

Dear Charlie

I remember the night we found out your mum was pregnant. I was annoyed as your mum had wasted three pregnancy kits because she wasn't sure she was doing it right. We had actually been doing our tax return that night and we got an extra little bonus. I think I was in shock those first few months and wasn't allowing myself to get too excited.

When we went for the twelve week scan and we got your first picture I was beaming with pride and felt 12 feet tall. I think I showed everyone I knew that scan picture and kept it in my wallet. Your mum was also excited but was very sick in those early months and this meant she couldn't have her cup of tea and your mum isn't very nice when she hasn't had her cup of tea.

Your next photo opportunity was at your 20 week scan and your grandmother came over from New Zealand to see you and we were all a little emotional and excited about how we had reached the half way stage and our lives were all going to change. Shortly after this your mum began to feel you playing football with her bladder, I was jealous as I couldn't feel you yet but only had to wait a few weeks. When I first felt you kick it was the most amazing feeling I have ever had and it hit me that I was going to be dad.

I started to plan what we were going to do together, I was going to teach you all the important things in life how to ride a bike, swim and play football. I dreamt of reading to you at night and holding your hand when you were scared.

The next few weeks were the happiest of my life, your Mum was looking so beautiful and was so excited about being a mum. We just couldn't believe our luck because your Mum and I are so lucky just to have each other and soon we were going to have our first child.

I won't tell you too much about the birth because children don't need to know about all that pain, but you were born sleeping and it broke our hearts. You know this of course because a part of our hearts is always going to be with you wherever you are. I was shocked how big you were because you were bigger than me and your mum when we were born and at how much hair you had. You were held by your grandparents Mariane and Cliff, and you were also held by our special friends James and George. Your other Grandparents Gail, John and Julie all flew out from the UK, they all loved you so much.

Charlie I want you to know that you lit up my life and I will never be the same person again. I think about you every day and you will never be forgotten. I like to imagine that you were too beautiful for this world and that we will be reunited on a playground somewhere and we can kick that goal and ride that bike. I Love you my son xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Daddy xx