

Baby Tate is here!!!

These Are The Days...

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Of course you all know what the biggest news is this issue but let's backtrack to the beginning of January just for fun.

Sherry's birthday was on the 1st. We picked out a neat puzzle, which turned out to be quite difficult and took everybody a while to get together. Ha ha. I guess if you only let yourself do one a year it might as well be a good one.

Jared didn't have to go back to work until the 3rd. I can't remember what else we did over the break after we painted the boys room but either way we had a nice break from real life.

Nothing much happened until the 13th when we watched the Carter's kids for them so they could go out. The only thing I can remember about that particular babysitting episode is that the faucet got ripped off of the toy kitchen by an unnamed child and Jared had to cut a couple of holes in it with the hole saw to put it back together. I was a little emotional and bummed out at the time but it's all good now.

The building that our ward meets in has been under construction to make the Primary and Relief Society rooms bigger for a really long time now. Since there were four wards that meet there they had to cut the meeting time down to two hours and eliminate Sunday School for a

while, boo hoo hoo. Anyways, on the 14th we went back to a three hour block. It was going to be the last time I would get to go to church until the baby was old enough and I had finally gotten released from primary. I was really looking forward to Relief Society and then we were trapped in the middle of this huge ice storm that blanketed most of the country. The guy on the news specifically mentioned the highway we would have to drive on as being one of the worst so we chickened out and decided to stay home. I know! We've totally become wimpy Texans!



On the 17th Jared and Cameron went to help clean the Temple. They actually ended up working with some guys from the stake replacing all of the sound deadening ceiling tiles. Apparently they are a custom made thing that they only replace every twenty years and they cost

about \$27 a piece-so please don't ruin any of them. It sounded like they enjoyed being able to help out and Jared got to take Cameron to Chipotle, one of his favorite restaurants, on the way home.

While the guys were gone Sam and I wrestled with all the kids. I made English muffin pizzas and we fed the kids dinner. Sam had had a bit of a rough day at home with the kids so Cameron packed the diaper bag for her on the way out, which left us without pajamas for the kids or food for Peyton. I had a jar of Apple-Banana-Strawberry something that I handed over and after Peyton was fed Sam ran home to get Jammies for her kids. We got everyone bathed and in the PJ's and turned on a movie. While Sam was changing Peyton into his Jammies we noticed a little red rash on his tummy. Over the next few minutes it got worse and then the poor kid really started scratching at it. I called that nurse I'm related to and we decided that he was probably allergic to the Strawberries and so I dug out the Benadryl and we got him all medicated. After I got off of the phone with mom Sam talked to someone on the nurseline at the pediatrician. We called the boys just to let them know that they shouldn't drag their feet since we weren't sure if Peyton would need to go to the hospital or not. They had to keep a close eye on him during the night and keep giving him the Benadryl but in the end he was okay. We'll just be keeping the Strawberries away from him in the future.

As if the excitement of the previous night wasn't enough I woke up feeling really crummy the next morning, which was the 18th. It took me a while to

decide if I was having contractions or if I was just having cramps. I took Noah to school and called Jared on the way to tell him that it wasn't going away so he needed to get a ride home-"I don't want to freak you out but I think that we might be having a baby today." The kid in the cubicle next to him overheard him trying to get a hold of Cameron, who had driven that day, and gave him a ride home. He was here when I got back and we scrambled to gather together the things that we needed to go to the hospital. We were a little unprepared since we had planned on being induced on the 21st and not going into labor on the 18th-hey we still had three days to get ready! We dropped Tess off at the Carters house and headed out. We got there at about noon and they got us into triage and all hooked up to the monitors and things. It was a couple of hours before they decided that we could stay. So the timeline went something like this...at about 2:30 they decided we were staying and got us into a room by 3:00. After doing all of the admit stuff they got an IV with Pitocin started at about 3:30. My doctor broke my water at 3:45 and then headed back to her office, cell phone in hand, saying "I'm not far." At 4:00 PM Tate was born and at 4:03 my doctor came running into the room.



Jared has since joked that if my water ever breaks at home he'll just have to call 911 and tell them they have ten minutes to get here before the baby does. It was by far the easiest labor I have ever had. He was 6lbs 13oz and 20 3/4 inches at birth. They got him all cleaned up and handed him over to try and nurse. I had already prepared myself for the same battle I fought with the other kids in the beginning but Tate required no persuasion, he's the best nurser ever. Jared and I probably sounded totally retarded as we marveled at how easy it was to get him to eat.



The Carters brought the kids by later that night and we got to introduce them to their new baby brother. Tess wasn't really interested

in the baby but Noah was thrilled and has been beaming about him ever since. Jared followed them home and helped get the kids to sleep then came back to spend the night with Tate and I at the hospital. We got to go home the next day and, as is usually the case, I was glad to be back in my own bed. To top it all off we got to break the tradition that says we must go back to the hospital the day after we get home to talk to the lactation consultant because the baby

won't eat. Way to instigate change around here Baby Tate!

We spent the next couple of days trying to gather up all of the stuff that we needed to have a new baby at home. Jared and I had had plans to go out one last time before Tate was born and gather up the last of the things that we needed then but hey, things change.

Mom and Dad arrived on the 21st just as scheduled and we were glad that we got to be home with them the whole time they were here instead of hanging out at the hospital.

On the 22nd we took Tate to the doctor for his 4-day check up. I took Tess along thinking that we would be able to get her 2-year check up taken care of at the same time. I wanted to do it then because Jared was off for the day and had an appointment with the dermatologist upstairs so he'd be able to help me out. Tate looked really good and wasn't jaundiced enough to warrant checking his blood! Again with the shattered traditions! His weight had dropped only to 6lbs 6 oz, which was totally normal and actually not as much as babies usually lose right after birth. We got Jared and Tate all taken care of but our stupid insurance company won't pay for a well baby appointment until she is officially two years old-so we had to wait three whole days. No biggie I guess, I just planned on bringing her with me again when Tate had his 2-week check up.

Baby Tess turned two on the 25th! Can you believe she is two already? We opened presents in the morning and then Jared headed to work. He came home a



little early and brought Baby Tess a birthday balloon-what a nice Daddy. We had the Carters over for cake and ice cream and that was pretty much the



extent of the party. I (meaning me and Mom) made a really cool cake that looked like her bear "Baby." I was thrilled when she recognized it right off the bat! She got a lot of nice things and seemed like she had a good time. Happy birthday baby girl!

We had a nice visit with Mom & Dad while they were here and got to do a few fun things between naps. Mom bought us some shelves for the garage and laundry room, which we have since assembled and love. We went to Luigi's one of the nights they were here and we also made a lot of yummy things to eat out of our cooking magazines. Being that it was really cold out and we were all exhausted we mostly just hung out at home. It's always nice to have them come and visit.

I had made myself an appointment to get contacts on the morning of the 26th,

which was when Mom and Dad were leaving. (Way to go dummy!) Luckily my appointment took less than 15 minutes so I didn't miss them leaving. We were really glad that they could come, bummed when they had to go home, and are looking forward to visiting them in May.

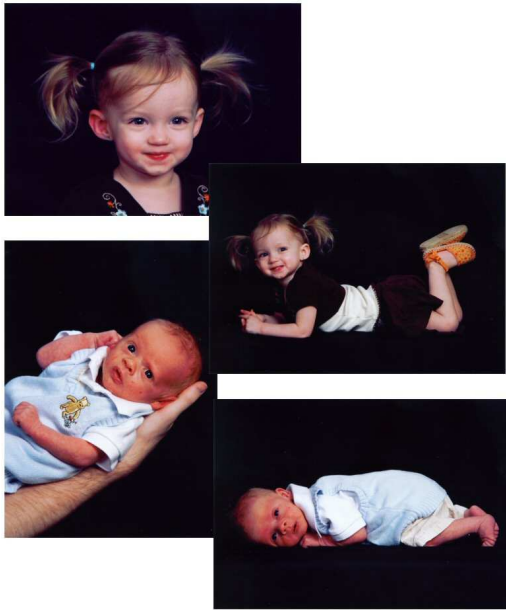
Jared took the morning of the 1st of February off and we once again took Tess and Tate to the doctor. Tate had his 2-week Well-Baby-Exam, and Tess had her 2-year Well-Baby-Exam. Tate once again passed with flying colors and weighed in at 7lbs 2 oz. Baby Tess was up to 23lbs and was 34.5 inches tall. She had to get one shot, by an inexperienced nurse who didn't hold her leg down. She jumped when she stuck her and the needle came out the other side of her little leg and she screamed several minutes. Poor girlie, I was so glad that Jared was there too since I was feeding Tate when all of this happened. We stopped at the lab to get the last half of Tate's PKU done, which is a little heel stick the state requires (he slept through the whole thing).

Then we did nothing until the 10th, which was the day of the birthday party that Noah had been invited to. We dropped Noah off at Stephen's house and then Jared, Tess, Tate and I ran some errands. I remember going to Target...but past that I really can't remember what we did. Noah had a ball at the party and was less than happy when it was time to go home.

We sort of skipped Valentine's day this year. Noah had a little party at school and we got some of those little chocolate

filled hearts for the kids but that was mostly it. Such is life I guess...

On the 16th I went to the store all by myself with the three kids! It went really well and I spent the rest of the day feeling very victorious.



On the 17th we left Noah with the Carters in the morning and took Tess and Tate to get their pictures taken. They turned out really well despite the photographer's handicaps. When we were done we came home and fed them both and then dropped Tess off so Jared and I could go to lunch. We had a good time and the kids had a ball. Sam and Cameron bought a Nintendo Wii (as well as a dog) with their tax return this year and it has been a major hit. We hung around for a couple of hours after we got there and all got a chance to play. Jared and I have seriously thought about getting one but Ed McMahon has yet to show up at our door with money that isn't spent yet.

Brandon's birthday was the 21st, happy birthday Gomer. We sent him something that got there late due to poor planning on my part.

We got our tax return on the 23rd! WOO HOO! We paid off a couple of things, among them the hospital bill for me. We only owe the hospital another \$70! We have the greatest insurance. We got some summer clothes for the kids and bought the stuff to paint Tess' room. We also got our pictures printed, which we haven't done since Noah's birthday last year! There were more than 500 of them! As it usually does the money went really fast and I can't remember what else we bought...

We also got to go to the Blue & Gold banquet this year on the 23rd, since Jared is the Assistant Webelos Leader now. It was a lot fun and dinner was really yummy.

Jared and I watched the Carter's kids on the 24th. I can't remember anything about it so it must have gone well. I watched their kids again on the 28th or so when Cameron and Sam went to the dentist. It was entertaining to say the least being the only grown up wrangling six kids. But it went fine too.

EXCiting NOah NEWS

Noah has gotten really good at writing his ABC's. They have been practicing a lot at Joy School and I found a dotted line practice font online so that we can print out sheets for him to practice on.

They also learned about setting goals at school too. When I went to pick him up

that day I got to hear about all of the goals that Noah listed that didn't make it on to his goal chart... "find gold, go to the circus..." In the end we won out with "Wash my hands and face after eating, all by myself." It's been a while since they set these goals and Noah seems to have it down.



One of the funniest "Noah Moments" this issue would have to be Noah's trip to the mailbox. Noah had been awake for a little while when I finally stumbled out of bed one morning and apparently had been quite busy. As soon as he saw me he told me "I color some thank you notes to Grandma and put them in a mailbox." I congratulated him and figured I would find them in the "mailbox" later. Later came around and I went to put the last two thank you notes that Tess had colored for her birthday gifts in the mailbox.



When I got there you can imagine how surprised I was to find two little folded scribbled on pieces of paper in the mailbox, the flag was even up! Ha ha ha...now Jared goes out the garage door and takes the spare opener with him



when Cameron drives to work so that I don't have to get up, or stop nursing, to latch the top latch on the front door- since even the deadbolt doesn't keep Noah in anymore.

Tess is Terriffic!

The biggest news for Tess this issue would have to be the tossing of the binky! (This was after Jared did a



"magic trick" and turned all of Tess' pacifiers pink, trading them with

the pink ones I had in the closet, so that we could tell hers from Tate's.) We had been thinking about how to separate her from it gently but we got a little shove and now it's all over. Jared was at scouts one night for what seemed like forever. While he was gone I was trying to get Tate fed and bathed and Tess lost her pacifier. I didn't have enough hands to deal with all of that at the moment so I told her to go back to bed and figured she'd find it and calm down in a minute. She didn't. So I got Tate fed and bathed

and Tess screamed the whole time. That was the last straw. I decided that this was ridiculous and we were done with the pacifier once and for all. As you can imagine she was less than happy about the whole thing, but I figured she had already screamed over it for hours so we might as well press on. Jared came home and we got things done so that we could all go to bed. Tess kept coming out of her room and we kept walking her back to bed. The last time she came out it was midnight and the next morning she woke up all smiley and said "pacifier all gone?" To which I just said yes and we haven't looked back. Hallelujah! I had told Mom that either way we were not bringing a pacifier with us when we come home in May-this'll make that a lot easier.



Her hair has been getting longer and longer and I am loving it! Ponytails of all different kinds!

Tess is also very musical. My favorite one of her latest songs goes to the tune of the opener for a show they watch called Wonder Pets and goes something like this, "Underpants, underpants we're on our way..." it really is very cute.

Talkin' Bout' Tate

Tate is such a sweet baby. Like I mentioned he's a fabulous nurser and is gaining weight really well. He likes to be held and sometimes refuses to be put down.

He hates to be naked which puts a real damper on bathing and changing clothes and/or diapers.

Tate spits up a lot! I took him to the pediatrician to discuss reflux on the 2nd of March, but he weighed in at 9lbs 1oz. Because he was gaining weight so well our doctor didn't want to medicate him. So we bought more Clorox2 instead. He isn't too gassy but sometimes when he sleeps he smiles little gassy smiles and then laughs-it is sooo funny.



He is already smiling, even when he's awake, and has the cutest little toothless grin ever. He usually sleeps 6-



7 hours a stretch at night but sometimes he'll go as long as 8-9. He is such a good baby and we just love having such a cute little kid to cuddle with again.

What's Noah Lookin' At?

Here's some shots from a photo shoot
Noah and Tess had the other day.



Looks like she lost interest there in the
end...

Well, that wraps this thing up! We love
you all and want to make sure that you
all know how much we appreciate the
love and support that you give us. It sure
is nice to know that when you really
need some help your family and friends
will be there. Thanks to all of you for
your calls and gifts and everything else
you did to help us bring our little baby
home. XOXO Till next time...