

10 Ways to Make a Good First Impression on Your Mate's Parents



By Nic Baird

What's the worst that can happen when you meet your partner's parents? Projectile vomit over dessert. But, really, what are the chances of that? Obviously be yourself, because anything else is too hard for something so stressful. If it makes it easier you can be reserved at first, and let your hair down as you size up the situation. Here are the standard rules to follow when meeting the parents for the first time:

1. Presentation: It could be that your partner's family is a

commune of hippies and they don't care if you wear a ball gown or a burlap sack, but it's not a good idea to go into your first encounter with this assumption. Dress smart, but don't overdress. It has to show that you put effort into your appearance without any flash or sex appeal. Pretend you're dressing for a job interview at the library.

2. Grace: Most parents want to like you, and will try their best to establish good relations for the sake of their child. In some cases you might be prodded or even goaded. If this happens then the only correct response is to remain untouched. Don't fight back, and keep smiling. You will demonstrate your power by your lack of aggression and offence.

3. Enthusiasm: If it feels like a chore, that's reasonable. If the pressure of the date is pure torture, that's not unreasonable. As soon as you ring the doorbell, your gut might urge you to just hide in the bushes and slink away unseen. Resist. You must be ecstatic to have been granted an audience with these most respected figures. Or at least it should seem that way.

4. Confidence: Parents who smell a reasonable amount of fear on your person will not be upset. This could even delight them as a form of respect, or give you an endearing quality. An attempt at a confident presentation is all they ask. If they want you to try the mechanical bull in the basement and you don't have a heart condition, then there's only one choice.

5. Engage: Ask questions and be part of the conversation. Show an interest in topics they bring up, and try to bring new material to the discussion. Look them in the eye, talk at a reasonable volume, and, once again, smile.

6. Restraint: Especially for the first meeting, show restraint in your affection towards your partner. Groping and French kissing will disgust even the most liberal of parents. There's some leeway once you've established your

presence, but the restraint you show in front of them demonstrates the respect they crave, and in most cases, the respect they deserve.

Related: [5 Ways to Reconcile Arguments With In-Laws](#)

7. Foresight: Even if you're uncomfortable looking to the future, this is a favourite topic of parents. What are your dreams and aspirations? What skills are you developing? How will you be a valuable addition to my child's life? You're not going to answer these questions outright, but it will be in the subtext when you describe your plans. Talk about yourself. Don't talk about the apartment you hope to inhabit with their progeny.

8. Maturity: These people are older than you. They should be older than you, but if not this applies regardless. Keep your jokes and comments at a level above theirs. This isn't your grandma, but it's somewhere in between her and the school playground. Be mindful not to go too far.

9. Commitment: While it might seem like a good idea to describe yourself as hopelessly in love with your new soul mate, parents don't respond to this as well as you might think. Nobody is good enough for their child until they prove themselves. If this is your first encounter, you should demonstrate that you're serious about the relationship without planning the wedding day.

10. Etiquette: This is a skill that must be developed. It's more than being polite and thoughtful, though those are the essentials. Things to compliment: the house, the meal, the music, and anything of personal significance. Manners involve clearing the plates without offering, and sitting back down when they urge you to stop. You're a guest and you have to pay tribute to their hospitality.

What are some other tips for meeting your partner's parents? Share your ideas below.

'American Idol' Star Danny Gokey Welcomes a Baby Boy



By [Nic Baird](#)

American Idol season eight finalist and [wife](#) Leyicet had their first child on Sunday, [People](#) reports. The [newborn](#) boy, Daniel Emmanuel Gokey, weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. and arrived at 9:52 p.m. EST. "Leyicet and I are overjoyed to welcome the new member of our family. I'm ecstatic to be a first time dad and to have a new little buddy to hang out with," Gokey said.

How do you decide how to long to wait to have a child after marriage?

Cupid's Advice:

[Marriage](#) is a new dynamic and a new identity for your relationship. As you figure it out, realize that having a child means more change as well. Take time to appreciate what you have, but be optimistic about the future. If you've always wanted a family, don't be afraid to pursue that goal!

1. Relationship stability: When it comes to making the commitment of a child, you have to make sure you're both ready take this next step. Make sure neither of you have any serious problems that must be addressed before starting a family. A developing child will greatly benefit from the strength of you've already built as a couple. is now physically represented by your offspring. Procreating and raising a child is the most tangible purpose human beings can find. Make sure the [love](#) is there.

2. Ready to change: It'll be hard to adjust. You'll no longer simply be a couple, but a family. This will influence your career, friendships, and any future relationships. Your partner is now cemented with a fixed level of importance as the co-parent of your child. This shift is a major escalation of your relationship. Realize this new dynamic must change your [relationship](#), but find stability in the aspects that stay the same.

3. Prepare yourself: Having a child will really test how you've developed time management, responsibility, and determination. Keep in mind that you and your partner are caring for this child as a team. Make sure you consider how to manage a child in your life and what compromises you'll have to make.

When do you think it's time to have a child? Share your comments below!

How Celebrity Moms Keep an Active Dating Life



By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Dating as a single mom is never easy, especially if you're trying to balance a busy career with raising your children. Even for celebrities, who have luxuries that not all single moms can afford, it's still a tricky thing to manage. The famous faces below have figured out a few ways to find love while still playing the most important role of their lives:

1. Make It a Family Affair: Before she got hitched, Reese Witherspoon was often seen with Jim Toth and her kids from her

marriage to Ryan Phillipe. Rather than try to make time for romance *and* family, she simply included Ava and Deacon on her dates. The newlyweds even took her children on their honeymoon to Belize!

Michelle Williams has taken a similar approach in her relationship with Jason Segel. The couple is constantly seen with Matilda, Williams' daughter with Heath Ledger, and they even split their time on both coasts based on the little girl's school schedule.

Related: [Three Tips to Stress Free Holiday Dating](#)

2. Date a Blast From Your Past: Sometimes, it's easier to date a guy from your past instead of searching for someone new. Denise Richards, mom to three girls, took this route, dating Heather Locklear's ex Richie Sambora. While it may have ruined her friendship with Locklear, she is still in an on-and-off relationship with the rocker.

Perhaps taking a cue from her former friend, Locklear, who has a daughter with Sambora, dated Jack Wagner, her costar from *Melrose Place*, for over four years before ending their engagement.

3. Meet Your Match on Reality TV: Emily Maynard, single mom to daughter Ricki Hendrick, has tried not once but *twice* to find love on reality television. First, she won the heart of *Bachelor* Brad Womack, only to end their engagement a few months later.

Rather than give up, Maynard tried again, becoming the most recent *Bachelorette*. She accepted Jef Holm's proposal, but they too broke up less than three months after the show ended. Despite this double dose of heartbreak, she has no regrets because she says she did fall in love with both men.

Related: [5 Bachelor and Bachelorette Couples We Can Learn From](#)

4. Stay In Your Inner Circle: Dating someone who your kids already know eliminates the need for awkward introductions and potential tension. Heidi Klum, who split from Seal after almost seven years of marriage, is now in a relationship with her bodyguard, Martin Kirsten. Luckily, her four children are already comfortable with him and are used to him being around.

Similarly, Courteney Cox has been rumored to be dating her *Cougartown* costar, Josh Hopkins. Coco, her daughter with David Arquette, knows Hopkins from her time spent on set, making the transition easier for her mom.

5. Depend On Your Ex: Staying on friendly terms with your ex can help your dating life as well. Jennie Garth, who recently split from her husband of 11 years, Peter Facinelli, has already been spotted with three different men. Thanks to her co-parenting routine with Facinelli, she has time to date while her three daughters hang out with their dad.

Likewise, Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz split time with their four-year-old son, Bronx. They both are frequently seen out and about with their significant others and even reunited recently to celebrate their little boy's birthday.

What's the best dating lesson you learned from celebrity moms? Tell us in the comments below!

Jessica Alba: My Husband & I Are "Kindred Spirits"



By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Mom-of-two Jessica Alba, 31, covers the February issue of [InStyle](#) and opens up about life with husband **Cash Warren** and their two daughters **Honor**, 4½, and **Haven**, 16 months.

On her connection with Cash: “I just knew when I met him that I was going to know him forever. It was weird; he instantly felt like family. I’d never felt like that with anyone. We got each other. We’re kindred spirits. On a weekend Cash might say, ‘Go get your nails done with a girlfriend. Haven is down for a nap and Honor and I will play. I know you work hard. You deserve some time for yourself.’ That, to me, is romantic. He’s saying, ‘You matter,’ and that I’m more than just the mother of the kids or the wife who goes out to events with him.”

On celebrating their ancestry: “When Cash and I moved into our

family house, we collected hundreds of pictures of our aunts, great aunts, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, and sisters and brothers. Then we mounted them in the foyer of our home, covering the wall from top to bottom. Our daughters are continually reminded of where they come from.”

On multitasking: “Sometimes I can take multitasking to a level of insanity. Then all of a sudden the bath is too high and I’ve forgotten to give my daughter the thing she needs for school.”

On being a perfectionist: “Before I had kids, I was very responsible and serious. I used to be all about controlling my environment; Everything had to be just so. Now my idea of perfection is different. You can label bins and have a place for stuff, but when the kids go into the playroom, you’re not going to say, ‘We can’t paint because how are we going to clean it up?’”

Mario Lopez Wants “At Least 4 More” Children





By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Newlyweds Mario Lopez and **Courtney Mazza** teamed up with NIVEA for its “Kiss of the Year” contest on Facebook in search for America’s greatest love story. The winning couple rang in the new year with Mario and Courtney – parents to 2-year-old daughter **Gia** – in New York City’s Times Square.

The *Extra* hunk opens up to Celebrity Baby Scoop about his favorite family recipe at the holidays and his hopes for “at least 4 more” children.

CBS: Did you practice your kiss for your recent nuptials?

ML: “No, we’ve had plenty of practice.”

CBS: Are you hoping to have a big family? How many children are you planning on? Do you want a mix of boys and girls?

ML: “Yes, at least 4 more. Either boys or girls would be great.”

CBS: Happy Holidays! Do you have a favorite family recipes you can share with us?

ML: "My nana's tamales....they're a secret family recipe though."

Kim Kardashian Is Expecting a Baby with Kanye West!



By Nic Baird

Kanye West announced at a Sunday concert in Atlantic City that he and girlfriend Kim Kardashian are expecting a child, according to [People](#). During the last song, "Lost in the World," West cut the music and asked the audience to applaud for his baby mama. Kardashian confirmed her pregnancy in a

blog post. "We feel so blessed and lucky and wish that in addition to both of our families, his mom and my dad could be here to celebrate this special time with us," she wrote. "Looking forward to great new beginnings in 2013."

What are some ways to celebrate your pregnancy with your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

If you're going to become a parent, you shouldn't stop congratulating yourself. Make sure you and your partner take time to reflect on your happiness together. Be excited! Here's how you can channel your elation:

1. Throw a party: Don't be too shy to share the good news! Throw a party together to announce the pregnancy. It's a great way to get the word out and express how excited you are to become a parent. Don't forget baby showers either. There are many opportunities for you and your partner to celebrate an upcoming child with friends and family.

2. Find new activities: They'll have to be some lifestyle changes during the pregnancy, so maybe you need to look at new activities you and your partner can do together. It's important to stay active, but reduce stress. Explore your options, and find activities that will work as quality time for you and your partner.

3. Prepare for the baby: A great way to celebrate a child is to get things ready for after the birth. Research what you'll need to get for a healthy baby, and understand how you'll have to change your home. The anticipation you'll share with your partner will help build the excitement!

Do you have any ideas on how to celebrate a pregnancy with your partner? Share your suggestions below!

Jason Hoppy Sports Wedding Ring Post-Split



By Nic Baird

Four days after his wife Bethenny Frankel announced their separation after a two year relationship, Jason Hoppy is still wearing his wedding band, according to UsMagazine.com. Hoppy sat alone in an NYC cafe on Thursday as he sipped a hot beverage while talking on his cell phone. TV personality Frankel said: "We have love and respect for one another and will continue to amicably co-parent our daughter who is and will always remain our first priority." Frankel will host the upcoming talk show *Bethenny*.

What are three first steps toward closure after a split??

Cupid's Advice:

There is a sense of loss that's unavoidable at the end of a relationship. Don't let this sinking feeling cripple you. It's time to move past the agonies of the present and look optimistically to the future. Here's how:

1. Accept it: It's supposed to be hard to sever an emotional connection that was so important to you. If you saw this person as your partner, and now they can't fill that role, trying to figure out a new dynamic or identity is useless and painful. Stop picturing a future with someone who's not there.

2. Be your best: Be the person you want to be. Don't question your sense of worth. Fill your life with positive energy, like sports, exercise, art, music, new skills, new projects, new friends, old friends, and anything to take up your time. Here's your chance to do the things you've always wanted to do. Take action and make your plans a reality!

3. Have hope: You haven't lost your shot at love. There are plenty more chances at a meaningful relationship that will come along. Don't feel that you have to go looking for them, but be open to the opportunities when they arise. Rekindle old friendships, and establish your power as a single individual.

How do you attain closure after a split? Share your experiences below!

Hugh Jackman On Wife's Miscarriages, The Joys Of Adoption



By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

The road to parenthood wasn't easy for *Wolverine* star Hugh Jackman and wife **Deborra-Lee Furness**.

During a Tuesday appearance on [Katie](#), the *Les Misérables* star opened up about adopting their two children – son **Oscar**, 12, and daughter **Ava**, 7.

"To be clear, Deb and I always wanted to adopt. So that was always in our plan," the Australian actor, 44, said.

"We didn't know where in the process that would happen but

biologically obviously we tried and it was not happening for us and it is a difficult time," he added. "We did IVF and Deb had a couple of miscarriages. I'll never forget it the miscarriage thing – it happens to one in three pregnancies, but it's very very rarely talked about."

"It's almost secretive, so I hope Deb doesn't mind me bringing it up now," he continued. "It's a good thing to talk about it. It's more common, and it is tough. There's a grieving that you have to go through."

But as soon as Oscar was born, "all the heartache just melted away," the proud papa said.

"Many of you are parents, you guys know you can't prepare for that moment. Nothing can prepare you," he shared. "You can't even explain how incredible it is and that avalanche of emotion that comes and how it opens up your heart, how it frustrates you, how it angers you, how everything is just all the sudden how alive you are as a parent."

Jane Krakowski Talks Motherhood, Christmas Plans, "Sad Goodbye" on 30 Rock





By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

30 Rock star Jane Krakowski recently partnered with Bank Of America to raise thousands for Feeding America. The mom-of-one says that “giving back is such a big part of the holidays and Christmas.”

Jane opens up to Celebrity Baby Scoop about her son **Bennett**, 20 months, and hosting Christmas this year in his honor. She goes on to talk about the “sad goodbye” on *30 Rock* that will finish just days before Christmas. “They did a really great job” with the series finale and gave the “characters a beautiful send-off,” she says.

CBS: How is Bennett doing?

JK: “He is doing really well. It is so awesome to be a new mom; it’s absolutely great. Obviously this holiday time is a crazy time, because we’re juggling getting Christmas ready and wrapping up *30 Rock*, and being a new mom and wanting to make it all special for Bennett.”

CBS: Can you tell us all about the recent charity event you

attended for Bank of America?

JK: "I'm was happy to work at Bank of America and have access to all these mobile apps and online tools that help me get everything done, and also make donations to charity as well. It's a great time to be giving to people who are in need.

Bank of America very generously donated a lot of money to the charity Feeding America. Through the very easy mobile app and online banking system, we had people come to the Bank of America, put a Christmas ornament on the tree, and by the touch of a button on their iPhone, iPad, or tablet, donate \$250 each.

Bank of America donated \$25,000 just on the day of the event, which was a larger part of a \$2.5 million dollar donation to Feeding America over the whole holiday season."

CBS: How do you juggle your busy career and family life?

JK: "I do it through organization, multi-tasking, being able to do a lot of things at once. It takes a village with lots of friends and family to help along the way. We're really lucky; Bennett is a great kid and he brings us so much joy every single day. We feel blessed every day that we have all these things to juggle at the moment."

CBS: What are your upcoming holiday plans? Is Bennett showing signs of excitement for the holidays?

JK: "This holiday season, we are hosting Christmas at our house for the first time in Bennett's honor. He is the youngest child now, and I figured that the person who has the youngest child gets to throw the holiday get-together, because that is where all of the spirit of Christmas is. Christmas is, like, three days after we finish wrapping *30 Rock*, so it is all a bit crazy right now.

We had fun getting the Christmas tree and we recently brought

Bennett to Santa and got the classic screaming photo on Santa's lap [laughs]. I also plan to get all of my Christmas shopping done. I am very excited about the mobile transfers, because I have nephews who at this point really just want cash. I am excited that I can just send them cash wherever they are, because they are all grown and at college or touring America with bands. There comes a point where they really don't want the pajamas anymore, or the perfume they haven't worn since they were twelve [laughs]. They would really just like to receive cash.

In regard to whether Bennett is showing signs of excitement for the holidays, I think he is. I think he is not sure what all the festive decorations in the house mean."

Gwen Stefani Says Raising Kids with Gavin Rossdale Is the 'Ultimate Collaboration'





By Jennifer Ross

With her long list of accomplishments, Gwen Stefani claims her biggest moment is having a family with husband Gavin Rossdale. The couple just celebrated their 10-year anniversary, a huge accomplishment in the music industry. In an interview with [Vogue](#), published in the January 2013 issue, the *No Doubt* lead singer describes her lasting marriage as, “It’s pride. You feel proud. There are just so many rewards that come with it.. It’s like these wars that go on and then you kind of get through to the other side, and it’s like, ‘Wow.’” The glue to their marriage – their two children, sons Kingston James McGregor, 6½, and Zuma Nesta Rock, 4. “Having kids takes the whole relationship to another place. It is the ultimate collaboration.” From success at work to at home, Stefani, 43, sometimes can’t believe anyone can be this lucky in life. Every day I’m like, ‘Really? Are you serious? Thank you, God. This is too good.’”

How does raising children bring you closer together as a couple?

Cupid's Advice:

It may seem like adding a child into your relationship will deplete everything you and your partner cherish – your love, money and time. On the contrary, children bring the lessons of unity and unconditional love for someone else. Have doubts about this? Here are a few ways children will bring closeness:

1. More than two: As a couple, you two will have a loving bond for each other. However, when children are added, your relationship literally transitions into something more significant and even greater than before. It transitions into a family.

2. Common life goal: Although you and your mate definitely love each other, it's nothing compared to the love you two will feel for your children. Even better, the ability to share that common goal of loving and nurturing your children is what will bring you two even closer as a couple.

3. Symbiosis: Because raising children requires so much more than just love, you and your partner will immediately learn to cooperate with each other simply to get through the daily stresses of a family. Working together repeatedly is what teaches you both to live in harmony and togetherness.

How did raising children bring you and your partner closer together? Tell us below.

Alicia Keys: Motherhood Has Made Me A Better Person



By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Grammy Award-winner Alicia Keys opens up to *Scholastic Parent & Child's* December/January issue about her 2-year-old son **Egypt**, the joys of motherhood and balancing work and family life with husband Swizz Beatz.

On being a new mom: "Being a parent has made me more open, more connected to myself, more happy, and more creative. I'm more discerning in what I do and how I do it. It's just made me a better person all the way around."

On balancing work and family life: "What's been surprisingly hard about becoming a mom is being away from him and trying to find that magical balance for everything, which I kind of expected. But on the flip side, what's been surprisingly easy is just how natural parenthood feels. I feel great about how easily I've fallen into the role. I love it!"

On family time: “We love to go to art galleries and to the park. We love to do painting days and to visit our family—and we also love to run around our house and just go nuts!”

Giuliana Rancic Faces End of Maternity Leave: “It’s Hard”



By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

After three months of a blissful maternity leave with her newborn son **Duke**, E! News host Giuliana Rancic is returning to work.

“I could give you the Hollywood answer and just say it’s been

great going back to work," she tells [Life & Style](#). "But the real answer is, it's hard. What's important now is different from what was important a few months ago."

"The other morning, I was having the best time with Duke, and he was making faces that I had never seen before, and he was being so cute. Then I looked at the clock and I had to go to work," the new mom, 37, adds. "So I keep thinking, am I going to miss something?"

To help calm her nerves, doting hubby **Bill Rancic** regularly sends smartphone videos of their son throughout the day. "It's one thing to look at pictures," she says. "But when I see video, I feel like I'm with him."

Bill, 41, says he's never seen this side of Giuliana before. "It's remarkable to see how the baby has changed her," he shares. "Just the devotion the little guy evoked and the motherly instincts that kicked in."

But the self-professed workaholic says she'll work hard at balancing work and family life.

"I'll make it work," she says. "I'm going to make sure I don't sacrifice anything."

Michael Bublé: My Children Will Be My Priority





By Kirstin Mirtich for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Although Michael Bublé has enjoyed a successful singing career, the Canadian crooner has no qualms about putting aside his busy schedule to raise a family one day.

"It can't always be like that; I won't allow it to be like that," the Grammy Award-winner explains. "When I do have children, my priority will be my family."

"I'll continue for a couple more years, and then it's not that I'm going to stop," he adds. "But I'll definitely probably slow down the pace, so that I can not have to hate myself for not being there for the family."

The 37-year-old star says that married life to Argentine actress **Luisana Lopilato** is wonderful but admits their busy careers sometimes kept them apart.

"Yes, we are definitely apart quite a bit, but I try to hang out with her as much as possible," he reveals. "We try to get together, and when she's on set making her movies, I go down there, and my job is to rub her feet and bring her coffee

basically.”

In the meantime, Michael is excited about the possibility of collaborating with actress **Reese Witherspoon** on his next album.

“By all accounts it would be true. I just really am a big fan, and so myself and my camp, we wanted to do this with her, and we were thrilled that she was excited about it too.”

Jessica Simpson Is Pregnant Again!



By Jennifer Ross

At barely seven months old, baby Maxwell Drew Johnson is going to be a big sister soon. In what is surprising news to everyone, even those involved, [UsMagazine.com](https://www.usmagazine.com) confirms that Jessica Simpson is pregnant again. A source states, "It definitely wasn't planned. But yes, Jessica is pregnant again. She really is overjoyed!" This will be the second child for both Simpson, 32, and fiancé Eric Johnson. It wasn't long ago when Simpson went on episode one of *Katie*, Katie Couric's show and said, "Motherhood is a dream. It really is absolutely amazing." It looks like Simpson will now have two reasons to be amazed.

What are some ways to support your partner during a surprise pregnancy?

Cupid's Advice:

Having a baby is a shocking and exciting time for anyone regardless if the pregnancy was planned or not. That being said, you and your partner may be more anxious ridden if the pregnancy was a surprise. To ensure that both baby and parents are healthy come delivery time, here are a few ways to support your partner during the next nine months:

1. Do not judge: Because neither you nor your mate was "expecting" to be expecting, be sure never to judge him/her should self-insecurities arise. It is only normal to question everything about becoming a parent beforehand. Keeping yourself open and supportive to your mate will help to alleviate those doubts.

2. Stay positive: As with having doubts and worries, your partner may occasionally have negative emotions surrounding the pregnancy. Remember, those emotions are just fear being expressed. No matter what, stay positive to combat the negativity and help your partner look forward to a happier future.

3. Protect: If you think you and your partner will be the only ones with questions, you are sadly mistaken. Therefore, should family and/or friends come around expressing doubts about your surprise, remember to protect the hearts of your partner and unborn baby. Regardless of your internal worries, your baby is coming and you and your mate will need to stand strong together.

How did you support your partner during a surprise pregnancy? Share with us below.

Celeb Brad Pitt Says Fatherhood Has Made Him a Better Man





By Jennifer Ross

When [Brad Pitt](#) reflects back on 2012, what pattern does he see? “It’s been a family type of year, a down-home type of year,” the celeb recently reported to [People](#). As Pitt, 49, spoke about his family, while having dinner in his London rental with twins Knox and Vivienne, he didn’t let out all the details about his upcoming [celebrity wedding](#) to fiancée [Angelina Jolie](#). However, he did say that the wedding theme will be “just family...keep it simple – really.” One thing the *Killing Them Softly* actor confirms is that fatherhood has “absolutely” made him a better man. With regards to what he has planned for his time before turning 50 next year, the celeb simply says, “I want to enjoy this year more than ever.”

This celeb and father of six seems to be handling parenthood just fine. How do you know if your

partner is cut out for parenthood?

Cupid's Advice:

The truth is, you really can't know if your partner is going to be a great parent until they become one. However, there are basic skills a person should have when raising children that they show prior to becoming a mom or dad. To help ease your worries, here are a few clues to look for that can tell you your partner has parent potential:

1. Patience: Having patience is a great indicator of someone being able to handle parenthood. Let's face it: If your partner cannot be patient around adults, like the time when a friend has one too many drinks and your mate is stuck babysitting them, then they won't last around children.

Related Link: [Cupid's Weekly Round-Up: Preparing for Parenthood](#)

2. Flexible and fun: Because children require so much attention, having a partner with the ability to be flexible and fun will help everyone involved. This means that your significant other is alright with plans not going as scheduled and seeing the humor in stressful situations.

Related Link: [Olivia Wilde Discusses the Pros and Cons of Parenthood](#)

3. Compassionate: A way to see if your partner is compassionate is to see how they react when someone is hurt or angry. Does your beau ignore them or try to empathize by lending a shoulder to cry on? To have someone with compassion is a big help for your relationship and love. Plus, it's an important parenting skill.

How did you know your partner would make a great parent? Tell us below.

Melissa Joan Hart Tweets Her Travelin' Tots



By Carolyn Robertson for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Melissa Joan Hart packed up the kids and headed to Alabama, where her husband **Mark Wilkerson** is from, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The *Melissa & Joey* star took to Twitter to share a couple of photos from the trip, including this cute one of her middle son **Brady**: “Ready for our flight. ALabama here we come!” she wrote.

A huge fan of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football

team, Melissa was also busy Tweeting about this year's Iron Bowl. It sounds like her boys are already inheriting her team pride.

"Brady (4yr old) saw an Auburn clad car pass us and exclaimed 'we're gonna beat the hell outta them!' #rammerjammer #pottymouth," she wrote.

She and her musician hubby are also parents to sons **Mason** and **Tucker**.

Giuliana Rancic: I Want Duke To Be A Mini-Bill



By Kirsten Mirtich for Celebrity Baby Scoop

When it came to choosing a name for her first born son **Edward Duke**, mama and reality television star [Giuliana Rancic](#) wanted to name him after his proud papa **Bill Rancic**. However, her hubby wasn't as keen on the idea as she was.

"I've never been a fan of the 'junior.' I want to give him his own identity," the 41-year-old father reasons in a clip from the November 13th episode of *Giuliana & Bill* – which was filmed just prior to Duke's August 2012 arrival. "If he wants to name his son after me, then I've earned it."

Although the couple considered names such as Luke and Zach, they ended up agreeing on a name that paid tribute to their own fathers.

"Our fathers are great men – your dad is Edward and mine's Eduardo. We could name him Edward," Giuliana comments in the preview clip as the couple finally settle on what to name their son.

Since his arrival, the couple have taken to calling him Duke – his middle name – which they chose because it means leader.

After they decide on the name, Giuliana reveals that she most looks forward to having a constant reminder of the greatest man in her life – her hubby of five years.

"I want to look at him and see you. I want him to be a 'mini Bill,'" she says on Tuesday's *Giuliana & Bill*. "Honestly, I want him to be just like you."

"He'll be better!" replies Bill.

Giuliana & Bill airs Tuesday at 8 p.m. (EST) on STYLE.

Jennie Garth and Peter Facinelli Reunite for Daughter's Soccer Game



By Nic Baird

Despite announcing their split in March, actress Jennie Garth and actor Peter Facinelli came together Saturday to support their daughter at a soccer game, [People](#) reports. After 11 years of marriage, they could still cheer together for their 6-year-old daughter Fiona. The former couple were joined by their other daughters, Luca, 15, and Lola, 9. Both have said the other is a great parent. “Co-parenting takes two great

parents to put their differences aside and focus on the children,” Facinelli, the former *Twilight* star, said last month.

How do you remain civil post-divorce for the sake of your children?

Cupid’s Advice:

“Monkey see, monkey do” is the ancient mantra for child rearing. If you want to protect your children from painful endings to their relationships, it’s crucial you put your best foot forward. Here are some tips:

1. Never show children aggression towards your ex: Regardless of how badly your partner messed up, there’s no reason your children should be further victims of the situation. Never show hostility or bitterness towards their other parent. If they have two parents at each others’ throats, then what was the point of the divorce? You’re setting them up to think that this broken family is the model for their future.

2. Maintain parenting partnership: Your kids will understand that family is forever, and parents have to prioritize their children, only if you keep a united front with your ex. This means that you discuss parenting issues together, and always bring back the same ruling to your child. If there are different rules home to home, favouritism and confusion will plague your family. It’s important your kids have both parents active in their life. Don’t try and push your ex away from their children.

3. Discuss emotional subjects in private: Emotions are irrational, and your feelings can spill out within earshot of your offspring if you’re not careful. Make sure you avoid topics that can trigger confrontation when your children are around. Maybe these subjects do warrant discussion with your ex, but make sure you know the right time and place. Turning

up the radio is not a solution.

How have you accommodated your children in your divorce? Share your experiences below!

Former '90210' Star Ian Ziering Prepares to Welcome Baby #2



By Nic Baird

Beverly Hills, *90210* alum Ian Ziering is expecting his second child with wife Erin, according to [People](#). The actor called

this new addition to the family a “dream come true.” They’ve taught their 18 month old daughter, Mia Loren, to point to Erin’s belly and say ‘baby,’ Ziering said. The couple married in May 2010, and though their family is growing, Ziering continues to act, direct, produce and pitch TV shows. “I have a lot of irons in the fire,” Ziering said. Erin is in her second trimester, the baby is due in May, and its sex is unknown.

How does the dynamic change when you add a second child to your family?

Cupid’s Advice:

Nuclear families have two children, because the consequences can be explosive! One child is hard enough, but two? Before you start doubting your sanity, remember how rewarding it is to have your first child. You’ve pretty much got this parenting thing down anyway, but in case you had any doubts, here’s some little ways the family dynamic can change.

1. Less time, more parenting: A second child means twice as much attention. Make sure you and your significant other have talked about ways to divide tasks and manage your time. If your career was challenged when raising the first child, expect more challenges in tending to your young family’s needs now.

2. Buying in bulk: Two children means you have to consider feeding a whole family. Meal time will be more regulated. Your brood’s collective socks and toothbrushes will be identical. Having enough for everyone will be hard to manage, and noticing if one family member’s needs are different will be even harder.

3. Playmates: Your first child is now blessed with a friend and playmate. Your children can play together now, and entertain each other. Find activities that involve multiple

family members. Sadly, this usually means more supervision, not less.

What changes to your family have you noticed with a second child? Share your experiences below!

Adele Welcomes a Baby Boy



By Nic Baird

British singer-songwriter Adele Adkins had a baby boy on Friday, according to [People](#). Right now she's avoiding the spotlight to spend time with her newborn and the child's father, boyfriend Simon Konecki. "Obviously we're over the moon and very excited but please respect our privacy at this

precious time,” the Grammy winner wrote on her website when she announced the pregnancy in June. The new mother disappears as fans are treated to her theme for the upcoming James Bond film, *Skyfall*.

How does having a child affect your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Whether you and your partner have been working towards a child or you get suddenly surprised, having a baby opens up new challenges and joys. Expect change, but comfort yourself with the love and support you share with your partner on this new adventure:

1. Meaning: Your relationship is now physically represented by your offspring. Procreating and raising a child is the most tangible purpose human beings can find. Together you will be rewarded by deep unconditional love. Make sure to spread the it among all three of you. Instead of revelling in the potential of your love, you can celebrate the product.

2. Identity: No matter how you feel about it, you're no longer simply a couple, but a family. This will influence your career, friendships, and any future relationships. Your partner is now cemented with a fixed level of importance as the co-parent of your child. This shift is a major escalation of your relationship. Realize this new dynamic must change your relationship, but find stability in the aspects that stay the same.

3. Sacrifice: As a couple you've hopefully gotten used to compromise and martyrdom. Having a child will really test how you've developed these areas. Keep in mind that you and your partner are caring for this child as a team. You're giving up independence. No matter the future of your relationship, you have a duty your child.

What are some other ways that having a child can affect your relationship? Share your ideas below.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon Spend a Family Day with Their Twins



By Nicole Weintraub

Mariah Carey and husband Nick Cannon enjoyed a bonding family day at the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles, according to [People](#). The couple posted for photos along with their

eighteen-month twins – Moroccan and Monroe. Recently, Carey has been in the news regarding her feud with Nicki Minaj as the two are fellow judges on *American Idol*. Despite recent rumors regarding the fighting between the two, *Idol*'s producers commented that the two are, "one of the best, most passionate, dynamic and invested judging panels". Regardless of whether or not the feud is all it is hyped up to be in the tabloids, the family seemed at ease as they enjoyed cotton candy, roller coasters and balloons.

What are some ways to keep the spark alive in your relationship when you have kids?

Cupid's Advice:

Kids are a precious addition to the family, but sometimes the romance in your relationship can be negatively impacted by the latest additions. Here are some ways to keep that spark alive even with kids:

1. Date night: Just because the two of you are parents now does not mean that date night needs to end! Invest in a babysitter that you trust and go out for a night on the town once every few weeks. That way, your relationship with your partner is not neglected.

2. Family outings: Going out as a family can also be a bonding experience for you and your beau. The two of you can bond while your kids get their faces painted, stuff their faces with cotton candy or run around at the park. The more time you spend together, the more memories you will create together.

3. Love letters: If the two of you are busy at work and come home late at night, too exhausted for romance, try little notes. Whether it be through text messages, e-mails or old-fashioned handwritten love letters. Just let your partner know that you are thinking of them.

How have you kept your relationship alive with kids? Share your stories with us!

Why It's OK to Have Kids Later In Life



By Ken Myers

It wasn't that long ago that women were expected to have kids in their 20's, and any woman that ventured into motherhood after she turned 30 was seriously testing her fertility waters, not to mention was destined to be an old mom who wouldn't be able to keep up with her young children. However

as women continue to gain a stronger foothold in the corporate world and are experiencing a shift in personal goals, they are also invoking a serious delay in when they decide to have kids; many are opting to have their children well into their 40's.

Actress Uma Thurman is a prime example of this trend. Thurman, who is 42, just recently welcomed her third child into the world, and while many fans have rallied behind her in support, an equal amount have pronounced disgust at her decision to have kids so late in life, holding fast to the notion that women need to be young moms to be good moms.

So why are women waiting longer to have kids these days? Here are five reasons that many women have decided it's OK to wait to have kids until in your 30's or even 40's:

1. Their career comes first: It's taken a long time for women to gain equality in the workplace, and many women are reluctant to give that newfound career equivalence up to have kids. Instead they are opting to further their career first and have kids second, whereas not too long ago it was the other way around.

Related Link: [Keira Knightley Talks Balancing Love and Her Career](#)

2. Time spent with their spouse is more important: Many women are opting to spend more quality time with their spouses before trading in alone time for time spent with kids. This is usually done in an effort to experience as much of life as possible with their significant other while they're still young, instead of waiting until the kids are out of the house to do so.

Related Link: [Prince William and Kate Squeeze In Alone Time In Canada](#)

3. Their education is taking the front seat: With more education options available and many people choosing to further their education by pursuing their masters and doctorate degrees, the decision to have kids early is being put on the backburner.

4. Achieving financial security is a priority: Most parents will tell you that you'll never be fully ready to have kids; however, despite this, many couples are putting a higher value on ensuring they have a more guaranteed financial security net in place before they decide to try having kids.

5. Personal maturity: These days many women are recognizing that they simply don't feel ready to have children at such a young age, and are waiting to have kids until they've developed more as an adult.

Whether you decide to have kids in your 20's or your 40's makes no difference, no matter what anyone else may say. Sure, some women may have more trouble getting pregnant right away the longer they wait to have kids, but your age has no bearing on your ability to be a good mother.

Ken Myers the editor in chief is a frequent contributor of www.gonannies.com. Ken helps acquiring knowledge on the duties & responsibilities of nannies to society.

Celebrity Couples That Have a Kid-Free Marriage



By Jessica Smith

Parenthood, that is, bringing a child into this world with your own DNA, is a miracle. Sure, it's an extraordinary undertaking and a definite blessing, but it can also be one giant pain in the butt. As a result, deciding to have children as a married couple is a gargantuan step that will forever change your lives. Although you can expect to lose your privacy and most likely your mind, you can also expect to feel love and gratitude beyond anything you've ever experienced. However great these rewards, and perhaps because of the many potential troubles, these Hollywood couples remain kid-free:

Related Link: [Best Celebrity Dads \(Who Also Make Great Husbands\)](#)

1. Prince William and Kate Middleton: As a royal couple,

there's undoubtedly a lot of pressure on Prince William and Kate. The whole world is waiting for the confirmation on a baby bump—which despite rumors, still doesn't exist—but no one is anticipating it more than the lovebirds themselves. Although they've only been married for a little more than a year and have been busy on tour for most of that time, they have pregnancy plans to bring a little prince or princess into this world soon. We suspect that the Duke and Duchess will announce their pregnancy by New Year's Eve.

2. Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum: Could this couple be more beautiful? After Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum first made their debut together in the movie *Step Up*, they've been married for three years. This dancing couple is in their young thirties, and although they do plan on having children in the future, they're still not sure when. With their hectic lives and crazy schedules, their main focus is on having enough time for each other.

3. Fergie and Josh Duhamel: Let's forget about the fact that Josh Duhamel was accused of cheating on Fergie, since she has decided to forget about the matter herself, and instead focus on the dream-fulfilling marriage these two now have—literally. Nine years ago, Fergie read a tabloid about a dream that Duhamel had about her, and she later asked him if it was a good dream. His answer eventually led them to a marriage. Though they've been married for four years now and want to start a family, they still remain kid-free. Time's ticking away, so they'd better hurry before it's too late!

4. Rachel Ray and John Cusimano: Lately, the only coverage Rachel Ray and John Cusimano have been getting isn't so happy. Though you can't always believe everything you hear, the rumor mill has been churning up reports of a potential split for this couple. Even before these rumors, however, the two had no plans of parenthood. Ray says that she puts too many hours into her career to even consider having time to raise a child. Parenthood just isn't in the cards for this

couple, and if the rumors are true it might be for the better!

Related Link: [Best Celebrity Moms \(Who Also Make Great Wives\)](#)

5. Jay Leno and Mavis Leno: It only took Jay Leno three days after meeting Mavis to know that he wanted to marry her, but she wasn't even sure she ever wanted to marry anyone. After falling in love, she married Leno on the same day his parents were married. In the thirty years they've been married, they have always been sure about keeping their marriage child-free. The couple admits that they simply have zero interest in being parents.

In what ways have children affected your marriage? Share your comments below!

Giuliana and Bill Rancic Welcome a Baby Boy





By Nicole Weintraub

Edward Duke Rancic was welcomed into the world on Wednesday by parents Bill and Giuliana Rancic, according to [People](#). This is the first child for the couple who have had difficulties with infertility. Following a miscarriage and breast cancer, Guiliana was able to announce her pregnancy via gestational surrogate and shared the baby's sex this past June. The newest addition to the Rancic family weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 oz. The couple is ecstatic to be gifted with a little one.

What are some ways having a child can bring you closer as a couple?

Cupid's Advice:

Deciding to have a child is a decision that should be made when both partners feel they are ready. Although children are a large responsibility, it can bring you and your partner closer together:

1. Working together: The responsibility of raising your child rests on both you and your partner. Decisions and choices must

be made together which means communication is key. Working together as a team is a vital element in having children. When a couple is blessed with a child, they have another commonality in their lives and the relationship with your child's other parent is an important one. Making decisions together will also bring you closer as a couple.

2. Adding to the family: One of the most rewarding things you can do with a person is start a family with them. Feelings continue to grow since you have shared this experience with your partner. The two of you will be sharing new experiences and memories that neither of you have had before, especially if this is your first child. Sharing these new feelings and experiences with one another will further to develop your feelings for each other.

3. Leaning on one another: You cannot do this alone and that is what your partner is there for. There will be wonderful days and there will be rough days. They are there to support you and to hold your hand through not only the good days, but the bad days as well. Knowing that you have someone to lean on and supporting you will help to push you through the difficult days. Through working together and supporting one another on the difficult days, your relationship will grow stronger.

How has having a child brought you closer to your partner? Share your thoughts below.