

This was an interview that I conducted with my friend's sister, who is a 7 year old named Lyra. I wanted to try and change my topic a little bit from "pros and cons of having babies" to "how do people of different ages decide if they will or will not have a baby" or exploring the pros and cons of having a baby from people of different age groups.

The first person I interviewed for this project was Lyra because she is seven. She is a highly opinionated and incredibly smart child who makes rational decisions based on facts. When I first originally asked her about if she was going to have any babies when she grew up she put down a very heavy "NO!" She continued on with the fact that babies are often very messy - as in they often throw food on the ground during their toddler years and they also can knock down towers and stomp on things. This seemed to be a prominent issue for Lyra and one that she could resonate with personally as she is in the First grade, and thus has been able to spend time in daycares and have a closer memory experience to what it is like for other children to be in the daycare. Lyra during this interview also expressed that when she grows up she would like to have two jobs, an artist who sells paintings and a daycare teacher who watches over her classroom of younger students. When pressed further into providing more details as to why she desired to become a daycare attendant when she was older if she didn't want to have any kids of her own, she expressed that when you have your own baby you do not get to decide if your baby is going to be an ugly messy stinky baby or a pretty well behaved one. But as a daycare attendant you have the ability to further control the situation to decide what kind of babies you want to be let into your school. I thought this was incredibly insightful to her, especially considering her own age, and it makes me want to investigate more into how other children her age perceive the pros and cons of having children. I asked a little further to try and see if she could provide any more details on if she might be open to changing her mind in the future. She expressed that if she grows up to be an adult without any babies she will never have to clean up any stinky diapers and she can do more "adult things" instead. I asked her what she considered adult things and Lyra started listing off hobbies such as making art and going out to restaurants. This shows that although she is quite a long way from adulthood, she is under the impression that when adults have babies they do not have a lot of free time to themselves to do things that they might enjoy - and that this was the primary reason - other than the fact that "babies are GROSS! And they poop in your face!" - that Lyra did not want to have any babies when she grew up, and even if she did want to be around children because she enjoys the experience, she would like to confine it to a controlled environment that is strictly within her desired 9-5.

This was an interview that I conducted with my friend's mom, who is a 47 year old named Suzy. I am still focusing my topic on "how do people of different ages decide if they will or will not have a baby" or exploring the pros and cons of having a baby from people of different age groups. Overall I am seeing a difference in what I expected the answers to be vs. what the answers actually are.

First, for the pros of having a baby, Suzy stated that her number one thought of why she had a baby was for connection. Something that really mattered to her having a baby decision was the benefit of being able to bond with her partner, it was able to bring them closer together and try out a new experience, and secondly it also brought her closer to her family. Her parents always wanted to re-experience babyhood so for her to give her parents the gift of becoming grandparents she found it brought her closer together with her loved ones. To add on to the connection milestone, Suzy found that there was an intense connection with the new being that she created after the baby was born. She found a large amount of joy and happiness with being around the baby. Suzy's second pro for having a baby was that it would provide a more immediate hope for the future. Suzy said that having a baby provides the opportunity to raise someone who can do good in the world, and add on to the positive impact you can leave for society. Finally, her third pro was that babies provide a shared love. She talked about this instant feedback loop (ex: i made baby happy, I love baby, baby loves me) that never ends when you have a baby. She says it brings joy and happiness into her life. She continues with shared love by stating that there is an immediate impact on someone's life, a happy impact, that you are making and you can instantly see it in the baby. Her number one con for having a baby was expense, everyday expenses triple or sometimes quadruple for her in ways you would not normally expect. This includes money expenses such as more food in the house, more gas in the car, more time off work, you need vaccines after the baby is born, insurance, and car seats, etc. She said the expenses were the number one concern before she had a baby and now that she has two babies it is still her number one concern about having the babies. Secondly, Suzy said the second con about having a baby was time management. For example, everything you are doing you have to do with the baby, you cook with the baby, drive with the baby, go to the store with the baby, the baby goes everywhere. You don't have any alone time with the baby until they are able to spend time on their own. Her third con about having the baby was the permanence the decision had on her and the "life changing-ness" that having a baby provided for her. She said that thinking about it, she was incredibly unprepared for her first baby, but perfectly prepared with the second one.

This was an interview that I conducted with my other friend's grandma, Mimi, who is 75 years old.

Firstly, she started off the interview by listing that her first positive about having babies were that "babies are cute." She said they are soft and cute, and what's more is that they rely on you full time to do everything for them. "It depends on your personality but I like it when the baby needs me." Mimi says that the baby years were some of the best years of her life because she liked to buy the baby cute little outfits and toys and it gave her an experience to pamper a tiny human. Secondly, she continued by stating that it was incredibly exciting to see the journey as the babies developed. She said that the baby can learn a lot in the first couple of years, and seeing what they knew and when was very exciting for her and kept her days lively and interesting. Mimi continued that it is the most exciting when every day there is a new thing that they do. She says it was a motivator for her to roll out of bed and run straight to the baby and spend every moment possible with the baby so that she could see what they learned from the last day. She also liked the fact that the babies copy you, and that they can mimic your behaviors and like the same things that you like, they can copy your faces and laugh when you laugh and sing when you sing. Her third and final pro for babies was the passing of traditions and culture to the next generation. Mimi likes celebrating the holidays, it makes her feel closer and connected to her mom when she shows the baby her interests. She also told me that she likes when the baby likes her food, making food is very fun for Mimi and the kids and it is something that she is happy that her babies can share joy in doing. Food has always made her feel closer with her family and she was happy to spend so much time feeding her babies new foods. One of the pros she wanted to highlight was that "the baby eats all the time, and they are growing and sooner or later they feed themselves the food I made!" Her first con of her three big cons were that 1) They cry all the time. She continued that she often could not figure out what was wrong with the baby or why it was crying and by the end of the day Mimi was exhausted because she would always have to go to work the next day without much sleep. Her second con didn't really relate to babies all that much, but I felt it should be highlighted, she stated that another big con about having babies was that when they grow up, they leave you. She knows it is a part of life, but it was still a little heartbreaking when her babies grew up and left her to start their own lives without her. She continued this train of thought by stating that she was not ready for the disappointment and roadblocks for the children that they would face sometimes in life. Mimi is an educator, and she said that sometimes you would think the babies are ready for certain activities and they were not, and it was really heartbreaking to see that her baby was not prepared for things.