

Each journey is different

Hello,

My first year of motherhood was not what I had thought it would be. I was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia when I was around 27 weeks. I was closely monitored for the next 2 weeks. I had read books about this condition and they all said if I don't get it under control then I may deliver early, I thought to myself "that will not happen". Unfortunately my condition became eclampsia and my son was born at 29 weeks and 3 days (emergency c section), he was born with no heart rate. I was in ICU his first day of life, unaware that I had even had him. I remember waking up and a nurse showed me a photo of my baby, my son then I was asleep again. When I woke up and was moved to the ward I was counting down the time until they would take me to see my baby. I was pushed down to the NICU in by bed and I remember seeing him for the first time with all the monitors on and I was scared. When I finally got my first cuddle I was amazed how small he was and was still thinking it was a dream. I was in hospital for 5 days before I was sent home. It was so hard going home without my son. There were many ups and downs over the next few months. It felt like two steps forward and one step back. My son was taken off the breathing machine, then had a bad night so was put back on it. Then he was increasing his feeds then he would spew a lot so they would stop his feeds. It was a long journey, but with each day he was slowly getting stronger. He was in hospital for 2 months before I could take him home. The night before I took him home I was able to stay at the hospital in a parents room of the NICU. I remember taking him in the room and when I picked him up and I gave him a hug I cried.....this was the first time in 2 months that I was alone with him. Over the next 10 months we had many paediatrician appointments and a physio group at the hospital with other parents of premature babies. This group was a good way for me to keep track of his motor development and talk to other parents and discuss our journey. With most of his development being delayed he reached his milestones in his own time. Although my journey was not what I was expecting I was still lucky enough to have my son with me. He is 7 years now and the eldest of 3 children. All 3 of my pregnancies had some similarities and some differences. Each journey is different, also each child. They will always meet their milestones in their time, however if you are unsure there are many people you can talk to. I wish you the best of luck with your parenting journey. Just remember they grow up too quickly so cherish these first years, it is the best feeling seeing your child learn something new and begin to make sounds. A baby's giggle is the best sound in the world. Welcome to Parenthood!