

Our Story

We were married in August 2000 and planned to wait a couple of years before having children. We are both extremely fond of children and spend lots of time with our nieces and nephews.

As many couples, we imagined that a baby would happen at the time we chose, but we soon came to realise that this was not to be the case for us. We consulted our doctor who was sympathetic and very supportive and encouraged us to take several tests, all of which were inconclusive. At our request, we went to see a gynaecologist who offered us clomid which I took for a couple of months, but which made me feel really ill. I have very low blood pressure which causes me to pass out from time to time. I had to give up on this medication and requested that, at our own expense, we were referred to an infertility clinic.

On our second visit, we signed the forms which were very detailed and paid our money – we'd always saved for a rainy day and we knew definitely that this was our rainy day! Our third visit on 22nd April were when the injections began for our ICSI treatment to commence. Both Rob and I have a phobia of needles so neither of us were looking forward to the daily injections, but it was a matter of gritting our teeth, looking the other way and doing it!

There were scans to check the development of the eggs and on Wednesday 20th May twenty eggs were harvested, more than anyone had anticipated. The following day eleven were fertilised and by Friday, nine were perfect for

implanting, but overnight one embryo ceased to be viable. On Saturday 27th May I had two embryos implanted and it was time to rest, to wait and to pray – my mum said that for the last twelve months she's had a direct hot prayer line!

On 10th June at 5.30am, we did a pregnancy test and it was positive! We both cried tears of joy and relief, but we had to do several more tests to really believe that at long last and after so many months of disappointment, I was pregnant.

On 24th June, I had a scan and one heartbeat was found, a tiny miniscule flashing light could be seen on the screen, we all hugged one another in the operating theatre. We took things easy for several weeks, in fact for the whole pregnancy, as this baby was a gift from God and we were not prepared to take any risks.

Ellie arrived safely on 12th February 2007 and we could not believe that she belonged to us and that we were parents at last. We have six of Ellie's brothers or sisters on ice until they are needed again. For a couple of years we want to appreciate and enjoy our precious daughter.

Luckily our treatment worked first time so we cannot imagine how people feel who need to experience more than one cycle, but our story proves that no one needs ever give up on being a parent. We feel that for two years our lives have been up and down, like a roller coaster ride – scary, exciting, thrilling, adrenaline rushes with varied emotions - but now we cannot quantify our happiness and love which we feel for the end result – our wonderful daughter.

Jo, Rob and Ellie Hope