

# preemiefamily

support. educate. advocate.



### **FEEDING MESSAGES**

recreating the PreemieWorld

I stared at the breast pump by my hospital bed the next morning, hours after Becky's birth at 30 weeks. "I need to be pumping," I told my husband, Gregg. So without any training we fumbled our way through it and my husband took the small amount of yellowish liquid to the nurse for me to see if it was worth keeping. He came back with a huge smile on his face. "She is rushing it down to the NICU right now. She called it liquid gold!" My journey to "breast-feeding" was fraught with my fumbling, my advocating, my trying to figure this out mostly on my own at first. Then enter the professionals who did their part. And then my daughter showing no interest in actual feeding at the breast followed by a nurse bullying me about not breastfeeding. We need to rethink our messaging about breastfeeding and feeding overall. The guilt and shaming must stop while the supportive messages begin in the NICU. Read the Breastfeeding a Preemie Survey Report here: <a href="https://preemie.us/PreemieFeeding">https://preemie.us/PreemieFeeding</a>

We have a new survey - NICU Nurses: https://preemie.us/NICUNurses

- Deb #celebratepreemies

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Look for worldwide events

https://preemieworld.com/events/

### Feeding Messages

Deb Discenza talks about the messages of breastfeeding in the NICU for patient families.



### Preemie Genius: The Career Explorer

We highlight the latest Preemie Genius product that is making a difference with preemies everywhere.

### Preemie Support: Carter's Cause

A group that is making a difference in the field of prematurity and neonatology.



www.KeytoCP.com

## TO DO LIST:

- PreemieWorld Tags. Tag you are it, check out page 4 for a section all about YOU.
- Freebies. Get free downloads from PreemieWorld
  at <a href="http://bit.ly/PreemieFreebies">http://bit.ly/PreemieFreebies</a> Have an idea for a freebie? Contact us and let us know.

#### **National Autism Conference**

August 5-8, 2019 | University Park, PA, USA https://autism.outreach.psu.edu/

#### Preemie Cup

August 22, 2019 | Pensacola, Florida, USA https://givesacredheart.org/events/preemie-cup

### **CONNECT WITH US:**

Have an event you want to share with our community? Visit <a href="https://preemieworld.com">https://preemieworld.com</a> or drop us a line at <a href="connect@preemieworld.com">connect@preemieworld.com</a>!



@ www.facebook.com/PreemieWorld



@ Preemie World



@ <u>Preemie World</u>



<u>@ www.instagram.com/preemieworld</u>

### PREEMIE FREEBIE: "BREASTFEEDING A PREEMIE" REPORT

PreemieWorld provides a number of free handouts to be used in the NICU and beyond on the "Freebies For You" page of our website. This month's freebie is a summary report of our "Breastfeeding a Preemie" Survey from July. You can get it by going to the link below (and watch social media for parent quotes throughout the month):

"Breastfeeding a Preemie" Survey Results: https://preemie.us/PreemieFeeding



Breastfeeding is more than just putting a baby to the breast. It can include pumping exclusively, it can include pumping and breastfeeding. Oh, and just trying breastfeeding is breastfeeding. We need to stop the guilt and shame.

~ Deb Discenza, PreemieWorld



## THE REAL DEAL ON BREASTFEEDING



### Excerpt:

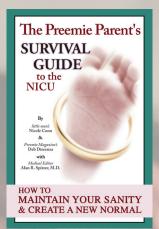
- Breastfeeding is not as easy as it looks!
- Breastfeeding takes some training and the help of a Lactation Consultant (LC) in the NICU so don't be afraid to ask for help.
- You can run practice sessions prior to the actual breastfeeding.
- Be prepared for the LC to touch your breasts as you attempt to get the baby to latch on. It may initially seem odd, but it is normal practice.

66

Breast milk is one of the best possible medicines for your baby.

7,

-The Preemie Parent's Survival Guide to the NICI



This excerpt is from The Preemie Parent's Guide to Survival in the NICU, Preemie World's widely circulated support book, on sale at <a href="https://preemieworld.com">https://preemieworld.com</a>. Get yours today!

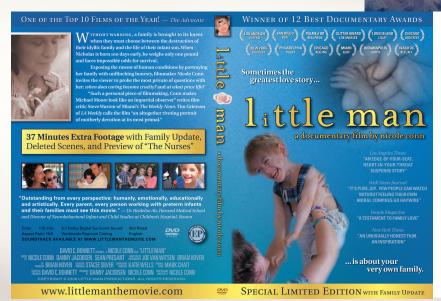
## SUPPORT: CARTER'S CAUSE

With a surprise pregnancy, Dan and Justina Oldehoff were over the moon. But "On January 18th, 2019 at 23 weeks and 6 days, our world went spiraling out of control," says Justina. "I called Dan at 11am telling him I was going to the doctor because of increased fluid." Tests determined she was already in labor and she was rushed to the hospital and gave birth 72 hours later. "On January 21st, 2019 at 9:06 pm, our son Carter was born. He was a micro preemie at 24 weeks and 2 days, weighing 1 pound 8 ounces and 12 1/4" long. The birth of our son was supposed to be an exciting and amazing moment, but Carter was born fighting for his life. Carter was so strong and fought a hard battle. After 74 hours in the NICU, he couldn't fight any longer. Carter Moore took his last breath in his dad's arms on January 24th, 2019 at 11:22pm."

"We want to share our journey and Carter's story. We want Carter's story to live on by impacting others who are trying to navigate the difficult NICU, parents going through this unexplainable loss and friends and family who want to support."



Year Established: 2019
Website: www.carterscause.org
Outreach: International



"little man" is every preemie parent's story



www.littlemanthemovie.com

## **BOOK: THE CAREER EXPLORER**

Why a children's book about career exploration in our community? Think again. Preemies are just like every other child in wanting to dream about their chosen job in life. And the kicker, The Career Explorer speaks to our community directly with characters that look like our kids that are a wide spectrum of abilities. As author Ali Dunn puts it, the book "Features characters with hearing aids, glasses, leg braces/ crutches, and feeding tubes. I want all children to see themselves in this book!"

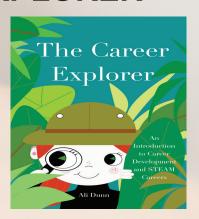
Hosted by Mae Morer, the "Career Explorer," the reader is taken on a journey exploring different careers. Think of her as your child's friendly career counselor exploring general careers and also the ever-present STEAM Careers put forth by schools. Areas explored include:

- Creative Careers
- Scientific Careers
- People-Focused Careers
- **Analytical Careers**

Parents, prepare to read this book a lot as its combination of colorful, friendly characters and honest career discussion is one that will make a favorite with all of your kids. For more information visit: www.MeTwoBooks.com

ONE LUCKY Instagram winner that TAGS @Preemie World in a post on Instagram will get a copy of this book. Ends 8/15/19.

Sarah Beck won our July giveaway of NICU Milestone Cards by www.EVERYtinyTHING.com





## **GUILT OVER NOT BREASTFEEDING**

Sure, you are surrounded by new Moms putting their baby to the breast with supposed ease and acting like it is the most natural thing in the world. Meanwhile you are either pumping like a mad woman to feed the baby or you have no milk at all. Feel guilty?

- Remember the Struggle. It is highly likely these parents did not have a premature baby. And even if they did, everyone's struggle is different. Own your struggle and realize it is a part of your story, your experience.
- Mean Moms. Have a set of Moms being mean about your not "joining the crowd?" Remember you have a unique situation and have nothing to feel guilty about here. If they are being mean, move on. They are not worth the hassle.
- Pros Who Give Guilt. Have a pro making inappropriate comments about your not breastfeeding? Where were they when you were struggling through the NICU and crying over not feeding your child breast milk? They should back-off.
- ✓ **Ultimately Feeding Happens.** Feeding happens regardless of how it happens. So know that we are all about feeding the baby in whatever way possible to get nutrition. So feed that baby and move on.





## PREEMIE FAMILY ONLINE

### Inspire Preemie Community:

Parents, Grandparents, Adults & High-Risk Pregnancies

Help your families connect with over 46,000 parents of preemies worldwide! This close-knit forum is moderated by our own Deb Discenza.

The community connects families in the NICU, at home, into the school years, adult preemies and women with high-risk pregnancies.

https://preemie.inspire.com

PreemieWorld on Twitter http://bit.ly/PreemieTweets

PreemieWorld on Facebook http://preemie.us/PreemieFB

PreemieWorld on LinkedIn http://bit.ly/PWLinkedIN

## **HIGHLIGHTING @TIMOTHY.RAMJOHN**

#### Our latest preemie highlight: @timothy.ramjohn

Easton was born at 27 weeks at 2 lbs. 8 oz. and on 15 April. Last week he hit Day 100 in the NICU and is heading into g-tube surgery soon. Please send love and prayers to Easton and family.

"Well... today was supposed to be Easton's original due date 7.10.19. but God had other plans 3 months ago. Now holding on to this miracle we're so blessed and he's absolutely perfect. We're still in this so please keep us three in prayer for endurance and healing for Easton. Love you all!"

#### We Could Highlight YOUR PREEMIE

Deadline: Like, tag and include <u>@PreemieWorld</u> in your Instagram update post by the 15th of the month.

### **FEATURED PREEMIE ANGEL:**

Eleanor Smart:

"Not all twins walk side by side, some have wings to fly." We miss you our sweet Eleanor!!

- Andrea Smart

We welcome your submissions for this section of Preemie Pride, Preemie Angel, and Preemie Prayer at <u>PreemieWorld.com</u>



"The story of our brand is the story of our family. We invite you to be part of it" -Yamile C. Jackson, PhD, PE, PMP





Preemie Tags

Honor the Journey









### **SNEAK PEEK**

In next month's issue.....

### Preemie World Tags

Tag us and we're it! But it is really all about you, Social Media Follower! We want to share the love right back to you.

#### Preemie Genius

We are reviewing a new item of interest to parents of preemies and pros. Don't miss it!

#### And More!

Have you subscribed to Preemie Family yet? It's free! <a href="http://bit.ly/preemie1">http://bit.ly/preemie1</a>

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Preemie Parents, remember YOU are the expert of your child. Trust your gut.

~ Deb Discenza, PreemieWorld





@ Preemie World

@ Preemie Parent's Survival Guide to the NICU



@ Preemie World



@ Preemie World

@ NICU Professionals

@ Early Intervention Professionals

@ Preemie Support Group Leaders

@ Preemie Parents



@ <u>Preemie World</u>