

So You're Gonna Be A DAD – Now What? by Scott Patchin

Ideas for customizing this book before you give it

One Must – You must write a note in the front. The goal of this book is to build relationships, one moment at a time. New fathers need some friends around them. Use the designated space in the front of the book to write a note to the recipient. It does not have to be sappy and sweet because we are not all greeting card writers, but it needs to be sincere. Here are a couple of examples to get you thinking:

Dear Bill,

I know you have been looking forward to fatherhood – which is why I thought of you when I saw this book (actually my wife found it – but I liked it when I read it.) I have always been impressed with your patience, which is why I think you will be a great dad. Just know that you have a friend in me – and that if you need anything do not hesitate to call.

Hey John,

So you have been a dad for a week . . . how are you doing? I probably should have given you this before the big day, but even now I am sure it will still have some impact. It has been great to watch your excitement grow as the due date came closer, and _____ is lucky to have you as a father, even if he/she has not really shown it yet!

Hopefully you get the idea - - keep it simple but personal. Some other ideas for personalizing this book:

- At the end of each chapter are some spaces for notes – if one story hits home make your own notes about it.
- At the end of the book there are some blank pages – if I missed an important bit of wisdom that you would like to share add your own story.
- There are lots of questions at the end of each chapter – why not invite your friend out for a cup of coffee and make yourself available to answer a few of the questions. In the process have them answer the questions.
- This is a BIG ONE – if the new parents seem to be overwhelmed, give them a gift card to Starbuck's and offer to come over and watch their newborn of an hour while they get a cup of coffee and talk (there are some questions in this book that they can answer together). If you are a father yourself – you might want to bring some female help to put mom at ease because this will be a big leap of faith for most new mothers.
- If your friend is someone you do not see very often – make a note to call him every couple of weeks to check in and see how he is doing. Better yet, meet him for lunch or include him in some sort of activity to get him out and talking.

These are just a few ideas, and I have little doubt that you can come up with some on your own. Remember, the goal is to help Dad build strong relationships in his own life, while also being there as a friend. Great things always happen one moment at a time. Remember that yourself and remind him.

Thanks for caring,

Scott