

# TOP TEN TIPS FOR CHOOSING A BABY'S NAME



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Naming a baby is a big deal. It's one of the most important things that every parent should consider as it is by far one of the most unforgettable things that you could ever do for your child.

Most of parents spend hours and hours, preparing the nursery, buying toys and other things for their baby, attending childbirth classes and sessions without even thinking for what name will they create for their child. Instead of pondering on what name will be best for their child months before the baby is born, some parents end up deciding on the child's name within a matter of seconds after the baby is born.

Well, naming a baby is no doubt a very difficult decision to make. As we all know, the baby's name is a representation of the child's existence and identity. He or she will bear it for a lifetime, thus it follows that a well- chosen name will infuse a sense of satisfaction and pride for your child's lifetime. Because of this, finding the right name for your baby is crucial as it a vital factor on how your baby will be known for the rest of his life. Yes, it can be exciting and enjoyable, but parents should not pick a name that would drive their child to hide in their closet.

As expected, there are a lot of things to weigh out when choosing a name for the baby. It is possible that you will have a long list of names before you finally figure out and settle on a particular one. Out of the tens of thousands of baby names to choose from, it is so easy to miss the best name for your child. So the question is how and what are the most brilliant suggestions for naming a baby that could help soon-to-be parents decide on calling their child? The tips are below, so please read on.

**Tip #1: *Gather Ideas... Ask the Expert!***

Most soon-to-be-parents usually settle on a name that first popped into their minds. Well, this can be a helpful considering that most names that first came into our minds are the names that we really like for our child. However, this is not always the case. Some parents think for a name that sounds silly or funny; most don't even fit with their surnames. So instead of jumping immediately into a doubtful decision, it is best to gather ideas first by perhaps asking the experts.

As you may know, the name choices today are reeling with over a thousand of common names and these names vary according to sounds and spelling. So before you pick up one from these tens of thousands, start doing your homework first. A lot of books for baby names are out there available in the market. There are also a number of baby-name software programs that could give you ideas on what to name for your child. You can check out for these software programs either online through those baby-name sites or offline through those baby-name stores and outlets.

Speaking of online, the Internet is highly available for you to utilize. So if you know how to operate your computer and you have an internet connection, then start using the cyberspace for gathering ideas and suggestions for your child's name. Tap into dozens of portals out there on the virtual world that list baby names according to popularity, origin or meanings. Note the names that best appeal to you and somewhere in the middle of your pregnancy start sorting out some of your favorites.

**Tip #2: *Don't Just Get Your Skates On! Take Your Time.***

Perhaps one of the worst things that you could do when choosing a name for your baby is to hurry into it, thinking that your baby is soon-to-be born and you don't have a name yet for him or her. Well, to tell you frankly, that's the price of not

getting prepared long before the baby is born. But, let's not deal into blaming here for that won't help. The idea here is that not to hurry on deciding for a name. Take your time for nothing is too late.

Remember that settling for the second best may greatly affect you and of course your child for a lifetime. The child will carry the name that you have addressed him or her on his or her everyday dealings, and that will be for a lifetime. So if a certain name suddenly popped into your mind and you are not satisfied with it, then there's no reason for you to commit yourself to that first name. As mentioned earlier, do some homework or keep on searching and settle only if you really find a name that you are more than a hundred percent happy with. Most of all, always remember that there's no deadline for getting a name for your baby. Some couples in fact have been known to wait for about two to three weeks before deciding on the ideal name.

### **Tip #3: *Think for Compatibility***

So you've started to find names that you fancy. The next thing to do is to make sure that the name you choose has a sense of compatibility. What I am trying to say here is the name's compatibility in terms of sound with your last name. Start mixing or matching the first name and the middle name along with your last name and see how the various combinations appear to you. Does the name sound great? Try to say it aloud and ask yourself if the name you picked sounds pleasant to the ear. Remember that your baby will hear that name again and again, and you will have to say it over and over again.

Another way to create a name based on compatibility is to use it in sentences, aside from saying it aloud. This will provide you a better idea of how much you really love the name. And, don't forget to see if the name really looks great on paper. As what most experts say, there are names that look great when written on paper, but the truth is, they sound terrible when said.

Aside from compatibility with sound, it is also best to choose a name for your baby based on the spelling. Yes, spelling does matter. So instead of focusing just on how the name sounds, try to consider on how the name appears on paper. Note that names that are difficult to spell might complicate your child's life before he or she even made his/ her entrance to school. Well, the key here is to consider the vowels and consonants in the name. If your last name is multi-syllabic, then it's better not to pick a first name with a number of syllables. In addition, don't pick a first name that ends with a vowel if for instance your name begins with a vowel, and if the name you choose rhymes with your last name, disregard it. Most of all don't choose a name for your child that can be spelled as a word or can create an acronym. If that happens, your child would no doubt be a subject of ridicule.

Along with spelling, consider pronunciation of the baby name. Pronunciation is really a challenge and it goes hand in hand with spelling. If the name is hard to pronounce, chances are it would be hard to spell. So again, never complicate your child's life with names that are hard to pronounce and hard to spell. Note that creative pronunciations or spellings of names may only cause your child to take the task of correcting people that make mistakes in pronouncing or spelling his or her name. That's not a good name choice for in the end you will get the blame for it.

#### **Tip #4: *The Meaning of the Name Matters***

Do you know what your name means? If not, then start knowing the meaning of your child's name. Do you want your big, strong boy to bear a name that means "pretty flower"? Remember that although name meaning may sound less important, it does create a big deal. So it is then necessary to create a name that contains a positive meaning for the reason that it sometimes be associated with the personality or character of your child.

I bet you will agree with me if I will say that there's nothing lovelier than to know that the name you have created for your child has a pleasant origin. Yes, it is! So if possible, try to decide for a name that has a positive meaning. Choose the ones that are associated with good qualities and desirable traits that you wish your child may possess. However, creating a name that is associated with good qualities or traits is not easy as pie. If you have picked a name that means "kind", for instance, then it follows that you must teach and show your child the virtue of kindness. Raise him or her up with kindness in your heart, in your mind and in your deeds. And, if the meaning you chose means "brave", then you should also show the difference between braveness and foolishness to your child for him or her to deserve such name.

But, how can you know the meaning of the name you have chosen for your baby?

The solution is just so simple. There are hundreds of books out there that contain information about baby's names and their meanings. Aside from this fact, a myriad of websites are out there today that could help you generate a name for your baby and find that name's meaning. All you have to do in these websites is to enter the names that you are considering and your on the way to knowing what those names mean. In addition, there are some online portals these days that display hundreds of names in alphabetical order, with their corresponding meanings. So start exploring the web now.

**Tip #5: *Be Creative, but Not Too!***

I bet you've heard someone saying be unique or creative, but not too. Well, this is certainly true when choosing a name for your baby. Note that creating a name that is unique is not a bad idea, but to create it with too much uniqueness and creativity may end up your child regretting the name and blaming you in the end. A name that no one has heard of or can't pronounce can no doubt bring

embarrassment. It may even bring unwanted attention to a child. So if possible, don't be too unique when deciding for a baby's name. Common names that are easily recognized or can easily be spelled may fare much better to your child's future, although having a unique name may make your child stand out in the crowd.

**Tip #6: *Trendy and Popular? Think Twice!***

A name's popularity is also a matter of consideration when choosing a name for your baby. Parents must remember that names that are too trendy are likely to go out of style in the years to come. Also, choosing a name that is on top of the popularity list has certain risks. The name being on the top will be a favorite to so many that your child may end up with a name that everyone else has.

For starters, having a name that most everyone around you has, may create some difficulty and confusion especially in school. It can be tough for your child to find three or more of his or her classmates answering to the same name. A teacher of this class may also find it daunting to call a student , John and three or four of the students get up and respond to the same name. Given this fact, it is then best to avoid the so-called "top ten" names. Look for certain names which are rare, but are not too, or simply look for a name that is mid popular and not too trendy.

**Tip #7: *Consider Nicknames***

Creating a nickname for a child is another important thing to consider. Always remember that most children are addressed by their nicknames. So when you think of a nickname for your baby, always consider what possible nickname can be derived from the first name. Before you choose one, again test the nicknames for compatibility. Think of what the nickname you chose could subject your child to in the future. Nicknames can be fodder for playground teasing as kids can sometimes be cruel.

**Tip #8: *Watch Out for Initials***

As what most people have noticed, the initials in a name can be a devastating factor, this is perhaps the reason that most couples or parents do not really look at the initials when deciding on a name for their babies. Well, initials should not appear undesirable. It is worth noting that most of the time in our lives, initials are highly required. So it is important for parent to think about it and make sure that the first initials of their child's first, middle and last name do not spell anything that is undesirable. To put it simply, the words that will be formed from the initials of a given baby name should not be a subject of ridicule. For instance, the name Precious Ivy Gonzalez may be a beautiful name for a beautiful baby girl, but the downside is when you take a look at the initials and the words that will form is "PIG". Now, are those initials great to hear? These initials can no doubt become a source of anguish and shame for your child. Besides, who loves to be called "PIG"? No one, I think so. So be very careful when choosing a name for your baby.

**Tip #9: *Name after a Family Member's Name***

A lot of parents have recognized the advantage of naming a child after a family member's or relative's name. Well, according to some resources, naming a child after a family member's name is like honoring that member. So if you want to show honor to your grandparents perhaps, then start checking out with their names and collect as many family names as possible. You can use the same for your child, but this is not by far a very good option for the initial is worthy of consideration here. Perhaps the best way to do is to create a variation of the name or do a matching with the first initial. For example, you can name your child "Jack" after your grandmother's name "Jacqueline".

**Tip #10: *Think About the Gender***

Most people think for a name based on the name's gender. Well, this is a pretty considerable matter as it is important for name to be clearly identified by gender. In this way, names that are being used for both girls and boys can easily be ruled, thus choosing the right name for your child can be done as easy as possible. Simply put, it's advisable to make a name with clear gender identification.

So, all the possible options are laid down to you. Perhaps the best thing for you to do now is to note and understand everything that has been said. Always remember to think for your child's future when deciding on a name for your baby. And, don't forget that ultimately, the name of your child is your decision, so if you consider the tips mentioned above carefully and choose a name based on what you really feel or love, then there's no way for you to go wrong.

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