

Because my boyfriend is a huge part of my life and one of my best friends, I wanted him to be as much a part of this project as I was. One of the first challenges was actually finding out the sex of the baby. He told me flat out that he wanted a boy and well – we got a girl. I picked, and together we decided the name Vega Jane. I love the name Vega. Most people think it sounds like a hippie name but in Latin it really named “falling star.”

Baby Dilemma #1

I picked up Vega on Thursday afternoon after school. I had to on a Thursday because that is one of my only days off. I wanted to experience taking a baby to school so I was able to take her in on a Friday as well. This is when the baby dilemmas started to happen. These were those things that really made me think twice about having a child at a young age.

Baby Dilemma #2

So not only was it bad enough having to leave earlier to school in case Vega cried but I had to spend a good 10 minutes trying to fix the car seat properly. I drive a '99 Mustang and it is nearly impossible to fit a car seat in the tiny back seat of a sports car. When it comes down to it – this would mean after having a child I would have to trade in my car and quite possibly get (the dreaded) MINI VAN.

Baby Dilemma #3

Even though the baby only cried ever two-three hours sleep was somewhat impossible. Having the fact that a baby might cry and you might be sound asleep is very scary and unsettling. This didn't make me want to never have a child but unveiled the responsibility and made me realize that being a parent is a lifetime 24/7 commitment. Baby Think It Over didn't quite account for those rough nights when babies can't get to sleep with tummy-aches and fevers.

Baby Dilemma #4

Car seats with children in them are heavy!

Baby Dilemma #5

Dragging a child to school was hard enough. Focusing on studies while watching an infant to me as near impossible. Babies are joyous occasions, attention-needy and attention-earning. Having a baby attracts a lot of “ohhhh's and ahhh's” sometimes this affected my studies as well.

Baby Dilemma #6

All people love babies but EXSPECIALLY OLD PEOPLE. I went into Shoppers on Friday to pick up my check and probably about five older women stopped to see my child. The dilemma? TIME. I was in a hurry. The other dilemma was awkwardness. An older woman told me how beautiful by baby was – which was sweet but my baby looked like wax. What could I say? A simple thank you and a smile seemed to satisfy the woman, but then that then forced me to rush out of the store so she couldn't see that Vega was really made out of plastic.

Baby Dilemma #7

When you have a Catholic school uniform on and you are walking around the grocery store everyone and anyone will either look at you with disgust or look at you like you have three heads. I say “so what” but taking those looks and comments to heart could really affect a new mother's mood.

Baby Dilemma #8

I don't even know how rich people can afford children. Some of my expenses were ridiculous. This is when the idea of breast-feeding seemed to be more appealing not only for nutritional factors but also because formula is so expensive.

That Friday night I went and picked up my boyfriend and we went out to get pizza. I was hesitant at first as to whether or not he would really respond to Vega. However I let him sit with her in the care when I went to pick up the pizza and when I came out I caught him holder her. Of course as soon as he saw me he put her back in the car seat. It was one of those “AWW” moments.

Baby Dilemma #9

Vega cried while I was driving on 95 and I was out past my curfew because I pulled over. Back roads were becoming more appealing as the weekend went on.

Baby Dilemma #10

Saturday morning came around and my boyfriend and I decided to go up to Pennsylvania to the Field of Screams because it was Halloween weekend. We couldn't take Vega with us so I had to consider a babysitter. I asked my friend not only because she wouldn't charge me but because there aren't too many people that I would trust with my child.

Baby Dilemma #11

It is really hard to take a care seat in a public restroom. You can't just leave them on the counter.

Baby Dilemma #12

Nobody cares if you have a child or not, they will not quite smoking. They just can't.

Baby Dilemma #13

Grandparents. My mom was actually kind of excited about the project. Although she took Vega and put her on her stomach and said "This is what you do when a baby has colic" Vega then began to cry because of the sensors on her belly. My dad on the other hand was skeptical but warmed up quick. He said, "Here, this is what I used to do to you when you were little", and then he threw Vega up into the air. Well that did it and she started to cry. He looked scared put her down and walked away.

Although I experienced some other ups and downs I enjoyed this experience very much. I learned that I very much do want to have a child but wouldn't mind waiting a bit. I learned to appreciate my mom and everything she has ever done for me including my education. I also know that my mom will always be there for me and help me out if I need it. I was able to talk to my boyfriend about raising kids and it really impacted our relationship and benefited us in trust and love. Most parenting skills I see now come through experience.

Although I considered food for my household, the price of giving birth in a clean hospital and health insurance for my child weren't considered until this project. I never thought about education, clothes or even saving for my child to go to college. I even decided I might not even want to name my daughter Vega if I do have a daughter – too many people said "What?" and I really wouldn't want that for my child. So I'm back off to the naming process again!