

the best things in life are **FREE**2022 EDITION

#### All things pregnancy

birth support, hypnobirthing, yoga, pregnancy safe fitness, placenta encapsulation, acupuncture

Three common myths about birth photography

#### Baby essentials

Newborn and birth photography, keepsakes, bottle hire, teething accessories

#### For mamas

massage, clothes, postnatal fitness, natural health, emotional support, sleep support, hormonal and emotional support, pelvic floor health

Placenta encapsulation: the partner's perspective

Nourishing first foods for baby

Documenting baby's first year

#### For the toddlers

sensory toys, holistic dentistry, ergonomic table wear, clothes

Developmental red flags



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> "I have had no problems with my supply this time around, in fact it has been quite the opposite with ample breastmilk! Also, my mood was a lot more relaxed when taking the tablets" ~ Martha

"A few years back, there'd be NO WAY I would've done this. With the capsules, I felt level and grounded, despite the sleep deprivation and demands of life that continue" ~ Cathryn



### Curious about Placenta Encapsulation? Want to find out more?

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## Welcome

"When we learn how to become resilient, we learn how to embrace the beautifully broad spectrum of the human experience" ~ Jaeda Dewalt

This edition comes to you after another year of resilience building. For many of us these days have been about maintaining connections with our communities and families in whatever ways we can. We have had to get creative, be patient, and spend more time than ever in the digital world.

What a time for the babies to born in! These babies bring with them hope, compassion and resilience and they remind us of the most important things about this human experience, love and connection.

Wishing you a year ahead full of the best kinds of love and the most beautiful connections - whatever form they may take.

lare natalie

Founder & Editor in Chief



Sunshine Coast Baby acknowledges the Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) and Jinibara people of the Sunshine Coast Region. The nurturing, and care you have given this place as well as your custodial role here is admired, supported, and appreciated. We acknowledge your deep spiritual connection to the land and all the living things here. With our heart we accept and know it's a powerful bond that can never be broken. To the Elders past & present, and to the old people, we wish to pay you great respect. To the wonderful Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) and Jinibara community, we acknowledge the amazingness of your continuing culture and the contribution you give to the vibrance of the Sunshine Coast Region.



## prenatal & preconception

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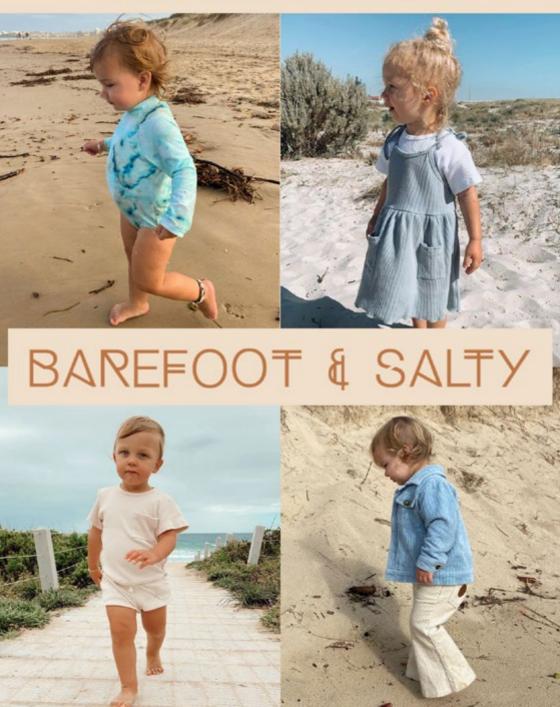
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#### THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE



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#### Interview with Nikiesha from Barefoot and Salty

We sat down with Nikiesha from Barefoot and Salty and talked all things business and Mamahood. Here are some of our favourite takeaways:

Why "Barefoot and Salty"? I'm one of those people who walk barefoot everywhere and live for the beach. I honestly could not think of any better way to be, so I named my business after my lifestyle.

What or who are your greatest design inspirations? I draw inspiration from the love I have for all things surf and boho. I've never been a fan of the style of clothing you get in store for children; I just wished they made adult surfy clothes in baby/kids sizes! I believe clothes are an expression of who you are; you shouldn't be put into a 'type'. I wanted my daughter to wear clothes that don't restrict her identity, I know many parents feel the same. So I decided to create my own style.



What has been your greatest biz challenge so far? I had five boxes of stock go missing at the start of this year. It really hurt the growth of my business, so much so I still have not recovered from it. I was meant to receive five boxes in February. Luckily over the space of three months, four out of five boxes came back. The last box was recovered, but it was left outside and couldn't be saved due to mould. I cried nearly every day over this.

It was so draining. I was incredibly lucky that my summer stock still sold well during winter, so from the support of my amazing customers I managed to keep my head above water.

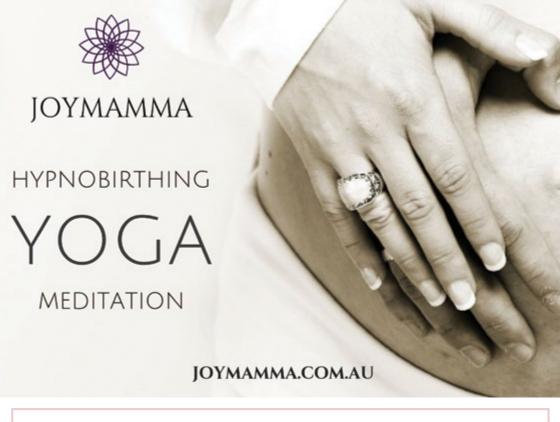
What advice would you give to someone wanting to start a baby product business on the Coast? Just go for it! Make a plan and take the leap. They say if you aren't embarrassed by your first product you started too late. There will never be the 'right' timing and you will never be ready enough so you may as well start now. Also enough so you may as well start now. Also have a business plan; if you aren't willing to sit down and spend time on a business plan, you shouldn't start a business. I look back at mine nearly every day. It helps you stay true to your grass roots.

What is the best advice you were given as a new parent? When the baby sleeps it's YOUR time. Not time to clean, not time to sort out what you haven't done. If you want to sit on your phone and do nothing, do it. We allow ourselves to have a break in a regular job so how is this different. Let the house be messy. It will be clean eventually. Oh, and trust your gut instinct. You're never wrong!

**Best parenting purchase?** Don't bother buying a baby bath. Head to bunnings and get yourself an oblong flexi tub (\$5). They are much wider and don't tip. They are also great for beach/pool trips with a newborn. You can put bub in it without them getting sandy. We still use it in the shower, and Aria is 2 ½!

Do you have a quote that you live your life by? Once you become personally responsible for your own actions, it is only then you will become successful. Everything you do is YOUR responsibly. This quote is on my wallet and written on a piece of paper that is stuck to the wall in front of me when I'm on my computer. It reminds me every day that only I can create my success.

Barefoot + Salty have a beautiful range of Australian designed children's clothing. Shop online at www.barefootandsaltv.com.au













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BABY, IT'S ONLY NATURAL provides new mums with practical advice and up-to-date information so they can confidently introduce new foods to their baby's diet.

This book emphasises the importance of building your baby's natural immunity, gut health microbiome, and the prevention of food intolerances and behaviour disorder. Including a week-by-week guide to introducing foods, explanation of baby-led weaning vs purees, food introduction guidelines, information about allergies and intolerances and recipes.

Available now on the website!

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#### Documenting baby's first year

A question I'm often asked by first-time parents is "when is the best time to have baby photographed?" Should it be when they're a tiny newborn or wait a few months till they can sit up? As much as most families would love to have someone beautifully document each tiny step of the way, this is not a realistic option. Hence, it is such an important decision for you as you will certainly treasure these photos forever.

#### And the answer is:

There is no right answer. Whatever works for your personal situation, and the photographs captured the day of your shoot will be your time capsule of that moment.

However, there are stages along the way that I think make great guide markers for the journey through the first year of parenthood.

1. Your pregnancy: Honour the incredible transformation of your body. I love to photograph women around the 32-34 weeks mark. You'll have a beautifully pronounced tummy and enough of a "safe zone" to reschedule for weather or other circumstance if need be.



- 2. Birth: If having a birth photographer present is an option to you, it is one of the most impactful ways to remember and chronicle your baby's entry to the world.
- **3. Fresh 48:** An alternative to birth photography is a Fresh 48 session. Generally, this is a session in the first day or 2 of bubs arrival; either in hospital or home depending on where you birth. These sessions concentrate on all the incredibly fresh details of your baby and the subtle moments of connection you have as you get to know each other.



- **4. Newborn:** My favourite. Newborn sessions are usually held when baby is 1-3 weeks old. These can be a session in the studio, or a lifestyle at home depending on your photographer. Again, concentrating on really capturing the uniqueness of your brand new baby and the love you have for them is the aim. Never again will they fit so snuggly into your arms, or curl into those peaceful womb-like positions.
- **5. Sitter session:** These sessions are for babies around 7 months old. Or when they can sit steadily, but before they can crawl away. Think chubby legs and tummy, big eyes, soft kissy lips, and dimples on the back of the knuckles. All these delicious details are typical of this age. There is more of a focus on their personality and usually lots of smiles and funny faces are captured.
- 6. One year old: Finally one lap around the sun and what a journey! You could celebrate with a family session, or a cake smash, or a simple session just for bub. Whatever your heart desires, there'll be a photographer that suits what is important for you to have documented.

And for all the in-between, snap away with your phone to your heart's content. You cannot possibly ever have too many memories documented.

\* If you would like a list of "50 first year photos" to capture, jump over to my website and download the PDF \*

Megan Willis is an award winning professional photographer specialising in newborn, maternity and family photography. Inspired by your brand new little person, and the love you have for them, she'll capture their first days; a moment in time which passes too soon. Find out more at

www.meganwillisphotography.com.au

## Megan Willis

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## Mother's in Arms



## Placenta Encapsulation and Birth Keepsakes

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#### THE JOY OF A SMILE

Not much can come close to the purity and delight of baby's first smile, and as an integrative dentist it is a privilege to steward this smile for a lifetime.

From preconception health through baby's first year there are so many considerations. Coming to see the dentist is an important part to ensuring yours and baby's health, encouraging ideal growth and happy smiles.

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## some quick tips

#### **PRECONCEPTION**

- Book a checkup.
- Having healthy gums and teeth minimises your risk of preeclampsia, preterm birth and low birth weight.

#### FIRST YEAR

- First checkup before 1 year old to discuss growth, dental care, and start building positive emotional experiences.
- Babies shouldn't snore. Breathing should nearly always be through the nose, lips together.
- Breastfeeding doesn't cause tooth decay.
- When ready, encourage chewing, whole and hard foods.
- Gaps between teeth are good.

Above all, trust your gut. Many things we do instinctively for our kids, have far reaching benefits beyond the primary action. If you think there is an issue, you are likely right. Keep searching for the right people and right solutions.

It's our greatest joy to walk through life with our clients, guiding health in all seasons.





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#### Developmental red flags

Have you ever been at the park and all the other kids are playing together, but your child is on their own? Have you gone over to a friend's place and noticed their 2 year old is talking so much more than yours? Do you ever wonder why other kids happily go and play, but your child is clingy and cries?

We are often told, "It's ok, everyone develops differently", or "He's a boy and boys develop at a slower rate than girls." While in some cases all of this kind-hearted advice could be true, if you are questioning how your child is developing, then follow it and seek out a suitable therapist to help you.

In the first 5 years of life a child's brain is developing 700 neural connections every second. These connections support their rapid learning and development and make new learning easier. 90% of the brain development occurs within the first 5 years. This is why early intervention is important. If we can support a child to learn foundational skills during these times of rapid brain growth, we make the most of these natural developmental stages.

So what are some of the red flags that are worth talking about?



#### Speech and Language

- At age 2 children should be putting two words together easily and following simple instructions consistently
- An unfamiliar person should be able to understand almost everything a 3 year old says
- A 4 year old should be making well formed "adult-like" sentences.

#### Fine Motor/Cognition

- Children should be able to dress and go to the toilet independently by age 3 – 4
- While pencil grip might not be perfect, a child should be able to scribble with a crayon by 2 and able to draw lines and basic shapes by 4
- Activities like threading with small beads and building block towers should be easy for a 3 year old

#### Social / Emotional

- From about 6 months of age babies should enjoy social games and smile and respond to others
- 3 year olds typically want to play with other children rather than on their own
- By 4 kids should be able to play by the rules, take turns and negotiate in play

#### It may be useful to seek some support if your child.....

- Finds it difficult to move from one place or activity to another
- Has big meltdowns over seemingly small issues
- Gags on certain foods or even avoids certain textures of foods
- Finds it difficult to focus on one given task for a length of time
- Does not react or over-reacts to sounds, smells, textures etc

And sometimes it's not just kids who need support. It doesn't matter how many children you have had or if you have worked in childcare for years or been great with your brother's children. Being a parent is not an easy role to play. Each of us are striving to meet the challenge of supporting children in a modern world, often balancing work commitments and the needs of other siblings and sometimes we just can't do it alone!

Chatter-boxes Therapy Centre are a multidisciplinary team providing speech pathology (communication, literacy and feeding support), psychology, occupational therapy, play therapy, counselling (1:1 and small groups supporting parents) and community-based support through their team of allied health assistants. They deliver a diverse and distinctly different approach to supporting children and families across the Sunshine Coast.

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Regardless of how your journey unfolds, I will be there to show you the beauty of it all.

#### Three common myths about birth photography

1. The camera will be a distraction. Birth is a deeply intimate and spiritual process, and requires an atmosphere of peace and trust. It can feel like a risk to invite anyone into your birth space. As a professional birth photographer, my number one goal is to document your story without disrupting the flow of it. My experience has taught me how to enter your birth space and move throughout the room without distracting you or your partner. Each click of my camera matters. I want you to be overwhelmed ONLY with the love of your partner, the strength of your own body, and the anticipation of meeting your baby. Clients have often told me afterwards that they hardly noticed my presence at all, and are amazed by the moments I was able to capture when looking through their birth gallery.



#### 2. It's all about THAT shot...

Hiring a Birth Photographer DOES NOT mean you've just signed up to have your vagina photographed! Birth Photography is so much more than just capturing the moment of birth. I love focusing on the connection you have with your partner. The raw vulnerability as you work your way through each contraction. Your strength as you reach transition and feel like you can't possibly go on any longer, but like an absolute birthing goddess, you do. And then all those delicious, brand new newborn details. If crowning shots aren't your thing, I can get creative with angles to make sure there is no nudity. Some clients hire me to capture everything, while others prefer I take a more modest approach, focusing on the emotions and connections instead. Every birth story is unique and every family is unique.

3. Birth Photography is overpriced. I totally get it! When approaching the birth of a new baby, cost can be an important factor, especially if finances are tight. Many people assume that birth photography is similarly priced to a family or newborn session. But unlike these sessions, birth is unpredictable, we can't plan a day and time to schedule in your birth session! This means I go on call for you and I'm ready to join you - day or night - be it at 37 weeks, on your due date, or even up to 42 weeks. Being on call definitely requires a lifestyle that's different to most (think five weeks of lugging my camera bag everywhere, having my phone attached to me at all times, and no sneaky nighttime wines!) but it's a sacrifice I love to make for my clients. Birth sessions are often much longer too, and whether you give birth in 6, 18, or 30 hours, I'll be there with you for however long your labour takes. Having your birth photographed is an invaluable investment, and I offer flexible, interest-free payment plans. You could also ask friends and family for donations towards birth photography at your baby shower, instead of buying gifts (because really, how many pairs of cute shoes does your newborn actually need?!).

"When you first start to think about who you want to be in your intimate birth space, you might be put off by the idea of having a photographer as you assume the constant gaze may take you out of your primal energy needed to birth effectively. This was certainly not the case with Martha. When Martha arrived to my fast paced birth, the only time I knew she was there was when she first arrived as she gave me a reassuring hand on mine in between contractions to let me know she had made it in time. After that, she melted into the background until just after I caught my baby in the birth pool, had come out of my birth trance to be met by her telling me "You are a birthing goddess!". Having the right people with the right energy is important in your birth space and I truly believe Martha contributed to the calmness I needed on the day." – Kirsten W

Martha has been a photographer for over 8 years and specializes in maternity, birth, and newborn photography. To view more of her beautiful work please visit www.marthagracebirthphotography.com.au

#### Placenta Encapsulation - the partner's perspective

Generally, it's a given that we will support our partners in doing the things they want to do, and when it's something they may not understand or resonate with, we appreciate their support even more. Placenta encapsulation, while no longer in the realm of "something only the 'hippies' do", is still something quite 'out there' and can be a lot to get your own head around, let alone your partner's head around.

So we asked some Sunny Coast locals to ask their partners what they thought about them encapsulating their placenta.

Here's what they had to say:

#### What did you think when I told you I wanted to encapsulate my placenta?

"You what now?" After you explained the natural benefits and you showed me the research behind it, I was supportive. As I always say, it is your body and your choice - and what you decide to do is your say. The benefits were amazing, and we've spoken to other people/health professionals about the benefits too. - Matt



I had no idea what it was, apart from it obviously being something to do with your placenta, I hadn't heard anything 20

about it before but when you told me what it was I did think it was a bit weird/ gross - Trent



I had previously heard that we are among a very select few animals that don't eat the placenta - Mitchell

I thought to myself, "What the hell! That's different but cool" - Matthew

#### How would you describe placenta encapsulation to someone?

It's when they dry out the placenta and turn into powder and encapsulate it. It is really good for recovery for women. - Matthew

It was quick and easy from our perspective. I had a good look at the placenta when it came out, it's pretty amazina! - Harrison

Basically dehydrated placenta in capsule form; "the goodness pill" - Chris

The process of drying out the placenta while ensuring you keep all the positive nutrients that help your bub grow to then be taken into a fine powder and put into capsules for your partner to help with her post-partum struggles - Matt

#### What did you notice when I took my capsules?

You were always more energised when takina vour placenta capsules - Chris



You bounced back amazingly both times due to the capsules and your post-partum depression was near non-existent. All up, I believe it gave you more time to further nurture our beautiful baby girl. - Matt

It seemed to really support you in your recovery from your c-section and just having a baby generally. I would have thought you'd be completely depleted mentally and emotionally like you were with our last baby, but there was a huge difference. Even when I took some of your capsules when I wasn't feeling great it seemed to give me the boost I needed. - Trent



I took some too... haha. I think compared to the last two babies you were up and doing things quicker and more emotionally stable as well and seemed to have a little more energy - Harrison

#### What would you tell your friends about it?

I would tell my friends that it is great even

men can take it and benefit from them - \*YES he ate some as well \* - Matthew

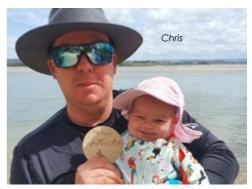
I'd recommend it 100% for anyone during their postpartum journey - Mitchell

Always do your own research but based on what I have seen (and have taken some myself) the benefits are almost inexplicably positive for mothers and even fathers too - Matt

#### Any other thoughts to share about it?

If we had another baby I'd say to get it done again - Harrison

I definitely think it is something we would look at doing again with future pregnancies. I believe it assisted with your recovery and we didn't see much of the baby blues at all! - Chris



I think there are so many positives and it's not talked about enough in mainstream hospitals about the potential benefits for post-partum mothers. If there was more easily accessible information, then it could potentially help reduce the overall post-partum struggles we see/hear mothers go through - Matt

I had no idea what it was I thought it was gross but really turned out to be a good thing for us - Trent

Natalie Stokell has encapsulated over 1000 placentas. She is fully trained, certified and insured. She loves talking placentas, so please feel free to reach out to her with any of your placenta questions. She can be found at www.placentavitality.com



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#### Method

- 1. Add juice to a small saucepan.
- Sprinkle the gelatin evenly on top and leave for a few minutes until it 'blooms', then give it a stir
- 3. Turn the heat on low, gently warm and stir until the gelatin has dissolved
- 4. Pour in to moulds or a baking dish you can slice it in to squares or fingers once set
- 5. Refrigerate for 2-hours until set, store in the fridge for up to a week.
- \* find grass-fed or organic gelatin at the heath food store - the supermarket variety doesn't promote the same health benefits.

#### Nourishing first foods for baby

Lucy from Lucy Stewart Nutrition talks us through the often confusing minefield of first solid foods.

Starting solids is an exciting opportunity to nourish your baby's developmental needs, create a positive relationship with food and broaden their palette.

Knowing what first foods to feed your baby can be daunting and confusing and it's often where conventional guidelines for starting solids falls short. So, I've outlined the most nourishing first foods that support your little one's growth and development, and help you approach this milestone with a little more clarity and confidence (and an easy to clean high chair!).

Whilst we can often get caught up on the right 'age' to introduce solids, it's more important to wait until your baby is showing the signs they are developmentally, physically and digestively ready – this usually happens around the age of 6 months, as recommend by the World Health Organisation.

I'm sure you've heard the common saying that "food before one is just for fun", and although playing with food is an important part of the sensory experience, food shouldn't JUST be for fun.

Your baby will grow more rapidly in the first year of their life than at any other time, and they're actually really quite clever. You see, by around 6 months of age when they begin to show a real interest in food, there are certain micro and macronutrients they require for optimal growth and development, that can no longer be met by breastmilk or formula alone. So, it's really important that those first foods you offer your baby contain the nutrients they need, right now.

The most common first foods are soft fruits and vegetables, and whilst these are nutritious and a great start, they are lacking in some key developmental nutrients, like: iron, zinc, choline and vitamin D, as well as nourishing fats, especially DHA.



Two important minerals for growth are iron and zinc. Iron is vital for cognitive and behavioural development and between 6–24 months babies actually require more iron each day than an adult male. The best sources of iron and zinc are: organic chicken liver, beef, lamb and chicken thiahs.

Nourishing fats, especially the omega-3 essential fatty acids EPA and DHA, are crucial for the heathy development of your baby's eyes, immune and nervous systems, and brain – their rapidly growing brain is actually 60% fat, so it's being built by the fats in the foods you offer them. Find nourishing fats in: avocado, oily fish (sardines, salmon, mackerel), pastureraised egg yolk, ghee, seaweed, olive oil, nuts and seeds, coconut products and full fat pasture-raised meat and dairy. Avoid trans fats and industrial seed oils as these are inflammatory and increase the risk of many health issues.

Other nutritious foods to include are probiotic-rich fermented foods like sauerkraut, cultured yoghurt and kefir. These foods help to support healthy digestion, gut and immune health.

The key is to offer your baby a variety of foods, make their meals as nutrient-dense as possible, and have fun.

Lucy Stewart is an Accredited Paediatric Nutritionist, mum and step-mum. With many years of clinical experience working with a range of childhood conditions, Lucy is passionate about helping parents raise resilient and thriving children, by feeding them right, right from the start. Book an appointment to take the first step in your child's journey to better health. www.lucystewartnutrition.com

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## How do you "really" feel?

The perinatal and parenting journey has many challenges, and these are often difficult to talk about. Asking for help and talking about how you feel can be helpful.

The Perinatal, Child & Family Hub, founded by Carla Anderson, a clinical psychologist has a team of allied health professionals, including psychologists, counsellors, a dietician, a lactation consultant and an arts and expressive therapist.

Together, we provide a warm and friendly space that caters to individuals and families throughout the challenges and life stages faced by families. We offer individual sessions and group sessions. Our groups include our six week Circle of Motherhood and our monthly Mother's Drop-in Clinic with psychologist, midwives and lactation consultant.



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#### Chinese medicine for labour and birth

Pregnancy and childbirth are some of the most amazing things a woman's body is capable of - and can also be very draining and depleting. In Chinese Medicine, there are many ways of supporting mothersto-be throughout their entire pregnancy journey, including in the weeks before the birth of their baby. At the clinic, we very frequently see mums-to-be for labour preparation treatments as a really important time to support our patients as they prepare for a very unique time in their life. When treatment is started early enough (we like to check in at around 32 weeks) we can help with getting bub in an optimal position, preparing the body for labour, and setting them up for a post-partum period that is as smooth as possible, so they can recover well and begin to enjoy their new life as a mum sooner rather than later.

In Chinese Medicine terms, pregnancy is a process that involves the consumption of an enormous amount of Qi (energy) and Blood (the Chinese Medicine concept of Blood includes our physical blood that runs through our veins, but also has a more energetic concept that ties in with many aspects of our physiology). As you approach labour, the way these energies interplay in your body begins to change and, as you approach birth, they begin to descend downwards. Acupuncture and acupressure can be incredibly helpful tools in helping this process to occur as it should, so we thought we would share a few of our favourite labour prep acupressure points with you.

To perform acupressure successfully, all you need to do is apply strong but comfortable pressure to the point for at least 30 seconds. You can massage the point with circular motions a little, if you like. It's completely normal if some of the points are a little soré - that's a normal function of some of the points. We very strongly encourage all of our labour prep patients to get their partners involved with this, as all of these points can be very useful during labour as well.

#### 1. Large Intestine 4

This point is probably the easiest to access, on the hand. This point helps to encourage contractions and is great for pain relief.

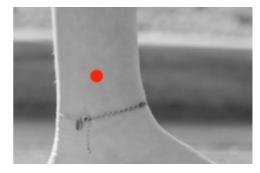


#### 2. Liver 3 This point has a strong 'moving' function, and is helpful in getting contractions going (and with pain relief).



#### 2. Spleen 6

This is one of our favourite points, and helps to soften and (later) dilate the cervix.



#### 4. Bladder 32

This point is a little tricky to find, being on the sacrum (the triangle bone at the bottom of the spine). Massaging the entire sacrum is a areat way to make sure this



point is being stimulated. This point directly talks to the uterus through the nerves that run through the sacrum, and is wonderful for encouraging contractions and for pain relief.

As you get closer to birth, there are a few more things that can help to encourage labour to start:

 massage of the shoulders, lower back and hips (there is actually another great labour prep acupuncture point at the very top point of the trapezius muscle on the shoulders - so cash in some shoulder rubs!)

- spending plenty of time on your fit ball to help open up your hips
- intimacy with your partner, if you're in the mood (nipple stimulation can be especially helpful)
- and of course, acupuncture and Chinese Herbs (our personal favourites!)

As with any new tool in your kit, the more you can get familiar with these points before you need them, the easier it's going to be to make the best use of them when your labour starts. The human body is an incredible thing, and the pregnant body moreso. Investing some time into learning these new skills in the weeks before birth can be so incredibly helpful throughout your journey of labour and birth - and so, we hope this helps make that journey a little easier.

Dr Grace Jones (TCM) is a Registered Acupuncturist and Director of Bloom Chinese Medicine in Maroochydore. Bloom Chinese Medicine in Maroochydore. Bloom Chinese Medicine is a welcoming, inclusive, empathic clinic dedicated to empowering patients throughout the journeys of womanhood (including fertility, pregnancy, motherhood and beyond). Grace is passionate about supporting her patients to feel informed and at ease with their journey. www.sunshinecoastacupunctureclinic.com.au

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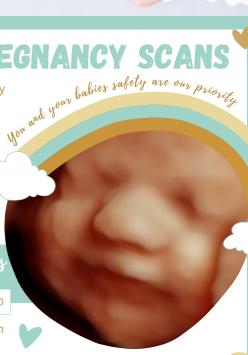
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