

# ALL WAYS FAMILY



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Riiiiinggg!  
It's time for school.



Paula is excited this morning. She can't sit still or concentrate during class.

"Paula, what is fifty plus fifty?" Ms. Williams asks her.

"Um... Three hundred?" Paula answers.

Ms. Williams shakes her head. "What's up? You're a little distracted and not really paying attention."

"My parents are picking me up today. We're going to the doctor because my mom is pregnant. I get to see my little brother for the first time."

"Congratulations, Paula!" Ms. Williams says. "Now I understand why you're so distracted! Maybe you can tell us all about it tomorrow."

Paula's parents are waiting by the door when school ends.

"Mom! Dad! You're here!"





When they enter the OB/GYN office, Dr. Mills greets them. "Good afternoon, Paula. Do you want to see your little brother?"

Dr. Mills takes them into a small room with an ultrasound machine, a device used to see the inside of a person's body.

"How are you feeling?" Dr. Mills asks Mom. "You are at 20 weeks."

"I'm fine!" Mom lays on the exam table next to the ultrasound machine and lifts her shirt. Dr. Mills dims the lights and spreads a clear gel below Mom's belly button.

"Oh! It's cold!" says Mom, winking at Paula.

Dr. Mills slides the ultrasound probe over Mom's belly. Fuzzy white, grey, and black images appear on the screen.

"Let's look at the size of the femur...Perfect! I see little feet and hands," she continues to move the probe over Mom's belly. "The heart is beating strong! Do you want to hear it?"

Dr. Mills presses a button and a fast, loud *bumbump bumbump bumbump* fills the room. Everyone smiles at each other, listening to the sound.

Paula stares at the screen.

"What is that?"

"Here's your brother's head and his chest," Dr. Mills points at the screen. "I'll print out the ultrasound image. It's called a sonogram. You can show it to your friends, Paula."

The next day at school, Paula brings the sonogram to class.

“Look at my little brother!” Paula exclaims.

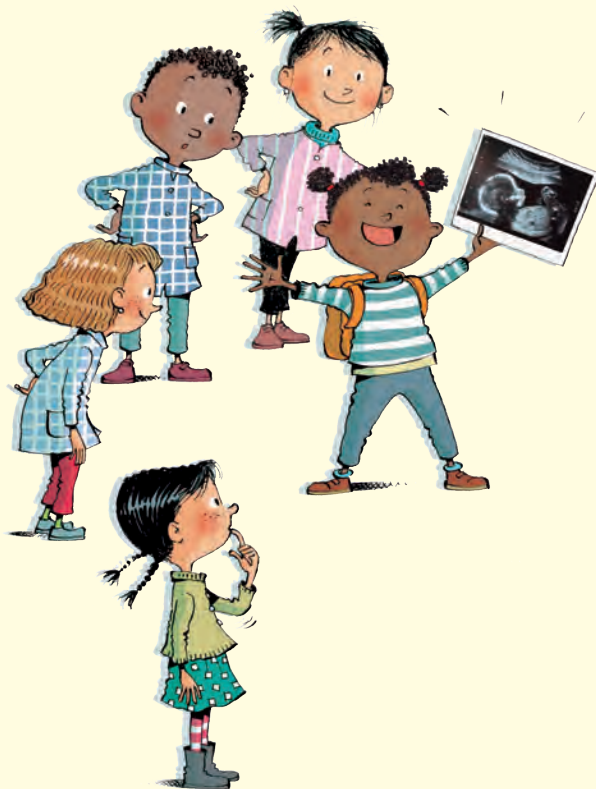
“That’s so cool, Paula! Wow!” Martina says.

“Dr. Mills gave it to me so I could show you. It’s like a photograph of the inside of my Mom’s belly. You can see my baby brother. Here’s his head and this is his chest.” Paula uses her finger to trace the outline of her brother.

“Ah, I see him now!” Sarah cries out.



Families are like people: No two are alike! Some kids live with one parent, some live with two. Some kids know their birth parents, some do not. Discover all kinds of families and how they become families ... and maybe how your family became a family!



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