

Exercise

When there is no right or wrong

Your values will inform the decisions you make as parents. Quite often you will need to balance conflicts in making the right decisions and you need to be able to do this fairly and with your baby in mind.

Example One

Both Gemma and Maria have babies that are six months old.

Gemma:

Has decided that she wants to cook all of her baby's weaning meals from scratch using organic vegetables because she believes that it will be better nutritionally for her child.

Maria:

Has decided that she will use shop-bought baby food because she believes that this will give her more time to play and interact with her child.

Example Two

Both Mark and Jamie have babies due in March.

Mark:

Plans to take his allocated two weeks paternity leave and will then return to work full-time to continue to provide for the family at their current financial level. He wants his baby to see that fathers go to work to provide for their families.

Jamie:

Has planned to take his allocated two weeks paternity leave and then reduce his hours to be at home more. He accepts that the family will have less income, but he wants his baby to know that he is around to support, play and interact with them.

What do you think of each of their decisions and why?

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Think of your own example of where you are not quite sure what you are going to do.

Discuss this with your social worker to draw out the positives and negatives to each option.

Notes: