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10 Great Baby Naming Tips Your Baby Wants You To Know

By Neil Street

Imagine. Your baby, now 4 years old, has just completed her first day at kindergarten. You're

waiting anxiously for the return of the school bus, praying that she enjoyed her first day at school, that everything went well, that she'll be OK. She gets off the bus. You rush forward to hug her. And she's in tears. Through her sobbing, barely able to understand what she's saying, you desperately try to find out the cause of her meltdown. Gradually, between sobs, you hear little Apple mumble "they made fun of my name. I'm never going back there. Never."

Happily, this is not a true story. (As far as I know). But when you're trying to select your new baby's name, it's something you definitely want to avoid.

Picking a name for your baby, especially your first, is not easy. It can be difficult, time-consuming, and fraught with anxiety. These ten tips will help you successfully give your baby one of her most important lifelong gifts - her name.

1. Start looking at baby names early. You are likely to change your mind often, so the more time you allow, the easier it will be.
2. Use the internet. There are lots of great resources online, from baby name lists, to articles about the meanings and origins of names, to forums.
3. Classic is classic for a reason. Classic means time-tested, well-loved. Classic names always work well.
4. Don't be too trendy or cool. For example, Brittany was # 3 on the popularity charts in 1990. Today, it doesn't make the top 50. Tastes and fashions change.
5. The pressure to use names that have been "handed-down" for generations may be hard to resist. But you should try. Alfred isn't what it used to be.

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6. Pay attention to what a name may mean, even if the meaning is obscure. The biblical name Helah, for example, actually means "rust." In this age of the internet, any meanings will be dug up by your child's middle school friends, so be sure to do a background check on names you are considering.
7. Don't make it too hard to pronounce. There's a reason why Caoimhe (pronounced "kee-va") hasn't made it into the Top 100 yet.
8. Make sure it works with your surname. If your last name is Tree, don't name your son Ash or your daughter Jade. And if your last name is Johnson, please avoid John.
9. Consider the siblings, present or planned. If you already have a daughter named Caroline, it would be a little odd to name your son Flint.
10. Finally, be proud of the name you pick. If you've done your research, and agonized over it, you've done the best you can. And that's a special gift for your new baby.

Neil Street is co-owner of

<http://www.babynamesgarden.com>

, a baby naming website. More tips can be

seen at

<http://www.babynamesgarden.com/tips.aspx>

. For more info, contact Neil Street.

What Do You Go For Popular, Unusual Or Unique Baby Names

By Terry Ross

Naming your baby is a real challenge, if you go for a popular name your child might not like it because it's too common, if you go for an unusual baby name it's hard to get a balance between unusual and weird. Then there's the unique baby names but what constitutes as unique when there are 100,000's of names to choose from.

Some say go for names of your ancestors but then you can struggle because names are like clothes in that fashions come and go. A name that was popular in years gone by can be seen as absolutely horrendous when associated with a young child. And then there are personal tastes, what one person likes another hates, even close families can often disagree so how on earth do you make a decision as to what name your child would like before your baby is even born.

Naming babies is a challenge that so many of us face and some get it right while others get it totally

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wrong. All's you can do is do your best, put time and effort into finding that perfect name, consider the pro's and con's of the extremely popular (perhaps one of the top 10 baby names), selecting from the top 100 baby names or going for the unusual or unique baby names and go for what you feel is right.

It's often useful to run your short list of names by close family and friends to gauge their reaction and get a feel as to how your favourite baby names are perceived by others. Also, seek the opinion of different age groups as the older generation may be inclined to go for traditional names while others might like the more unusual or unique baby names.

What is so important is that you do not choose an unusual or unique baby name that will be seen as a joke allowing your baby to be ridiculed from birth, through school and beyond. Do not select a name that is cute for a baby but a nightmare as your baby grows up and think carefully before choosing a name that is so popular that there will be three or more in every class and several in the office when they start work.

Once you have chosen your baby's name always say it out loud several times and write down the initials. The most perfect baby name might prove an embarrassment to your child if it doesn't fit well with your surname and if the initials stand for something it could result in your baby being ridiculed for life!

For a baby website with a difference visit:

http://www.1st-4-baby.com/Baby_Names.html



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