

Women should have babies before 35

13th September, 2013



A top expert on fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the age of 35 is like when the "clock strikes 12". She said that after that age, it is riskier for a woman to become pregnant. She added that it was difficult for fertility treatment to work as

women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a speech at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important message to give is that the best cure of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added: "I would be getting worried about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35."

Many women these days are choosing to put off having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to interrupt their career. Women are also marrying or settling down at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the barriers are to women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps agreed with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies to order. If you want to have a partner and a secure place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The right man doesn't always just come along."

Sources: *Nursing Times* / *The Scotsman*

Writing

It is much better if a woman has baby before she is 30. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fertility / before 35 / the clock strikes 12 / pregnant / massage / speech / festival / biggest reasons / career / settling down / society / barriers / childcare / the right man

True / False

- A president ordered all women to give birth before they were 35. T / F
- A professor said the age of 35 is like when a clock strikes 12. T / F
- The professor gave a speech about babies at a president's palace. T / F
- The professor said her daughter is over 35 and hasn't had a baby. T / F
- Following a career is a big reason women delay having a baby. T / F
- The professor said society should help younger women have babies. T / F
- A childcare expert said people could not order babies. T / F
- The childcare expert said the right man usually comes along. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. expert | a. expectant |
| 2. riskier | b. safe |
| 3. pregnant | c. more dangerous |
| 4. treatment | d. delay |
| 5. cure | e. ideal |
| 6. choosing | f. specialist |
| 7. put off | g. opting |
| 8. barriers | h. care |
| 9. secure | i. answer |
| 10. right | j. obstacles |

Discussion – Student A

- Should women think more about children and less about their career?
- Is it natural that women want to settle down at a later age?
- Is 18 too young for a woman to have kids?
- What barriers are there for younger women to have children?
- Is it so important to find a nice home before having children?
- How important is it to do everything before you are 32?
- Are parents over 35 better than parents under 25?
- What questions would you like to ask Professor Herbert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A top expert | a. down |
| 2. when the clock | b. treatment |
| 3. it is riskier for a woman | c. having a baby |
| 4. fertility | d. strikes 12 |
| 5. the best cure | e. the time you are 32 |
| 6. put off | f. on fertility |
| 7. women do not want to interrupt | g. of all |
| 8. marrying or settling | h. their career |
| 9. We need to understand what | i. to become pregnant |
| 10. get that all done by | j. the barriers are |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- When do you think the best age is to have a baby?
- Do you agree with the professor?
- Why is being 35 like a clock striking 12?
- Why is it riskier for a woman to have a baby after 35?
- What's the best number of children to have?
- Would you worry about a childless 35-year-old daughter?
- Do you think women will take Professor Herbert's advice?

Spelling

- A top expert on tlftyiire
- osfrrPseo Mary Herbert
- become ptengran
- inccese festival
- important esagsem
- worried about my hreutgda
- interrupt their earrce
- yicteos needed to think
- understand what the seiarrbr are
- drlchicea expert
- a uersce place to live
- you don't yisarlcesen get that

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – One child

You think having one child is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having no children or having four kids.

Role B – Two children

You think having two kids is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having one child, having no children or having four kids.

Role C – No children

You think having no children is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having one child or having four kids.

Role D – Four children

You think having four kids is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having no children or having one child.

Speaking - Ordering

Put these in order of which you should do first, and then share with your partner. Change partners often.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Have a baby | • Climb Mount Everest |
| • Travel the world | • Achieve your ambition |
| • Get married | • Start saving for retirement |
| • Learn English | • Buy a house |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.