

Adding a new dimension to bonding with your baby

BY TAMARA MCKEE

When Katrina entered the viewing room, calming music was playing and the lights were dimmed as she prepared for her scan. As the wand was placed on her blossoming belly she could hear her daughter's heart-beat. Then her daughter's face appeared for a split second across the flat screen, wall-mounted monitor. Her first words were: "Oh my God. Is that her? Is that her face?" She was overwhelmed.

Katrina is 29 weeks along in her second pregnancy. Her first child, Caleb is six years old. When she was pregnant with him she did not get to experience the joy of seeing real time images of him, let alone a DVD of him moving inside the womb. But with her second child, technology has been made available for her to see her baby in living colour, and saved posterity for friends and family to enjoy.

It's one thing to have your pregnancy confirmed by a doctor — the exhilaration you feel is second to none — but to see their facial features, to watch their limbs sway inside their watery home, is priceless. Most women get two or three diagnostic ultrasounds throughout their pregnancy. Now, however, women in Durham Region have the opportunity to get another type of ultrasound which shows them what their baby will actually look like. They can finally determine whose lips, eyes and ears baby has. This 3D Ultrasound takes images from three angles of the baby and then renders a computer-generated image of it. The resulting image is realistic, startling and moving. When parents see not only an outline but also a face and moving limbs they are overwhelmed with emotion.

Durham Region's only provider of 3D ultrasound is BabyView in Pickering. Cheryl Mech the personable owner of BabyView is a well-respected, licensed medical sonographer who has been in the business for 15 years. Opening BabyView in February 2005 fulfilled a passion of hers. Diagnostics is rewarding to her but she finds much more pleasure in not having to identify fetal abnormalities. She says a favourite part of her job is showing expectant parents and family members images of their unborn baby. Her greatest reward is bringing joy and happiness to so many couples and families.

Several factors will determine the quality of your scan: gestational development, fetal position and activity, and maternal tissues.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY BABYVIEW

STARTLING REALISM Three-D ultrasounds offer a realism for expectant parents that second only to the real thing. Shown is Pryce Hayden Newland in the womb and on his birthday.

BabyView's qualified technicians make every effort to get the best results for you and your family. Some appointments last up to an hour in order to get that result.

Cheryl recommends that women come in between 24 and 34 weeks for the most realistic scan, as the baby develops so much in the last six weeks. She also advises that you inform your doctor of your intention to have a 3D ultrasound because it should not replace diagnostic services. This type of ultrasound is an elective service, therefore is not covered by OHIP. A full package costs \$185 for the scan, prints and a DVD of your baby.

BabyView is located at 1550 Kingston Road, Suite 211 in Pickering (at Valley Farm Road). Call 1-800-715-1579 or (905) 837-1515 or visit www.babyview.ca for more information.

What is ultrasound?

An ultrasound (sometimes called a sonogram) is a non-invasive diagnostic test that uses sound waves to create images of internal organs. The sonographer uses a hand-held device to transmit sound waves through your uterus that echo off your baby. A computer then translates the echoing sounds into video images that reveal your baby's shape, position, and movements. The series of television-monitor images is called a sonogram. The words ultrasound and sonogram are often used interchangeably. The differences in a 2D and 3D/4D ultrasound are in the sophistication of the equipment and computer software used.

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LATEST DIMENSION

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Durham parent

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Learning how to keep your kids safe

BY NICOLE MILLION

With three children under the age of 12, Georgia Djurdjica Hamdic knows just how hard being a parent can be, especially when it comes to keeping your kids safe. That is one of the reasons she decided to take their safety, and that of others, into her own hands, first by becoming involved in the Block Parent Program, and more



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