

Questions about

having a baby



341 How do you have a baby?

You make a baby when a man's sperm and a woman's egg join. You have a baby when the uterus pushes the fully grown baby into the stretchy vagina and it comes out between the mother's legs.

A baby is formed when the sperm from a man combines with the ovum (egg) from a woman. This is called fertilization. The baby grows inside the woman's uterus (womb) for around 9 months and when it is ready to be born, the uterus squeezes, then pushes the baby down into the vagina. Luckily, the vagina is quite stretchy and the baby comes out between the mother's legs. A brand new person is born.

342 How large do they cut the woman's stomach in the Caesarean?

Depends on the doctor of course, and it is the uterus that is cut, not the stomach. The size of the scar varies greatly because they only cut as much as they need to get the baby out safely. The size of the cut is determined by the reason for the operation and where the baby is positioned.

Sometimes medical specialists decide that the baby will best be born using a caesarean section. This is done in a hospital and the doctor cuts open the abdominal muscles (tummy), and then the uterus, and takes the baby out. The Mum is then stitched up and will have a little scar on her lower abdomen. Caesarean births happen when the baby is breech (baby facing bottom or sideways towards the vagina) or when a Mum or her baby is not well. Incidentally, the Mum cannot feel this happening as she is given an anaesthetic, and, she may be awake! Cool, eh?

Why
do some
women die
when they
are having
a baby?