

**BABY BLUES** was designed especially for teenage viewers. Right from the start of the film, they are drawn into the uncertain world of a young woman their age on an emotional roller coaster.

Kristen, the film's protagonist, is an attractive teenager with everything going for her. She does well in school, she has just won a music scholarship and she has a good relationship with Jason, her steady boyfriend.

Her world begins to crumble when she suspects that she may be pregnant. Suddenly she and Jason are forced to face the consequences of an unexpected pregnancy. They are compelled to evaluate their feelings and face some difficult questions. Will they keep the baby? What are their feelings about abortion? What about adoption? How will their choice affect their future plans?

**BABY BLUES** reflects the teenage point of view without moralizing or sugar-coating the issue. The situation is not romanticized in any way. The film presents options without giving advice. It demonstrates the consequences of unprotected sex in a way that breaks through the *it can't happen to me* barrier. It invites young viewers to examine their feelings, beliefs and attitudes about unexpected pregnancies. After all, if it could happen to Kristen and Jason, it can happen to them.

### Background


Extensive work with teenagers, including teenage mothers, was an important part of the filmmaking process for **BABY BLUES**. During a series of workshops, teenagers were asked to critique the script and improvise important scenes. The script was sent to educators and the Planned Parenthood Association for their input.

Director **Annie O'Donoghue**

Writer **N.J. Isaak**

Producer **Jennifer Torrance**

**Baby Blues** 24 minutes 32 seconds

Order number: C 9190 071 

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*Baby Blues*

*Baby Blues*

Kristen is on top of the world. She's an A student. She's popular and she's in love. An unwanted pregnancy? It could never happen to her ...could it?

Name: Heather O'Sullivan  
Likes: Art Nouveau, crustless  
cut timber sandwiches  
Future: To live in luxury  
Quote: Where's my titty?

Name: Jennifer Meeker  
Likes: Large earrings, anything  
Irish  
Future: To repair the ozone  
layer  
Quote: O.K.! Let's do it!

Name: Paul Calkin  
Likes: Chocolate cake, fixing  
old cars, sleeping  
Future: To travel and study  
Quote: That wrench!





# Baby Blues

## Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised at the pregnancy test result? Why?
2. Do you think Kristen and Jason knew the facts about reproduction and birth control? Why did they take chances?
3. When did Kristen first suspect that she might be pregnant? What are some early signs of pregnancy?
4. How did Jason react when Kristen told him she might be pregnant? How do you think he was feeling?
5. How did Jen (Kristen's friend) feel when she learned Kristen might be pregnant? What role can friends play in a situation like this?
6. When Kristen wanted to find out whether or not she was pregnant, what were her options? Why did she decide not to go into the clinic?
7. How did Kristen feel about herself once she suspected she was pregnant? How did Jason feel? How were their self-images affected?
8. Did your feelings about Kristen change once you knew she was pregnant? Did your feelings about Jason change?
9. What impact will family, cultural, and economic status have on decisions Kristen and Jason might make?
10. What was Kristen's attitude towards abortion before she suspected she was pregnant? What was her attitude after? How about Jason's feelings? What was Jen's response to this dilemma?
11. Who do you think is more responsible for birth control – the man or the woman?
12. One possible consequence of having sex without using a condom is pregnancy. What are some others (i.e., sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, etc.)?
13. Do you think Kristen felt pressured to have a sexual relationship with Jason? If Jason didn't pressure her directly, what are some other reasons why she might have felt pressured? If you are feeling pressured to be more sexually involved than you want to be, what can you say or do to make your feelings clear?
14. How does religion or cultural background affect a person's attitude toward sexual activity?
15. Kristen and Jason have to make some choices. What are their options? What do you think they will do?



## Suggested Activity

It's five years later. Kristen and Jason are now dealing with the consequences of their decisions. Choose one of the options listed below and create scenarios describing Jason's and Kristen's life. Focus on opportunities, schooling, careers, relationships, future plans, etc. Also consider the emotional aspects of the choices they have made.

1. Kristen delivers the baby and gives it up for adoption.
2. Kristen and Jason stay together to raise the baby.
3. Kristen delivers the baby and raises it alone.
4. Kristen has an abortion.
5. Kristen delivers the baby and Jason raises it alone.
6. Kristen and Jason keep the baby and raise it with their parents.

## Important Facts to Know

- After puberty, a girl can get pregnant the first time she has intercourse.
- The position of the couple during intercourse doesn't affect whether or not the woman will become pregnant.
- If one is sexually active but doesn't use birth control, the chances of getting pregnant are four in five.
- Having intercourse while a woman is menstruating does not prevent pregnancy.
- When used together, foam and condoms are nearly as effective as the birth control pill.
- Live sperm can be released before ejaculation, so withdrawal is a risky form of birth control.
- Douching (rinsing the vagina) after intercourse doesn't prevent pregnancy.

## Services

Some clinics and youth services will provide confidential birth control information and guidance to young people.

For more information, contact the Planned Parenthood Association.

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