

## **If one of your good friends had a one year old and was thinking about whether it was the right time to get pregnant again, what would you tell her?**

P: I would say, y'know what? If you feel comfortable with the responsibility of havin' another child, then go for it. I would, I would back it 100% so. That's what friends do, if they're a true friend, so.

F: Okay, but if she were sort of on the fence about it, like she didn't really know?

P: Well if she wasn't ready then I would say just, I would wait until you feel comfortable with havin' another baby. If one's enough for her right now, then. Cause sometimes they're active. It all depends if they're walkin' and everything – they're active.

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P: You're crazy [laughs]

F: You're crazy

P: And I actually do. My girlfriend that's um, babysitting my daughter right now, she has a 6 month old and she's pregnant, so. But I mean, that's the way she wanted it and

P: She does go to WIC too and everything too so [laughs]. Um, but yeah and she's got 2 other kids that, this'll be her 4<sup>th</sup> kid with this pregnancy, but she's got 2 other kids that um, which is perfect cause we both have girls, so all of (this friends's) close – my 1 year old, go to her, so it's absolutely perfect. But um, her other 2 kids are like 14 months apart too, and then she, well about 4 years, waited and then. But she met a new guy and then he wanted kids, so. That's how that one worked out [laughs]. But yeah, that's exactly what I think, it's kinda crazy. Well for me. I like how I did it. But, um, but I do know a lot of people that are totally opposite that think, y'know havin' them both together, which they do fine, but I just, I kind of like that time to spend together.

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P: I would tell her no, you're crazy [laughs]

F: You're crazy, and why is she crazy?

P: Cause I think that's too close. I think it's nice that they're close, but...I don't know, kids cost money. And if really, if you can barely afford a first one, then why have another one?

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P: Um, I would say if she felt ready, if she was in good health and emotionally stable, I'd say, according to my experience, yes [laughs]. So cause I have always, y'know been expecting by their first birthday so....

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P: Um, I'd probably tell her just to wait a little bit longer, but, ultimately I know that it's, y'know still survivable and still [laughs] y'know it's not, um...One is kinda like eh, it's not, y'know because then there's still 9 months of pregnancy, so it's around them being, y'know 2, y'know the next child being 2, so...I wouldn't say it's not that big of a deal. I'd probably tell 'em, okay [laughs] go ahead [laughs].

P: Because, um, with my last one they were only 9 and a half months apart from c-section to c-section and it was a lot more high risk because of that and my body took a lot...it was a lot more painful throughout the whole pregnancy and it's taken a lot longer to recover from.

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P: I would wait

P: But everybody thinks different [laughs]. Some people just wanna get it over with all at once, have 'em like straight out, y'know. Some people wait longer

F: Yeah, but you would tell her to wait

P: In my opinion, I would wait

P: I would rather enjoy the baby rather than brining another baby and then kinda ignoring the first one cause the other one's smaller and it needs more attention

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P: If she had a 1 year old? Um, no, I would say no. I'd say, no maybe in a couple years.

F: Uh huh, okay and what would make you say that?

P: Just, it just seems like it's, well for me, I say that because I don't know, y'know what I could handle it, but I don't know if um, a lot of other people could handle it. I mean, if we have to, we have to, but if it's by choice, like if they're planning the pregnancy or it y'know just accidentally popped up a positive pregnancy test they had no clue, y'know you would have to then. Um, but, if they were thinking about it and asking me, I would probably tell them no.

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P: I'd say it depends and it's complicated

P: Um, it depends on the situation always, if they're, I'm very blunt, so if I didn't think she was ready, I'd say no. Um, it depends on how stable the financial situation is, um, and her, y'know her mental capacity. Some people are only equipped if you will to handle a certain number of children or maybe a certain amount of stress in situations in their life, so the fact that like, she was in a place where it could be ok I'd say, y'know it's your decision, but this is my opinion, and you're the one that's going to make

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the decision, you're the one that lives with the consequences of that decision. Unfortunately you can't make decisions for other people.

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P: I've actually had some people ask me

F: Oh ok [laughs]

P: And I had to tell 'em to wait like, like until they're out of diapers, it's kind of easier, but everybody says that when they're in diapers it's easier to get 'em all out of diapers at the same time

P: And it's just a lot easier, instead of having to worry about another baby or another toddler, I just got a 5 year old that'll help out, y'know? So at least 2 or 3 is what I think for an age of another baby is, it's the easiest [laughs]

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P: If they just turned 1, so then 9 months she's planning on getting pregnant, so that'd be like over a year and a half, I think that'd be fine.

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P: Well, um, well I guess I'd tell her just what I, I would say, wow you're finished breastfeeding? Are you sure you're finished breastfeeding cause you probably won't be able to breastfeed very well when you're pregnant. And it's gonna take a lot outta you, and you're gonna be chasing this little guy around or this little girl around while you're pregnant, and that's rough. Unless you, have a blessed pregnancy, some people do. Um, and then you're, y'know but on the other hand you're gonna have 2 children that are so close in age that they can be friends with each other you hope. So y'know I would probably just talk my friend through those thoughts. I wouldn't necessarily give any advice, I would just try to help her think it through very carefully. Especially the breastfeeding part, and the time, the special close time with your, with your baby without anything else going on in your life. And if you're working there's that to think about too.

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P: yeah, if you want them close in age I think so. And like, y'know close, I think, better relationships the closer they are in age, you have to get past the little thing, but um, yeah, I would think so. I don't...know how it is otherwise. So, I would say to, y'know if you could wait that full year 'til they're one and then try to get pregnant, then they're gonna be, that little age out. Y'know maybe even a little bit further out than a year, but. I would say at least year, but that's not what we did, so I can't [laughs].

F: Well no, right

P: [laughs] So like, I have a friend who her baby was...6 months old? And she's pregnant now, so I'm like girl! I was like, just call me, that's all. Just call me. I will take my kids to their grandma and I will come do your dishes. Like seriously [laughs].

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P: I'd say wait a little bit longer

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P: I'd say at least give it 2 or 3 years

F: Give it 2 or 3 years? Um hm, and what made you choose 2 or 3 years

P: Um probably the fact that it's been y'know almost 8 years between my oldest, and, and the child I have now. And it seems like it's been almost, I feel like I've forgotten a lot of things and so much has changed at the same time, even though, y'know it gave my body time to recuperate and and this and that but being pregnant right away, which we didn't really have planned, um, I'm really nervous about is that child gonna y'know have enough attention because there's gonna be so much going on and it has been hard being, cause y'know – well you don't know actually – I go in to, I always have early deliveries

P: So I've gone into pre-term delivery once and so they stopped it and so my son couldn't be with me and that was really hard emotional-wise.

F: Yeah

P: And then the fact that it's, to me it's not about money or anything it's about making sure that child has enough attention and that they're not gonna be, their needs aren't gonna be forgotten about emotional or social or any of that.

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P: No

F: No?

P: [laughs] No, [laughs] don't do it. No, it depends I guess. If it's her only child, then yeah I would say, yeah go for it because that, that will learn your first child to grow up with the sibling and not wait so much longer and then be like, wait this is mine, like and have to learn how to share and do all that, all after they've already had so long for themselves, so. That's how I think of that.

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P: It's rather subjective, um...it would really depend on her situation, y'know on what I would say

P: Y'know because it's really their decision to make, and as a friend would be there just to be supportive of whatever they decided. Try to stay outta tellin' people what to do [laughs]

F: [laughs] and so what would you sort of take into account maybe with your advice?

P: Um, maybe their financial status, their health, um, maybe their relationship status between her and her significant other, y'know how stable they are. Cause there's not a big interest, in my perspective in bringing another child into an unstable relationship. So that would, that would be my perspective on it.

F: Um hm, so sort of the larger life circumstances

P: Yeah, how much stability overall in the different categories is there?

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