestions to help you avoid

becoming your spouse's second mom:

1. Choose to be serious: Fun and games are part of what keeps a relationship exhilarating and are essential parts of any lasting romance. When push comes to shove though, sometimes you have to put on a grown up face and get down to business. When it comes to big issues like parenting, you need to know that your spouse is a man, not a boy.

2. Nurturing is a two-way street: There's nothing wrong with giving your spouse a little TLC now and again. However, you shouldn't always be the one making breakfast in bed. Remember that once in awhile you deserve pampering.

3. Let them handle their business: As much as you may want to pick up after your partner, don't. It's always a plus to help your spouse out periodically, but you have to remember that he is an adult, too, and should be able to take care of himself. If you "mother" him now, you could risk having another kid instead of a partner.

Tiger Woods & Elin Nordegren Finalize Their Divorce





After months of rumors and scandals surrounding Tiger Woods and his wife Elin Nordegren, the two have called it quits. “Elin Nordegren and Tiger Woods confirmed today that they have divorced,” Nordegren’s Virginia-based law firm, McGuireWoods, confirmed last Monday in a statement to [Access Hollywood](#). “The Judgment provides for shared parenting of their two children.” The former couple released a joint statement to the public reinforcing that their children are their primary concern. They also added, “We are sad that our marriage is over, and we wish each other the very best for the future.”

How can you find love again after a divorce?

Cupid’s Advice:

Moving on from a commitment like marriage can be a slow transition. Once you’re back in the dating world, the idea of love can finally start to take form again. Cupid has some tips to help you along:

- 1. Over it:** Before venturing into the dating world, make sure you aren’t still licking old wounds. If the divorce papers or breakup discussions are finalized, then treat whatever is left

of the relationship the same way. Otherwise, you might be setting yourself up for future pain.

2. Don't rush: There's no need to hurry into a new relationship. Many people rebound quickly and become deeply involved too soon after their divorce or breakup. Sometimes it can lead to dating someone similar to your ex. Make sure it feels right before becoming too committed.

3. Changes: If you're dipping your feet back into the waters of dating, chances are you have a new outlook on life and a new attitude to go along with it. This might be a good time to submit to a makeover, too! During a serious relationship, many people have a tendency to let themselves go. Now is a great time to fit and try out new fashions. Have fun with it!

Maci Bookout & Ryan Edwards in a Parenting Battle





Ouch! If being a teenage mom wasn't hard enough, things just got harder for the MTV's *16 and Pregnant* star, Maci Bookout. After splitting up with her baby daddy Ryan Edwards, the devoted *Teen Mom* star tells [US Weekly](#) that she and her ex-beau have a hard time agreeing on how their son Bentley should be raised. She talks about how she struggled to ween her 22-month-old son off his pacifier, and learned that Edwards gives Bentley his pacifier whenever the child is with him. Bookout says, "I think Ryan spoils Bentley and really has no boundaries as far as discipline. With me, I don't want Bentley to grow up and be a brat when he's 4 years old."

What do you do when you and your ex can't agree on how to raise your child?

Cupid's Advice:

Raising a child can be very difficult. Co-parenting with different views can make things even worse. Cupid has some tips to make things easier:

1. Compromise: If you and your ex can't agree on something, then it's best if both parties relinquish a little control and

find middle ground that will ultimately benefit your child.

2. Communicate: It's important that both parents put their differences aside and talk things out with one another. Poor communication opens the door for children to manipulate situations to his or her benefit. If your child can't have dessert this week, then your ex needs to know that, too! Worst-case scenarios can lead to a child not being picked up after school or missing important medical treatments.

3. Equality: Don't throw all responsibility at one parent. It makes for a more civil atmosphere and better upbringing for your child if you and your ex share an equal amount of the responsibility.

Michael Douglas Battling Tumor





Actor Michael Douglas was diagnosed with a tumor in his throat, [E! Online](#) reported Monday. The 65-year-old actor said he is “optimistic” about his health in a statement, though it has not been released whether the tumor is cancerous or benign. Douglas has a wife, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, and three children, two of them with Zeta-Jones.

How can you get past a large health setback as a couple?

Cupid’s Advice:

Though the disease is in its early stages, this is a crucial time for Douglas and Zeta-Jones. Strong family and spousal support in a time of sickness can often make a large difference in a patient’s chance for recovery, as well as for the success of the relationship through this difficult time.

1. Stay private: Whether or not the couple dealing with illness is a celebrity or an everyday couple, it’s necessary to keep the matter within only those who need to know. Personal friends and family are the only ones who need to be brought in.

2. Be involved: It's important that those dealing with the illness, especially the patient's partner, are as involved as possible. Stay up-to-date on doctor's findings, appointments, and your partner's needs. Make the illness and healing as easy to deal with as possible.

3. Prepare for the aftershock: Even after an illness has been treated, there is the potential for the patient to feel vulnerable or angry afterward. Be ready for this, and understand that it's a natural reaction. Be supportive.

Katherine Heigl & Josh Kelley Move to Utah





As reported on [Us Weekly](#), Hollywood couple Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley have left sunny L.A. in favor of the mountains of Utah. Heigl and Kelley married in Utah and are psyched to be moving there with their one-year-old daughter, Naleigh, who they adopted from Korea. The couple plans to spend their time between Nashville and Utah.

When couples have children, should they move out of the city in favor of a more suburban or rural area?

Cupid's Advice:

When it comes to married life, everyone seems to think of the picturesque house in the suburbs surrounded by a white picket fence. Though this has its benefits, it's not a requirement for a happy family:

1. More space: If your small apartment in the heart of the city has no room for a nursery, it may be a good idea to get a bigger place where space is more affordable. A larger living area can provide you with a smoother transition from married to family life.

2. Make an educated decision: For this move to work, both people must be on the same page. If one wants to make the move while the other does not, there will be problems. Spend a sufficient amount of the time talking, thinking, and doing research about it before taking out your next mortgage or signing a new lease.

3. There's no place like home: If you decide that it's better for you to stay where you are, that's also a great option. If you feel secure where you live, your family should, too.

Jesse James' Ex Janine Lindemulder is Following Along!





Jesse James' ex-wife Janine Lindemulder is heading south to Austin to be with her daughter, [E! News](#) reported this week. After a court battle, Lindemulder was granted joint legal custody of daughter Sunny, but the celebration was cut short when James received physical custody, deciding to move down to Austin, TX with their child. The former adult film actress was originally uncertain about the move because she wasn't sure if she could provide a lifestyle of equal standards for the child like James and former step-mom, Sandra Bullock, had given her. In addition, E! News reports that Lindemulder requested additional funds. Sunny's parents deliberated the \$6,500 increase in support in court Monday.

Would you move near your ex to be closer to your children?

Cupid's Advice:

If your divorcee is moving away with the kids and you plan to follow, Cupid has some things you should consider first:

1. Reason: Make sure you understand the reasons for the move. He or she may not be doing it to hurt you, especially if there are financial reasons involved. The move may be what's best

for your children, so don't simply follow along because you think your ex is trying to keep you away from the kids.

2. Move along: Any move is life-altering. You'll need to change your address, house, and possibly your career and friends. Before making such a big step, consider your financial resources, and ask yourself if you're really willing to make this change.

3. Awkwardness: Maybe your ex moving away is a good thing. Have you considered all the possibilities? How would you react if your ex started dating again? Being nearby with so many mutual connections outside of your children (like teachers and doctors) might spur up some awkward meetings and conversations.

Amy Poehler & Will Arnett Welcome Another Son





Amy Poehler and Will Arnett welcomed their second son, Abel James Arnett, weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz. on Friday morning, adding to their growing family. Their first son, Archie, will be turning two this October. Their rep told [People](#), “Amy, Will, Abel and Archie are all healthy and resting comfortably.”

How do you prepare your older children for a new baby in the family?

Cupid’s Advice:

There are several ways to make your current child(ren) comfortable around new arrivals, starting while you’re still pregnant, or thinking of becoming pregnant. Read what Cupid has to say:

1. Talk to your kids: Early in the pregnancy, or if possible, before you become pregnant, sit down with your family and explain the coming changes. Be prepared for questions by checking out sites like Kid’s Health.

2. Classes: Many hospitals and birthing centers offer free or

low cost big brother/sister classes. They'll help your little ones learn how to interact with the new baby. Your children can even learn how to change a diaper!

3. Spend time with older kids: If you don't have much time to give, focus on the quality of that time. Make sure they know that you still love them.

Sean Penn & Robin Wright Divorce Finalized



After a messy road towards divorce, Sean Penn and Robin Wright

have at last signed papers, finalizing their divorce, figuring out all questions relating to child support, spousal support, and child custody. [People](#) reported that Wright hopes to remain friends with her ex, despite their history.

Can you stay friends with an ex after a nasty split?

Cupid's Advice:

Penn and Wright have an interesting marriage to say the least, but the fact that they have a child together means they will always have to be a part of each other's lives. In order for exes to have a relationship post-split, both people have to work at it.

1. Be adults: It takes a lot to look past a difficult and angry history with someone, but it can be done so long as both people commit to looking forward. Don't hold grudges, or bring up old ills.

2. Think of others: Whether it's children, or even just mutual friends – if you and your ex are committing to starting a friendship, then it should just be between you two. Don't get angry if your friends are also buddies with your ex. Think of how your relationship, both past and future, will affect those close to you.

3. Expect the worst: Very few people who were in a serious relationship together can then turn around and become friends. Understand that it might not work. If it does fail, move on, and find the best compromise for you both.

Lamar Odom on Kids with Khloé – “We Would Love To”



Lamar Odom is definitely interested in having with with wife Khloé Kardashian, [People](#) reported last week. “Hopefully it’ll happen soon,” he told the magazine. The NBA star has two children from a previous relationship, which definitely helps provide great parenting tips – as does baby Mason, Kardashian’s nephew.

How do you know when your relationship is ready to take on parenting?

Cupid’s Advice:

Being a parent is a lifelong commitment – it’s best to plan

ahead. Even if you have a surprise pregnancy, you have enough time to get ready before the big day arrives. Cupid shares some important tips:

1. Evaluate your relationship: If you're considering an addition to your family, determine the strength of your bond with each other first. Are you both mentally, emotionally, and financially ready to take care of another life? Consider these questions before going ahead.
2. Parent plans: Pregnant or not, couples don't always share the same goals when it comes to parenting. Discuss your approaches to raising children to find a common ground you can both agree to.
3. Go with the flow: Keep in mind that all the planning in the world can never fully prepare you for becoming a parent. Learn to accommodate – to both your partner and yourself – as new issues arise.

Palin & Johnston Split... Again





Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston have split up again, [People](#) magazine reported Tuesday. Palin, daughter of former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, and Johnston announced their second attempt at an engagement only weeks ago in the hopes of starting a real family for their 19-month old son Tripp. Palin told *People* that the breakup occurred after rumors surfaced about Johnston fathering another child with an as-yet-unnamed woman.

How do you know it's finally time to cut a bad guy loose?

Cupid's Advice:

There comes a time when a reunion is just impossible, no matter how much you wish someone can change. Dalmatians can't change their spots, and it's up to you to know when its time to quit.

1. One-sided attempts: If you're the only one in the relationship trying to make it work, then perhaps it just isn't going to. This lack of effort shows your partner isn't fully invested in the relationship – or you.

2. Repeated mistakes: There are some characteristics a person

just can't change. If your mate makes the same mistakes repeatedly, it might be due to a character difference that will always keep you two apart.

3. Hurting others: As in Palin's case, her son Tripp's happiness is also at stake in the relationship. If other people, children or otherwise, are being negatively affected by your attempts at reconciliation, it's time to pull the plug.

Russell Brand is Daddy Material



Comedian Russell Brand has the faith of fiancée Katy Perry when it comes to his abilities as a future father. [People](#) reported last week that the pop singer thinks Brand will “be perfect” as a baby daddy, a quality she says was key for her in looking for a potential husband. The two have been engaged since January.

Is being a good parent the most important trait in a future spouse?

Cupid’s Advice:

Perry knew what she was looking for when it came to a future husband. If you want to have children, then yes, it’s important to find someone you think will be a good parent. However, it’s a good idea to talk about your goals before thinking about getting hitched:

1. Prioritize: If having children is not something you’re considering, the potential to be a good parent – while a good characteristic to have in general – isn’t necessary. Figure out what your future plans are before you looking for your ideal mate.

2. Break the ice: If you decide that being a parent is something you want, make sure you broach the subject with your mate carefully. This can be a touchy and intimidating subject for people, so tread delicately.

3. Make plans: If having a child is something you both want, and marriage is already in the works, then go ahead and plan for a family. This is a life change that should be addressed ahead of time.

Melissa Rycroft Turns in Her Tap Shoes for Baby Booties



Reality TV star Melissa Rycroft is expecting her first baby with husband Tye Strickland. Rycroft told [US Weekly](#) that while they are thrilled, the baby news was a shock, and they weren't trying to get pregnant. Meanwhile, Rycroft and Strickland are quite the busy couple. Talking with [Good Morning America](#) earlier this week, Rycroft said, "Apparently Tye and I wanted to see how many life-changing events we could fit into one calendar year... from getting engaged, married, new job, and we are now pregnant." The former *Dancing with the Stars* and *Bachelor* contestant tied the knot with the insurance agent in December.

What's the best way to juggle parenthood and a busy career?

Cupid's Advice:

Nowadays, it's not uncommon to see a couple juggling work, a family, and everyday life. With more women in the workplace, finding that balance can be a challenge. Let Cupid help:

1. Get a routine down: If you and your spouse both need to work, make sure to set up daily schedules. This will get you into a rhythm, and will help your child adjust to a routine, which can cut down on behavioral issues.

2. Set priorities: While it's good to try to get a lot accomplished in one day, set priorities so you don't burn yourself out, or miss out on opportunities. One working mother [said](#), "When deciding between attending a meeting or a school event, for example, use the five-year test. In five years, will I look back and say, 'I wish I'd gone to a school play or that meeting?' You may decide you have to go to that meeting but give yourself a little bit of a time perspective about what your priorities are." Also, when you set priorities, you will become more productive at work and parenting.

3. Explore all options: It's not a bad idea to look for help in the form of a housekeeper, nanny, or daycare program. This will take some of the burden off of you, and with a reputable daycare your child is in good hands. To find a good one, talk to friends, family, or go online for resources. If you have questions on what to do when leaving your child with a new sitter, check out these tips from Bright Horizons.

Angelina Jolie On Brad Pitt: We Have Each Other's Backs



With six kids at home and the paparazzi waiting outside, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie depend on each other more than ever. The 35-year-old *Salt* actress tells [People](#) in last week's issue, "We have each other's backs." This can come in handy when the kids are fighting.

How can you make co-parenting more effective?

Cupid's Advice:

Parenting is a difficult job, but if you share the responsibilities equally with your partner, it will be a lot less challenging.

- 1. Power struggle:** A major parenting problem is who's going to play the bad guy, but neither of you have to play that role. Establish a balance of power by agreeing to issues before they happen. One rule is to never undermine your spouse in front of your kids.
 - 2. Ask for help:** Don't take things out on your partner if you're having a hard time with the children. Instead, tell him or her what you're struggling with, and ask for their help and input. Your spouse is more likely to be there for you when their opinions are being accounted for.
 - 3. Savor the moments:** Keep in mind that your children learn by watching you, so don't let parenting be a burden that makes you irritable and angry towards your partner or others. Set aside some time for R&R each day or week to enjoy each other's company.
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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.

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.

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.

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.
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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!