

**Note to Reader:**

**THIS IS THE BABY'S FIRST YEARS PRE-CONTACT LETTER**

**Participating in the Study: Common Questions**

► **What will I be asked to do?**

The interviewer will ask for about 1 hour and 30 minutes of your time to complete the phone interview.

Similar to last year, your interviewer will ask some questions about you, your baby, and your family. She will ask about your work and education, health, the neighborhood you live in, and similar types of information.

► **Do I have to participate?**

Your participation is completely voluntary. Saying “Yes” or “No” to being in the study will not change any benefits you get now or in the future. You can skip any question you do not wish to answer.

► **Research Consent and Respondent Booklet**

Included in this letter is the Research Consent, which our interviewer will review with you during your phone call, and the Respondent Booklet, which will help make your phone interview easier and faster. Please have the booklet handy for when your interviewer calls.

► **What happens to my answers and information?**

Your information will only be used for research, to help us understand

answers from many other mothers. The results will only be reported for groups of mothers and not for any specific individuals. Your answers will remain confidential and you and your baby will never be named or able to be identified in any publications or reports about the study.

► **What about my privacy?**

We are committed to protecting your privacy. This study will follow strict rules to protect your answers. Your name is replaced with a study number. Your name, address, and telephone number will be kept in secure files and will be separated from the answers you provide. Only the research team will see your individual answers.

This study holds a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institute of Health to help protect your privacy. This certificate protects researchers from being asked to release any research information that identifies you.

► **Who is funding the study?**

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as well as national and local private foundations.



A study about family and life experiences during the critical first few years after a child's birth.

Participant

Address label



*Interviews conducted by the University of Michigan on behalf of Columbia University, New York University, University of California at Irvine, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and the University of Maryland.*

Dear [First Name],

In the past year, interviewers from the University of Michigan enjoyed the privilege of talking to you and other mothers participating in the Baby's First Years study.

Thank you for opening your doors to us and sharing your story. By continuing to participate in this research, you are helping us learn how families make ends meet in ways that help children learn and grow.

Soon our interviewer will contact you again to offer \$100 in appreciation of your time for participating in your child's second birthday interview.

In recognition of the current situation related to the Covid-19 virus outbreak, we would like to conduct a **shorter phone interview** instead of visiting you in person.

#### Next Steps:

- A Baby's First Years interviewer from the University of Michigan will be contacting you soon to schedule the phone interview around your baby's second birthday. You may remember hearing from them or their colleagues last year. Please be on the lookout for a call from the interviewer to schedule the phone interview.
- **If your contact information has changed since last year**, or for any questions about the study, please call the University of Michigan's toll-free numbers:
  - English: (877) 647-2122
  - Spanish: (800) 643-7605

You can also call the Baby's First Years study team directly at (608) 291-7359 or email us at [bfystudy@gmail.com](mailto:bfystudy@gmail.com).

[this text will be included if prepayment sent:]

Included in this letter is a \$50 check in appreciation for the upcoming phone interview and your time. In addition to this check, you will receive another \$50 (for a total of \$100) once you have completed the interview.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kimberly Noble  
Baby's First Years Study  
Principal Investigator  
Teachers College Columbia University



*Your 4MyBaby debit card is loaded with money each month. Please call 608-291-7359 if you need help or a new card.*