

babytalk

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STRAIGHT TALK FOR NEW MOMS



Laurie Rhodes Photography

AFTER ALL THE ANXIOUSNESS, DOUBT, AND EXCITEMENT (NOT TO MENTION PAPERWORK), YOUR BABY IS FINALLY IN YOUR ARMS! HERE'S HOW TO COPE ONCE SHE'S HOME
by Christina Frank

Two days after my husband and I adopted our second daughter, Lucy, at age 6 months from an orphanage in Vietnam, she stopped eating. Completely. She'd writhe and howl when we put the bottle to her mouth, which meant we had to force-feed her with a syringe—an agonizing undertaking for all involved.

Our older, biological daughter, Olivia, was also capable of pulling scary stunts (like keeping us awake for four months straight), but because we'd known her from the second she was born, it felt different. She'd arrived as a blank slate in a way that Lucy did not, and we knew, for the most part, what to expect with her. But Lucy's time spent in a Hanoi orphanage meant that she had a tiny history, a way of doing things. We spent the first few months together learning and adapting to each other's respective "ways of doing things." The process was filled with challenges, yes (like Lucy's hunger strike), but feeling our love grow more and more every day was the ultimate reward.

If you're bringing an adopted child home, whether from across the globe or across the state, expect your own set of challenges as well. Here's some help in making the transition as smooth as possible.