

Smallest ever baby leaves hospital after 13 months

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The world's smallest baby has left hospital after 13 months. Baby Kwek Yu Xuan weighed just 212 grams when she was born at the Singapore National University Hospital on June the 9th, 2020. She was born prematurely at around 25 weeks. This is a lot earlier than the standard 40 weeks. She measured just 24 centimeters. When she was born, doctors gave her a "limited chance of survival". She spent over a year in hospital. Expert baby doctors did everything they could to keep Yu Xuan alive. Her doctors said: "We are happy for the little fighter and her family, and proud of the care provided by our team. Our best wishes to little Yu Xuan as she continues to grow, thrive and beat the odds every day."

Yu Xuan's mother thanked hospital staff for keeping her daughter alive. She gave birth to Yu Xuan early because she had dangerously high blood pressure. She said: "We are very grateful to the doctors and nurses of the hospital neonatal intensive care unit team for the attentive and wonderful medical care and treatment of Yu Xuan." There is a long journey ahead for Yu Xuan as she recovers. She has a serious lung disease and other medical problems. She has a special machine at home to help her breathe. Her doctors said she would slowly get better with time. They added: "She has inspired people around her with her perseverance." They called her "an extraordinary 'Covid-19' baby" and "a ray of hope".

Sources: newsweek.com / foxnews.com / metro.co.uk

Writing

There is nothing cuter on Earth than a baby. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

baby / hospital / prematurely / standard / chance / survival / year / doctors / team / staff / early / grateful / intensive care / treatment / lung / breathe / time / ray of hope

True / False

- 1) The world's smallest baby weighed less than 250 grams at birth. T / F
- 2) The baby was born prematurely during week 35. T / F
- 3) The baby measured less than 25cm when she was born. T / F
- 4) Doctors said the baby beat the odds on a daily basis. T / F
- 5) The baby's mother suffered from seriously low blood pressure. T / F
- 6) The baby is going on a long journey with her parents. T / F
- 7) The baby needs a machine to help her to breathe. T / F
- 8) Her doctors nicknamed the baby "ray of sunshine". T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. smallest | a. do well |
| 2. prematurely | b. poor |
| 3. standard | c. before time |
| 4. limited | d. gets better |
| 5. thrive | e. focused |
| 6. dangerously | f. encouraged |
| 7. attentive | g. tiniest |
| 8. recovers | h. remarkable |
| 9. inspired | i. perilously |
| 10. extraordinary | j. usual |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What dangers to newborn babies experience?
- c) What do you know about high blood pressure?
- d) How is the medical care in your country?
- e) How inspirational is the baby?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) What do you think of doctors and nurses?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the parents?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. She was born prematurely | a. of survival |
| 2. doctors gave her a limited chance | b. of hope |
| 3. proud of the care provided | c. her daughter alive |
| 4. Our best wishes | d. at around 25 weeks |
| 5. beat the | e. care |
| 6. thanked hospital staff for keeping | f. to little Yu Xuan |
| 7. she had dangerously high | g. by our team |
| 8. medical | h. to help her breathe |
| 9. She has a special machine at home | i. odds |
| 10. a ray | j. blood pressure |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of babies?
- How much of a miracle story is this?
- What kind of baby were you?
- How hard is it to look after a baby?
- What would it be like to be a baby doctor?
- Would you like to be a baby doctor?
- Have you ever beaten the odds?
- What advice do you have for the baby's mother?

Spelling

- She was born reamyretplu at around 25 weeks
- a lot earlier than the drdaatns 40 weeks
- She aredsemu just 24 centimeters
- doctors gave her a limited chance of iasvvlur
- proud of the care oiervddp by our team
- grow, erthvi and beat the odds
- keeping her drgahtu alive
- dangerously high blood ueseprrs
- We are very luftgear to the doctors
- wonderful medical care and temrntae
- There is a long uyjeonr ahead
- She has nrsiepdi people around her

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. i	7. e	8. d	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Laughter

You think laughter is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping, first words or play time.

Role B – Sleeping

You think sleeping is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): laughter, first words or play time.

Role C – First Words

You think first words is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping, laughter or play time.

Role D – Play Time

You think play time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping, first words or laughter.

Speaking – Babies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about babies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • first words | • their laugh |
| • when they cry | • their smile |
| • play time | • sleeping |
| • food time | • first steps |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 F	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.