

Hi Lavonne,

You have no idea what a pleasure it was to talk to you and let out some of my fears and anxiety of having Faith. My daughter Faith was born at 640g, had 2 blood transfusions, 3 months in hospital, and now she is 2 yrs old, and I still am like a protective hen. I never really cried about this. My whole focus was my child and bringing her home, but to see your child, wrapped up in plastic looking like a monkey, pipes in her, you don't know how to feel, how to hold her, in case she might break.

I hated every one handling her, I tried to spend as much time with her in the hospital, and felt guilty, just taking a break, or going to a braai. They used to tell me she cried during the night and I am supposed to make her feel better, not any one else. Granny and Grandpa were there every day as well, and they expected me to hand over my child to them cause they wanted to hold her. WHY MUST I? I have tried to spend as much time with her as possible, so I hope she can grow up knowing that although I could not be there for her as much as I wanted when she was born. I am here now and I guess I always feared she would love someone else more or attach herself to some one else more as so many people held her.

I was afraid she would feel like I abandoned her. I seem to worry about everything, from food, to weight, I just want her to be a happy child, and I feel like I need to make up time with her, that I lost. People think I am paranoid over her. It was just so emotionally, mentally and physically draining. I am happy to say my husband was wonderful. But so much fear and scaredness and worry. I feel resentful sometimes when my friends' baby came out fine and she is not stressing about fine motor skills and speech and weight etc.

I know I am a good mother, and I have to keep telling myself this 'cause everyone keeps focusing on Faith and totally forgets how we felt, what we went through, and why I am even feeling the way I do now - 2 years later.

Here is a picture of Faith now; I will send you a few of how she was when she was born. Thank you for S.A. Premies and I hope I can contribute to your book and to helping those mothers going through the same things I feel each day.

God Bless
Andrea Lehmensich

