

Please Enjoy This Free Gift From www.ScrappersTalkRadio.com



All The Ideas You Will Ever Need For Baby!

- *By Vera Raposo*



Pregnant Belly Pictures

Becoming a mother is the most blessed event in a woman's life. Feeling the movement of another life inside of your body cannot be expressed in words. Every day brought a new challenge and a new discovery about my baby that brought sheer joy to my heart.

Let your pregnancy be a time of being proud of your expanding belly. Many men have said that their wives/significant others were never more beautiful than when they were carrying a child. So show off that big ball of baby!

Picture Ideas:

- Keep a photo record of each month of pregnancy by taking a belly shot. It seemed to me as if my belly grew overnight. But, pictures will tell the true story.
- Take a camera to the doctor's office with you at your monthly visits. Each time he rubs the gel on your belly to hear the heartbeat, take a picture. When you go for your ultrasound have the technician label the baby's anatomy on the printout so that you can keep it to show friends and family.
- Let daddy put his hands and ears to your belly to feel and hear his child. Ask someone take a picture to remember this bonding moment. If this is not your first baby, have your other children stand next to you or get a picture of them snuggling on your belly.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Don't throw away the reminder cards for your doctor's visits. Keep them to go along with the belly pictures you took each month. Incorporate the ultrasound picture into your scrapbook, too. Scrapbook paper with storks carrying babies would make a neat background for your belly photos.
- Frame your pictures with colored cardboard to make them stand out. You may need to design more than one page for all of the monthly belly photos. When your child grows older and looks back over these photographs, he will see how much he was loved – even before birth.



Preparing Baby's Room

Now that you have discovered the sex of your little bundle of joy, it's time to think about the nursery. Working on the baby's room together gives mommy and daddy time to bond. Picking out baby furnishings always made me cry. It could have been the raging hormones, though.

Choosing wall borders, bedding sets, toys, a crib, and all the rest takes special care. Parents want the baby's nursery to be as perfect as possible for the new arrival. Sometimes I would sleep in the bed in our baby's room and imagine what it would be like when our baby boy came home.

Picture Ideas:

- To give yourself enough pictures to choose from—make every activity in the room a photo opportunity. Start by photographing the room empty before anything is done.
- As you add furniture, snap a shot or two of daddy assembling each piece—even his blunders!
- As you paint and/or decorate with curtains and borders, photograph those moments. When the entire nursery room is completed to your liking, take one last photo.

Scrapbook Ideas:

- Preparing for a new member of the family is a labor of love. If you have left over border or wallpaper pieces, border your scrapbook pages with them to add a piece of the nursery to the project.
- Label the first photo of the empty nursery the “before” picture.
- The furniture building photos can have a page of their own. Find stickers that depict construction scenes like cartoon workmen with hammers and drills or stickers of tools to emphasize the construction that went on in the nursery to get it ready for baby. When cropping the pictures, try craft scissors to create decorative edges.



Baby's Birth

It's time! Your due date is nearing. My biggest worry was over where I would be and what it would feel like when my water broke. I had missed my due date so my husband and I knew that our baby could come at any time. Both of us longed to see our son's face and kiss his forehead.

We were as ready as two nervous expectant parents could be. Was it that way for you, too? Two weeks before your due date, pack a bag for you and the baby. Daddy will make dry runs of the hospital route. Every family member will be on high alert.

Picture Ideas:

- Capture the blow-by-blow excitement. Let daddy take pictures of you packing your essentials for a short hospital stay. Next is baby's bag. Choosing the cutest outfit for baby to wear home deserves a picture.
- If daddy is a nervous wreck by the time you reach the hospital, have a friend meet you there to capture everything on camera. Otherwise, the nurses oftentimes will gladly grab the camera for you and take some pictures, when asked.
- Take pictures of the birthing room and you in that fashionable hospital gown. If your picture taker isn't squeamish, let them take pictures of the actual birth and daddy cutting the umbilical cord.
- Of course someone will need to take a photo of you holding your precious child for the first time. Other photo opportunities are a picture of the doctor holding the baby, a family photo and a family photo with the doctor or midwife in the pictures as well.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Have a separate page for the packing and then one or two for the birthing process. Paste foam decorations in the shape of rattles, bottles, diaper pins, etc. around the page.



- Use colorful alphabet stickers for the title. Choose a title like “Getting Ready”. Scrapbook paper with a baby or cherub background would work well for the page with photos of the actual birth.

Baby in Hospital

After nine long months, your baby has finally arrived. The nurses take and clean the baby while you move to another room. If you’ve had an epidural your legs feel like they are encased in cement. Relaxing in the hospital room, you both await the arrival of your squeaky clean newborn.

If you are breastfeeding, the lactating nurse will accompany baby to show you what to do. Breastfeeding enhanced the bond between me and my son. Those little gums felt like a grip at first, but the pain was manageable enough for the chance to bring nourishment from my own body to feed my baby.

Picture Ideas:

- Put daddy back to work. Take a picture of the nurse as she wheels your child into the room. Baby will probably be asleep so take the opportunity to snap a few pictures. As baby feeds for the first time, keep taking photos as long as it doesn’t disrupt him/her. Let mom fix her hair first, though. Ask the nurse to take a picture of the three of you.
- Get pictures of daddy changing his first diaper. The look on his face will be priceless.
- Family and friends will stop by with balloons and flowers for mommy and baby. Photograph all the gifts and then each visitor with mommy and the baby.
- When the baby’s doctor makes a trip to the hospital, be sure to get pictures of that, too.

Scrapbook Ideas:

- Save everything from the hospital: wrist bands, door sign, bassinet sign, and a copy of baby’s footprints. Everything can be used to create lasting memories in



- your scrapbook. Use a picture of baby alone as the centerpiece of your scrapbook page.
- Since baby's birth is a blessed event, use baby shower confetti to decorate your scrapbook. Take a glue stick and make a few wavy lines down both sides of the page. Sprinkle the confetti on it and pour off the excess. Your little darling has made it into the world. Now the fun begins!

Baby Meets Siblings

You never quite know how your other children will react when you tell them you're going to have another baby. If they're under five like my oldest son was, they might throw a tantrum.

Children that age don't want anyone or anything new invading their home to steal the undivided attention of their mommy and daddy. I was confident that he'd love the new baby once he was home.

Older children will love the idea of a new baby. They will want to play with the baby and protect him or her.

Picture Ideas:

- Get all the siblings together to see the new baby when you come home from the hospital. A group picture of them surrounding the new addition is a camera worthy event.
- As the days pass, let each sibling have their own special time with the baby. Snap pictures of each one holding, dressing, diapering, and feeding the baby. Sneak pictures of the siblings watching baby in the crib or playing with the baby when no one else is around.
- Candid shots like these will add surprises to your scrapbook. If baby's siblings are very young, have daddy snap pictures of you teaching them how to stroke baby's head and wiggle baby's hands and feet. They may even want to kiss the baby.

Scrapbook Ideas:



- Each sibling should have their own scrapbook page to highlight the time they have spent with the new baby. Let them have a hand in the creative process.
- Show them the pictures you took and ask for suggestions about how to decorate each page. Ask questions about the baby and journal their answers onto the pages like “What will you teach the baby when he is older?” and “What’s your favorite thing about your new brother/sister?”
- Make sure you include the name of each sibling on their page.

Baby Meets Pet

Introducing the new baby to the family pet can be tricky. Take the process one day at a time. Before the baby arrives, let your pet explore the nursery to see where baby will stay. Let your pet sniff the baby when you arrive home.

Shooing your pet away from the baby will increase their anxiety over having the baby in the house. Give your pet as much attention as you can when you are around the baby to reassure your pet that your feelings for them have not changed.

Picture Ideas:

- Take a photo of your pet eagerly awaiting you and baby at the door. Your pet will be curious about the swaddled bundle. Unwrap baby and sit him/her on your lap to officially introduce the new baby. When the pet puts his paws on your knees, have daddy snap a picture. Every time your pet interacts with you and the baby, take a photo.
- If your pet is used to snuggling with you for a nap, the next time you put baby to sleep, roll on your back so your pet can cuddle under the other arm. Don’t forget to take a picture.

Scrapbook Ideas:

- Try to find scrapbook paper with an animal background. Decorating the page with foam bottles and bones or a ball of yarn is an interesting idea. This page should reflect baby and pet living together in harmony.



- Title the page “Best Friends” or “Kitty meets the New Baby” or “Puppy Love”.
- When you crop the pictures, use straight scissors to cut on three of the sides and the craft scissors to create jagged cuts on the fourth side. Do the same with the construction paper matting. This technique gives the appearance of chew marks on the pictures. Vary the side with the jagged cuts. How cute!

Baby Meets Grandma

My husband and I were so excited to have a healthy baby that we forgot about what came next. I didn't realize how much a baby could scream until our first night at home. It was time to call in an expert.

When your baby meets his grandmother for the first time, you and grandma will likely be in tears. She'll remember what it was like when she brought you home from the hospital.

Grandma will fall in love with the little one from the start. Let your mother have her time with the new baby. She will show you the best way to feed, burp, change, and rock your baby. Listen to the advice she gives because it is meant out of love. I appreciated everything my mother did to help us adjust to our new baby.

Picture Ideas:

- Capture each moment with grandma. The most precious photo will be baby asleep on grandma's chest while she herself snoozes on the couch. Having grandma to share these first moments is priceless.
- Do the same for your mother-in-law when she comes to visit the little one. Catch her brushing baby's hair and washing baby's tender face.
- Also, be sure to get three-generation pictures. One of you, your mom, and baby. One of dad, his mom and baby. Of course grandpas are welcome, too!

Scrapbooking Ideas:



- First of all, each grandmother should have her own personalized scrapbook page. The pages could be entitled “Grandma and Me”. If you could find scrapbook paper with an angel design, use it as the background. If not, angel stickers will do very well. Be sure to ask Grandma some questions and journal the answers into the book.
- Grandmothers watch over their grandchildren like guardian angels. Use construction paper in each grandmother’s favorite color to frame the pictures you choose for the page. Add grandma’s name to each page and the dates of her initial visit.

Mommy Loves Baby

You dreamed about this child for months but nothing prepared you for the love that welled up inside when you first laid eyes on your baby. Now, each day is a new opportunity to express that love. I loved watching my baby sleep in his crib. I would check on him several times a night just because I didn’t want to miss a thing.

His tiny face was the spitting image of his father’s and that made me smile. I couldn’t imagine what my life was like before I met my son. All I knew was that I wanted to be there for him every day from that time on.

Picture Ideas:

- Often times new moms are so conscientious of their weight that they hide from the camera. Years later they look back at the photos of baby’s first year and don’t have the pictures they wished they had. It’s as if they weren’t there for the first year! Please don’t make that mistake.
- When your mother comes to visit or when daddy isn’t too tired from work, make the most of their presence to enlist their help taking pictures. Mommy feeding baby in the rocking chair and mommy changing baby’s diaper are both good picture ideas.
- Mother and baby’s first outing at church dressed in their Sunday best will make a peach of a picture. Even sleepy mom holding a cranky baby as she warms a bottle is a tender moment.



- When you are well enough, go out with baby. Take daddy along to snap pictures of mommy and baby visiting people and places. Take along the camera to baby's first "well baby" visit. Capture mommy and baby in the park on a summer's day and even in the grocery store. Be creative.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Mommy and baby moments are worth remembering. Craft stores make silly quote stickers. Pretend baby is making comments in the photographs. If you and baby visited several places in the same day, use sticker footprints or a footprint stamp to connect the pictures showing your travels.

Daddy Loves Baby

Fathers are special people. Even the strongest, most macho man becomes an overgrown teddy bear around their own child.

The most important part of dad's life is resting in his arms. My husband was afraid to hold our son at first. When he got the hang of it, I would tiptoe around the house and catch him humming to our son as he rocked him to sleep. He was becoming every bit the caring and loving father our son would need throughout his life.

Picture Ideas:

- Since mommy is usually the one caring for baby during the first six weeks of life, whenever daddy steps in to help is a good time for a photograph. Shots of daddy and baby when neither of them is aware of your presence produce loving memories.
- Let daddy get up one night and take care of baby. Watch him rub the sleep from his eyes and give his best zombie impression as he staggers off to the nursery. Grab the camera and follow him to the nursery. Watch him carry baby to the changing table. Is he awake enough to put baby's diaper on correctly? If not, you'll catch it on camera.



- Be sure to take regular photos of baby with Daddy to show baby's growth. Playtime is oftentimes the best time to catch daddy at his best.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Title your pages "Daddy's Little Girl" or "Daddy's Best Man". If baby is a boy, design the scrapbook page with father and son activities in mind. Boys play catch with their fathers and build things. Let the decorations reflect all of the wonderful memories father and son will share in years to come.
- Use stickers or foam in the shapes of basketballs, baseballs, and other sporting items. If your bouncing baby is a girl, decorate with father/daughter moments in mind: tea time, bike riding, ballet, and roller skating to name a few.

Baby with Cousins

My niece is the only female grandchild. My children are much older than she but they protect her like a sister. They play with her every chance they get. She, as a result, has become rather a tough customer. She's just as rough and tumbling as they are. My niece has learned how to interact with other children from her cousins.

I have never seen my boys as gentle as they are when they feed her or rock her to sleep. I believe that they have learned something from her as well—girls aren't so bad even if they are babies. You will find reliable babysitters in baby's cousins.

Picture Ideas:

- Whenever baby gets together with their cousins, get them to pose for a few pictures together. Take a few candid shots of baby and cousins playing. She loves it when they make noises with the toys and crash cars together. She likes getting airplane rides and sitting on their shoulders. My niece also watches the boys play their video games.
- You should also snap a few pictures of baby's cousins playing babysitter. I remember the first time my son fed my niece her dinner. He was as messy as she was. Watching children interact with each other is interesting and fun.



Scrapbooking Ideas:

- If you wish, you can give each cousin their own page in the scrapbook if baby doesn't have too many cousins that they see on a regular basis. Let the cousins' help decorate their scrapbook page. They can choose the background and help you paste down the pictures and decorations.
- They can even caption the pictures or write stories, explaining what they were doing with baby when the pictures were taken. Children love to draw pictures. Let the cousins draw pictures about their baby. Or guess what the baby will be when she grows up. Title the page with baby's name and the name of each cousin.

Baby's First Bath

When baby's little umbilical scab falls off, it's time for a real honest to goodness bath. Some mothers use the sink for the first bath and some use a baby bathtub. Your baby should enjoy the bathing process. It will remind them of being in the womb. Make sure you warm up the room so baby won't cry because of the cold.

Watch your baby relax as you scoop warm soothing water over his head and body. I had a baby bathtub with a non-slip pad in the bottom. I treasured my time bathing our children by singing to them. Cleaning their hair, their faces, each little ear, and every tiny finger and toe brought me joy.

Picture Ideas:

- Take a picture of the tub filled with warm sudsy water before baby gets in. As baby's eyes open wide from the new experience, snap another few photos. If you have a baby boy, beware of his little water fountain! (Hint: A strategically placed baby-sized washcloth can turn a naked baby picture into one that can be displayed on the wall.)
- Mommy can trade places with daddy and let him participate, too.
- Once baby is all soaped up, take another picture. Take a picture of baby's hair all white with shampoo.



- Then, rinse off baby and snuggle him/her in their own special towel. I preferred the hooded towels because babies look so cute in them. Snap pictures at will as baby is dried and dressed. Bath time is complete.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Search out scrapbook paper with bubbles on it or maybe a rubber ducky design. If you go with the bubble design, choose foam rubber ducky pieces and glue them around the edges of the page.
- Pictures of baby can be cropped in a circular pattern to resemble bubbles rising in the air. If you have an artistic side, draw a bathtub full of bubbles at the bottom of the page.

Baby's First Day at Childcare/School/Sitters

Ideally every mom and dad would like a private sitter to watch their baby while they go to work. But, sometimes a daycare is needed. It's difficult to imagine a stranger caring for your baby as well as you do. You need to prepare yourself as much as your baby for their first day away from you.

Children are adaptive. They can sense your moods and respond in kind. If you are excited and happy about the childcare experience, baby will be too. Try your hardest not to look sad when you kiss your baby good-bye. Baby may get scared and begin to cry. My husband and I were fortunate enough to find a friend we trusted to care for our babies. Even that didn't keep me from worrying about them. Guess what? My children fared better than I did.

Picture Ideas:

- Photograph everything about baby's morning on the first day of their childcare experience: bath, dressing, and breakfast time. Take a picture of baby with their school things (diaper bag, bottle bag, toys). Snap a shot of baby in the car seat all ready for their big day.



- Photograph the daycare center and your baby's caregiver. Show baby the classroom where they will be staying. Ask the caregiver to snap a few shots of you and baby in the classroom. Take pictures of the caregiver with baby, too.
- Finish up baby's first day at the daycare with a picture of baby and you reunited at the end of the day.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Choose scrapbook paper with a school theme. Most daycare centers have a curriculum even for the youngest children. Baby will not just eat and sleep, but play and learn. If you received a report of the day, be sure to include that in the scrapbook, too.
- Draw a picture of a large school house in the center of the page. Paste baby's school pictures onto the school house.

Baby's Growth Month by Month

It's exciting to see how much a baby can change in a few short months. They gain a personality—quirkiness if you will. I was looking at my niece's baby pictures the other day. She is thirteen months old now and she doesn't even look the same way she did as a newborn. I can't believe she was ever the gangly little thing I saw in those pictures.

Without those pictures, we wouldn't be able to share laughs about those early days. My niece was so small once that she fit in the basket of my sister's new chest freezer. They snapped a picture of her sleeping in the basket!

Picture Ideas:

- The first year of baby's life will bring about the quickest changes. Baby will grow from a cute screaming machine into a walking explorer in twelve short months. Capture each moment. As the season's change, photograph baby outdoors. Introduce baby to the snow in winter and the multicolored leaves in the fall. Show them tulips in the spring and beach sand in the summer.



- Holidays during the year represent more photo opportunities. Baby Halloween costumes get more precious every year. Take photos of baby's first Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dress baby in green for St. Patrick's Day and pastel colors for Easter. If baby is still small at Easter time, photograph them lying in an Easter basket among the plastic eggs and fake grass.
- One way to show your baby's growth is to take her picture each month with the same stuffed animal. That way, your baby will start off much smaller than the toy and end up larger than it. You can even dress the baby and toy alike for certain holidays for fun.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- To display all of baby's nuances, give each month a page of its own. Each month should have its own theme, too. Highlight a particular event in that month to focus on with your designs. For example, July's page can be filled with stars, stripes, and fireworks. Some months may need more than one page.

Baby's First Smile

We could get into a debate over when baby's first smile occurs. If you've ever watched a sleeping infant closely, they move their jaw muscles often while they sleep. They look like smiles but maybe it's just an unconscious reaction to their dreams. No, baby's first smile will be the one that is created on their tiny face by mommy and daddy.

Baby's first smile is like a mutual understanding between child and parent. They are fascinated by whatever movement you're making and a smile is their way of showing that they approve. I'm not talking about a smirk, but a big gummy grin that melts your heart and brings a tear to your eye. It gives me goose bumps just thinking about it.

Picture Ideas:

- Pictures may be tricky with the first smile but you can do it. Anytime you are trying to make baby smile, have daddy right next to you with camera at the ready. If you notice the beginnings of a smile forming, stroke baby's face right below the lower lip. This tickling will prolong the smile so you can take some pictures.



Change places and let daddy have his “first smile” from baby. Capturing a smile takes patience but its well worth the wait.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Find some smiley face stickers or smiling cartoon characters. Everything you add to this page should have a smile on its face. Pick the best smiling shots of baby with each parent. Two a piece should be enough.
- Since a smile brightens any room, crop the pictures in a circle with yellow construction paper borders. Add triangular sun rays around each picture. Use the stickers to resemble a crowd of onlookers witnessing baby’s first smile. A perfect theme for this page would be “You are My Sunshine”. Print the words of the song onto the page along with the smiley-baby photos.

Baby Sits Up

My mother always said that it was important to support baby’s head when cradling them in one’s arms. If you’ve ever noticed, baby’s head will flop back if you don’t. Their neck muscles aren’t strong enough to hold up their little heads. But, baby will try. Curiosity will get the better of them and each time you prop baby up on your shoulder, they will try to look around.

It’s funny. Baby’s head wiggles like one of those bobble head toys and then it falls back against your shoulder. But, the day will come when they begin to push themselves away from the back of the couch or the car seat as they strain to sit up on their own. Pretty soon baby will be turning his/her head when they hear a noise. Can walking be far behind?

Picture Ideas:

- Take a few photos of baby from a side angle to show that they are pushing themselves away from the couch or baby carrier. Have a family member or friend sit baby on their lap while supporting baby’s head and back. Tell them to slowly remove their hand so you can get a picture of baby sitting up on their own.
- Take a picture with daddy and yourself and baby. Cheer baby on and encourage their newfound bodily control.

Please Enjoy This Free Gift From www.ScrappersTalkRadio.com



Scrapbooking Ideas:

- This page would be another place to use silly quote stickers. Mommy or daddy could be made to say something like, "Hurray!" or "You did it!"
- Try to find a piece of scrapbook paper that resembles a stadium full of people or, if you can only find an empty stadium, draw some spectators. Or find stickers of cheerleaders to put around the page. Have baby's pictures showcased in the middle of the page. Give the crowd various cheering quotes to celebrate baby's accomplishment.



Baby Eats Solid Foods

“Open up. Here comes the airplane. Zoom! Zoom!” We’ve all played that game with our children. Now that a bottle is not enough for baby, the doctor will tell you that you can add a bit of solid food like cereal, fruit or veggies to their meal to fill them up. Using a small coated spoon, scoop up some cereal and touch the spoon to their lips. If they open up to accept it, baby is ready to have solid foods. Now the fun begins.

When my son could sit up on his own, I fed him from a high chair. He liked the freedom of being able to look around. A few times I made the mistake of leaving the bowl of cereal or strained fruit on the tray while I answered the telephone. Imagine the mess I found when I got back. Sometimes he would smack the bowl and more food ended up on me than in him. Keep a wet dishcloth handy.

Picture Ideas:

- Feeding time is always fun time when baby starts on solid food. Buy yourself an apron if you don’t already own one. Mommy and daddy should take turns feeding and photographing baby.
- Don’t forget to snap a picture of baby’s messy face and your messy apron. Every time you introduce a new food into baby’s diet, take a picture to capture the faces he makes.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Find cute stickers and foam decorations of fruits and vegetables to use for your scrapbook page. Try to find scrapbook paper with a bib design. Glue the food randomly around the page.
- Crop your pictures in the shape of the food baby is eating in the picture: a box of cereal, peaches, pears, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Baby has moved on to solid foods. Now it’s time for teeth!



Baby's First Tooth

If you thought baby could scream before, wait until they start teething. Some mothers use traditional teething rings with the liquid inside but I was always afraid that my son's budding teeth would puncture the plastic. Frozen waffles work just as well and if baby bites down, there's no harm done.

Baby can also spike a fever when teething. Children's liquid pain reliever will bring it down fast and help with the teething pain. Baby will become fussier and crankier than usual at bedtime. The upside of the whole ordeal will be the sight of that pearly white tooth in baby's mouth. Every cute little smile from that moment on will be dotted with a shiny tooth.

Picture Ideas:

- When you first feel an extra bump along baby's gum line, start with the pictures. Entice baby to smile so that you can get a shot of baby's entire gummy mouth.
- Each week, take a new picture. This will be a slow process but you'll have the benefit of catching every sparkly tooth coming in during baby's first year of life.
- Also, take pictures of baby chewing on a toothbrush.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Find stickers of giant teeth with smiling faces. Punch a half circle in the top of each tooth sticker. Affix them to the page around the edges of the page with the top of each tooth angled towards the center of the page.
- Take a piece of string and paste it around the outside of the page to represent dental floss. Make sure that the string lies across each hole to resemble a necklace of teeth.
- Use your silly quote stickers on the teeth to have the teeth congratulate baby on finally growing a tooth. Place baby's pictures in the center of the floss necklace.



- You'll be able to find some adorable toothbrush stickers to put on this page, as well.

Baby Crawls

On some mornings, I would find my son completely turned around in his crib. I'd ask him how he did it and he'd just smile at me. If we were relaxing in the living room, I'd lay him on a blanket in the floor. At first, he'd hold tightly to the blanket and flap his legs like a fish out of water. As the weeks passed, he could get one leg underneath himself enough to stick his butt in the air, but then he'd collapse onto the blanket.

When your baby gains enough strength to lift up on one knee and then the other, you'll hold your breath in an effort to keep baby from getting distracted by the sound of your breathing. Then, when baby moves their legs and starts to crawl for the first time, you'll let out a squeal.

Picture Ideas:

- Snap photos of baby rolling over, and trying to bend each knee. Once baby learns to crawl, they will leave the comfort of the blanket and set off in search of adventure.
- When baby crawls around the house, follow and take pictures. Place their favorite toys on the floor and take pictures as baby crawls over to them.
- Also take pictures of baby crawling over to pets or siblings. And, pictures of baby crawling over Mommy and Daddy.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Decorate your page like a treasure map. You may be able to search out scrapbook paper designed like a treasure map complete with a broken line trail and an "X" to mark the treasure location. Or, create your own map.
- Draw several large squares along the treasure route to represent the rooms of your home. Place a picture of baby crawling in a particular room inside each square and label the squares. Connect them all by a broken line to create a trail.



Naughty Baby Pictures

Over the course of baby's first year, they will have many occasions to behave badly. During their daily explorations of the house, baby is bound to try a few things they shouldn't. You must have a sense of humor about baby's antics. As long as baby hasn't done anything dangerous, it's okay to capture it on camera.

My niece loves Cheerios™. To keep her from eating too many at one time, I would hand them to her. One night I left the sandwich bag with the cereal in it open on the couch and went to check on dinner. When I returned, my niece was sitting in on the floor in a pile of cereal, stuffing them in her mouth. Then, she proceeded to stand up and stomp all over them. Grinding cereal into my carpet was definitely a no-no.

Turning over the trashcan would be another example of BBB—Baby Behaving Badly. Sometimes it's hard to know if baby is purposely doing naughty things, but I would give them the benefit of the doubt.

Picture Ideas:

- Since you never know what baby may do, grab your camera whenever you notice them being really quiet. Given a chance, baby will pull the tablecloth off the table and everything along with it.
- The funniest naughty baby moments will be photographed at mealtimes and diaper changes. Giving baby a plate of their own is sure to bring out the “naughty” in them.
- Be sure to take pictures of any large messes baby makes or any naughty climbing he does. Even though, at the moment you may be mad as a hen, years from now, you'll love those “naughty baby” pictures.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- When baby gets in trouble they are usually relegated to the playpen where they can't escape. Construct a large playpen on the page. Paste your naughty baby



pictures inside the playpen. You can even draw black and white bars on the playpen.

Baby's First Steps

Baby can crawl over to tables and chairs and pull themselves to a standing position. When you walk into the nursery in the morning, baby is standing up and shaking the rails. Baby is ready to try walking. Begin with a good pair of shoes.

The day my niece took her first steps she was at my house. I stood her up next to my knee. My sister sat across from me at the other end of the couch. When she called to my niece with her arms outstretched, I aimed my niece in her direction and waited to see what would happen next. She wobbled and swooned a bit, but kept on her feet.

Our mouths hung open as we waited to see if this would be the day that she would take her first steps. One...two...three...and she dropped to the floor. My sister picked her up and we all cheered. My niece laughed, too. Another milestone had been reached.

Picture Ideas:

- When you are preparing baby to walk keep your camera close at hand. Take pictures of baby pulling up to a standing position and walking hand-in-hand with you and daddy.
- To make sure you capture those first precious steps on camera, have someone else ready to take the picture as daddy aims baby in your direction. Before you applaud her steps, send her back the other way towards her daddy's waiting arms for another memorable picture.
- Also, take pictures of mom and dad hugging and celebrating baby's accomplishment. Now, is also the time to get a great "foot" picture of the baby, too.

Scrapbooking Ideas:



- Find some foam building blocks and use them to construct a ladder design on the scrapbook page. On top of each block, paste a picture of baby's walking progress. The top blocks should hold the pictures of baby walking to you and then to daddy.

Baby Sleeping Like an Angel

I liked to watch my children sleep. They would curl up into a little ball or pull their knees underneath their bodies, pushing their butts in the air. If they were lying on their backs, their tiny chests rose and fell with each precious breath. Your beautiful baby has been entrusted to your care. What a miracle of God!

I've heard it said that if a baby smiles while they are asleep, it means that they are playing with the angels. It brings a whole new meaning to the blessing, "Sweet Dreams". Does your baby sleep like an angel? I pray that all babies dream of heaven when they close their eyes at night. The sound of my children's breathing was music to my ears.

Picture Ideas:

- Babies, just like adults, sleep in many different positions. Each of baby's sleeping positions is cuter than the last. Capture baby in the crib, on the blanket, on the couch, and in the playpen. Sometimes baby will sleep wherever they fall after playing.
- Take a picture of baby sleeping on top of a teddy bear or mommy and daddy. Baby may even fall asleep in the corner of the couch. I have a picture of my youngest son sleeping in the corner of the couch wearing a pair of 3-D glasses. I laugh every time I see it.
- If baby has a "lovie" or blankie he sleeps with, be sure to get lots of pictures of baby sleeping with it.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- A background of clouds and angels would be an appropriate setting for baby's snoozing pictures. Paste a picture on each cloud. Or, crop your pictures in the shape of clouds with a blue construction paper background.



- Take a cotton ball and glue pieces of it around each picture to emphasize the cloud effect. Add angel stickers to round out the page.

Baby Loves Books

Reading to baby will familiarize him with words, shapes, and colors. My favorite book for my sons was “Pat the Bunny”. Baby can actually feel bunny’s fuzzy body, ears, and tail. Books like this keep baby’s attention while you read. Picture books are also good “first” books for baby.

My oldest son had a book made of cloth when he was a baby. There were numbers, letters, shapes, and animals in it. If he ever spit up on it all I had to do was toss it in the washing machine. My children loved when I read to them. Story time will provide many shared moments that you and baby will cherish for years to come.

Picture Ideas:

Take pictures of baby being read to by mommy, daddy, grandma, siblings, and whoever else will volunteer. Photograph baby turning the pages or even chewing on the book. They like to help you with the book. I have pictures of my baby son sleeping in the middle of his cloth book and sleeping with the book on top of him.

I laugh at those pictures because it looks like he read so much that he fell asleep! Take photos of baby’s favorite books so one day you can show them what books started them on the road to reading.

You can also do “smart baby” pictures and let him wear a pair of glasses while looking at a book. Get lots of pictures of your little Einstein.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

You could choose a night sky background with a lot of stars. When you know how to read, the sky’s the limit. Create an arch out of the book pictures near the top of the scrapbook page and another arch of pictures at the bottom featuring baby and family reading books. In the center, paste a foam rocket bearing baby’s name reaching for the sky.



Baby's Favorite Toys

Now that baby can sit up and roll over, it's time for him to occupy himself. Sit baby in the playpen or crib. Give them one toy at a time and see how interested they are in each one. Toys that light up or play music will stimulate baby more. When my oldest son was a baby, we strapped a toy to his crib that played music and scrolled lighted pictures across a screen.

His little eyes were glued to that toy especially in the early morning while it was still dark and the light from the toy filled the room. My niece likes to play with an angel bear that sings "Jesus Loves Me" when you press his foot. Baby's fascination with new things is refreshing. You'll remember your own childhood wonder.

Picture Ideas:

- As baby plays with each toy, snap a picture. The more intense photos will be the ones you take when baby is playing and squealing and not paying any attention to you. Try to capture the look of curiosity on their faces as they examine each toy.
- Get photos of baby with the same toys over the months to show his growth.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Stickers of teddy bears and other cuddly animals would be perfect to decorate this page. The title of the page can be "My Favorite Things" like the song from The Sound of Music.
- Here's another idea if baby has chosen several favorite toys. Find a sticker of a clown or a juggler with their hands outstretched.
- If juggling items are part of the juggler sticker, cut them off. Arrange your pictures of baby in a circle above the juggler's head as if he were juggling baby and his/her favorite toys. To go along with the juggling idea, choose scrapbook paper with a Big Top circus design.



Baby Plays in Bath

Babies take to water like fish. They love to splash and play. There are many products on the market to make bath time enjoyable for baby. Run about an inch to two inches of water in the bathtub. Let baby watch as you fill the tub and add the bubble bath. Choose a few waterproof toys that will remain as bath time toys and throw them in the tub. Baby will squeal with excitement as the toys go floating by.

Undress your baby and put her in the tub. Wash baby as she splashes and plays. Baby won't even notice you washing their hair. You can buy squeeze soap that baby can use to mark on the bathtub walls. Just make sure that baby doesn't end up with a mouth full of soap on purpose.

Picture Ideas:

- Snap a picture of baby's eyes lighting up as you run the water in the tub with the bubbles. Take as many photos as you can of baby playing with the toys, chewing on the toys, marking up the walls, and getting their hair shampooed.
- Also, give baby a small washcloth and see if she'll clean herself. If you'd like, toss the washcloth on her lap strategically so you can get pictures that you can frame and display.
- Try giving her a piece of ice to play with.
- Baby may even roll over onto their belly to get a better look at the bubbles. Take advantage and get some naked baby bottom pictures.
- Watch that they don't drink the bath water, though.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- We need an ocean background for this one. Being in the big tub is like being in the ocean to baby. All that water fascinates them. Use foam fish in bright colors to decorate the undersea world. Let some of baby's pictures bob on the surface and



some sink below the sea surrounded by the fish. You could call it, “Baby’s Bath Adventure”.

Baby’s First Birthday

You and baby have made it together one full year. It’s hard to believe that your baby is walking, eating table food, and beginning to speak. Baby has developed a unique personality during this year and is not afraid to express it.

Now it’s time to celebrate the last twelve months. From one mother to another, don’t make too much fuss this time around. To baby, their birthday is just another day. Decorate with that thought in mind. The first birthday is more a celebration of baby than a celebration for baby. Throw on your party hats and blow out those candles!

Picture Ideas:

- You must have a picture of baby wearing a party hat. It doesn’t matter if baby snatches it off later. Snap a picture of baby with each party guest. Randomly take photos of baby interacting with all the new people in the house.
- When cake time arrives, let daddy sit at the table with baby. Take a picture of the beautiful birthday cake before and after you light the candle. Take a wide shot of all the party guests singing “Happy Birthday” to baby. As daddy shows baby how to blow out the candle, keep the cameras clicking.
- Baby can help you with the present pictures by ripping the wrapping paper off.

Scrapbooking Ideas:

- Scrapbook paper with a background of balloons will do. Use a glue stick to make streaks on the sides of the page. Shake birthday confetti on the page and pour off the excess. Crop the party pictures into big squares.
- Cut photos in the shape of balloons, cakes, or the number one.
- Create small bows from baby’s wrapping paper and put one on top of each picture to turn them into presents. The title of this page would be “Baby’s First Birthday”.