

# Aubrie's Story



I was 27 weeks into my first pregnancy. I hadn't been feeling very well Thursday evening and into Friday; however by Saturday morning what I thought was a bad case of heartburn had me calling the doctor. The doctor advised that we should go to the hospital and be checked out. We arrived at the emergency room at 6:00am on the morning of June 4, 2005; I was having difficulty breathing and my chest hurt. Several tests were performed and then my blood pressure was checked - it was sky high. Drugs were immediately administered to try and lower my blood pressure.

I was taken to OB around 7:30am where a baby monitor was put on. I was informed if the medicine didn't start working my only choice would be to have the baby. My husband was signing a release form to have me flown to another hospital 1.5 hours away when the baby's heartbeat couldn't be heard any longer. I was going in for an emergency c-section. I remember my husband getting a gown and booties - he hadn't even had time to put them on and I was being cut open and the baby was wheeled out past him. As an epidural or spinal block would have been even more dangerous for the baby I was put out during the procedure, but have since been told it took a whole 10 minutes. My husband came to me in recovery and the only question I could ask was - "is it alive?"

Our daughter Aubrie Renee was born on June 4, 2005, 10:03am weighing 11lb. 12.5oz and 12.5 inches long.

My husband called my family (my brother was expecting a daughter in 2 weeks) and his first words were "it is a girl!" - Mother says "yes- we know it is a girl, how did you get to be the first to hear of the delivery of your brother-in-law?" and my husband says "no- Spring had the baby and it is a girl"; I think I could hear the phone drop in the ICU!

Aubrie was brought into the ICU before being transported to a hospital with a NICU -1.5 hours away. All I could do was stare at the little red thing. I just couldn't believe this was happening.

I was released on Tuesday and was immediately taken to the NICU to see Aubrie, who at this time was "the" baby, not "my" baby or "our" baby. I hate to say this at this time but I didn't want to see her, I didn't want to go to the hospital, I blamed myself for putting this small helpless thing through all this pain and suffering. As the days went on I began to forgive myself and came to realize it wasn't my fault. I began to fall in love with this thing and she started to become "my" baby. I still didn't feel the full reaction of being a mother but was getting much closer.

Aubrie would stay in the hospital until August 2, 2005 (2 days shy of her 2 month birthday, but before her actual due date). We were so excited to have her home. She now weighed 4lbs. 10oz. and was 17.5inches long. Aubrie would be on a heart/apnea monitor until January. The lack of sleep just waiting for the monitors to go off is enough to kill a person. Each and every person that says you will never sleep again once the baby is born doesn't have a clue until they have a sick child.

We had several visits to the ophthalmologist, the cardiologist, follow up NICU visits and regular visits to the pediatrician. I have never hated or loved doctor's more than I do now! Aubrie gets a monthly injection to help prevent

RSV along with the normal immunizations.

I can't tell you how much I love this special gift God has granted me. The bond I have developed with my child is more precious than I can describe; however it has definitely taken a toll on my young marriage. I think all three of us shall be just fine.

Aubrie is now a 10 month old, 15lb. happy, smiling baby! Thank you for reading my story. Every day is better and better. Just to tell our story seems to ease some of the daily frustration and heartache I feel.

Sincerely, Aubries Mom

