

For Levi and his parents, Elizabeth and Travis

What to Expect

Forty Rhymes Till **Baby** Time

Barbara Brannon

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First Trimester

Week 1

Little baby Yet-to-Be,
Arriving so amazingly,
Will you be a she or he?
We'll just have to wait and see!

Week 2

*Within your mother's womb you'll grow,
Inch by inch and cell by cell;
With forty fruitful weeks to go,
Your future only time will tell.*

Week 3

Little baby Just-Conceived,
Tiny dot, point of a pin;
Far too small to be perceived,
Taking root and settling in.

Week 4 Poppyseed

*Little baby Poppyseed,
In your first few days alive,
You will have the things you need:
Room to grow and room to thrive.*

Week 5 Orange seed

*Little baby Orange Seed,
Itsy-bitsy child indeed:
May your every dream succeed,
May our love be guaranteed.*

Week 6 Sweet pea

Sweet Pea, Sweet Pea,
In your pod,
Sweetly sleeping,
Sweetly nod.

Week 7 **Blueberry** *.25 in long*

Blueberry Girl

Or Blueberry Boy?

Blueberry bite-sized

Bundle of joy.

Week 8 **Raspberry** *.5 in long*

Very merry

Red Raspberry:

Jerry, Sherry,

Ted, or Terry?

Week 9 **Green olive** *1 in. long*

Olivia Greene

The Green Olive Queen

Is the loveliest olive

I've ever seen.

Week 10 Prune *1.5 in long*

Little baby, little Prune,
Fits inside a tablespoon.
Let's all sing a silly tune.
Take your time, don't come too soon.

Week 11 **Lime** *.3 oz.*

Little baby, little Lime,
Do a baby pantomime.
Let's make up a silly rhyme.
You will join us in good time.

Week 12 **Large plum** *.5 oz.*

Little baby, purple Plum,
Will you cry or suck your thumb?
Will you whistle, will you hum?
Will you talk or just keep mum?

Second Trimester

Week 14 Lemon 1.5 oz.

Little baby, yellow Lemon,
Tiny Tim and Kim and Jim in
All their mamas' bellies swimmin'—
Little men and little women.

Week 15 **Navel orange** *2 to 3 oz.*

Navel Orange, round and juicy,
Tickle tummy, little one,
Belly button loosey-goosey,
Orange you a lot of fun?

Week 16 **Avocado** *3 to 5 oz.*

Little baby Avocado,
Growing strong, full of bravado,
Will you move to Colorado?
Will you drive an El Dorado?

Week 17 **Turnip** *5 oz.*

Little baby, little Turnip
Rooted firmly in your place,
Whenever you decide to turn up,
We'll be glad to see your face!

Week 18 **Sweet potato** *5 oz.*

Little baby Sweet Potato
Growing bigger by the day,
Larger than a ripe tomato,
Turning over every way.

Week 20 **Mango** *10 oz.*

Little baby, mondo Mango,
Will you foxtrot or fandango?
Will you fly with a flamingo?
Will you have a dog named Bingo?

Week 21 Large banana 11 oz.

Little baby Large Banana

Tell your Papa, tell your Nana:

Will you stay in Susquehanna?

Will you live in Indiana?

Week 22 **Spaghetti squash** *about 1 lb.*

Little fresh Spaghetti Squash,
May you prosper with panache
In a humble home or posh,
In Orlando or Oshkosh.

Week 25 Eggplant 1.7 lbs.

Little blossoming Eggplant,
Who's your uncle, who's your aunt?
Brother, sister, cousin, pet,
Lots of friends you haven't met.

Week 26 Eggplant 2 lbs.

Little Eggplant, growing tall,
Even if you're still quite small;
Mirror, mirror, on the wall,
Who's the most adored of all?

Week 27 **Cucumber** *2.2 lbs.*

Little tiny green Cucumber,
Sheltered in your mother's womb,
In your garden softly slumber,
In your nursery to bloom.

Week 29 **Small cabbage** *2.9 lbs.*

Little baby Purple Cabbage,
Cleverer of course than average,
Cuddlier and cuter too—
You will be our *petit chou*.

Week 30 Butternut squash *3.1 lbs.*

Little baby Butternut,
Bit by bit developing,
Becoming big—but you know what?
Ten more weeks of slumbering!

Week 31 Head of lettuce 3.2 lbs.

Little baby Lettuce head,
Every book has now been read;
Very wise advice has said
It's time to pick your baby bed.

Week 32 **Head of lettuce** *3.9 lbs.*

Little baby iceberg Lettuce,
Dirty diapers don't upset us;
Bibs and blankets we will buy,
And clothes to keep you warm and dry.

Week 37 Watermelon 6.5 lbs.

Little baby Watermelon,
Will your name be Eve or Ellen?
Will your name be Steve or Dylan?
We don't know, so there's no tellin'!

Week 38 Watermelon 6.5 lbs.

Watermelon, green and round,
Will you gain another pound?
Soon you'll be on solid ground;
Soon you'll make a happy sound.

Week 39 Watermelon 7 lbs.

Watermelon, red and plump,
Skip and hop and leap and jump,
Somersault and flip and bump,
Slip and slide and twirl and thump.

Week 40 Pumpkin *6 to 9 lbs.*

Little Pumpkin in the patch,
Aren't you ready to detach?
All these weeks we've had to wait—
Come on out, let's celebrate!

Happy birthday baby!

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