

CottonTails diaper service



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Cotton Tales: Adventures in Cloth Diapering

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Cloth Diapering in the Hospital

One of our customers, undoubtedly motivated by our discounts for having multiple children in cloth diapers, recently gave birth to her third child. Before doing so, she asked me for advice on using cloth diapers with her newborn at the hospital. It occurred to me after she asked that that would serve as a great basis for my first official installation of *Cotton Tales*. Since there was a misstatement in a recent *Shreveport Times* article about CottonTails, I figured it would be doubly important.

The short answer: Absolutely you should start using cloth in the hospital. Just bring a wetbag, a couple of wraps, a Snappi, and twice as many diapers as you think you'll need. Elias was initially brought to us from the nursery in a disposable, but that was the only disposable he has ever had to wear.



Initially, due to exhaustion and a strange mix of joy and terror, I found even the simplest task incredibly awkward—it was if I were seeing everything through a mirror and I had to restrain my hands to do things in reverse. For the first diaper or two, I employed what I will refer to as the First-Time Father Fold. They looked terrible, but they did the trick. A newborn baby is the perfect training partner simply because of the tiny amounts he or she will generally produce. Within two or three changes, my folds were fine.

The nursery attendants and nurses were great. We kept a little stack of clean diapers on the wheeled bassinet, along with a wetbag, and that was all there was to it. No one asked for instructions or explanations. When Elias was returned to us from the nursery, sometimes he was sporting a Bikini Twist or different type of fold other than what we use, so clearly the nurses were comfortable with cloth. One or two of the nurses observed that the Snappi fasteners were handy, but it generally seemed understood that we all had better things than diapering to worry about!

We spent three nights in the hospital after Eli was born. During that time we used 46 cloth diapers, but probably only half of those were used as diapers. We were amazed that Eli almost always wet himself in the middle of or immediately following a change, so we often went through two or three diapers at once. We brought two sizes of diapers with us and quickly found that we preferred the larger Infant Premium to the smaller 'Preemie' diapers, and after the first few changes we used the Preemie diapers primarily as "pee guards," placing one strategically over Eli during changes.

Because we were in the hospital for longer than we expected, I wound up having to run home for a diaper run. If you find yourself in that position, you won't have to worry about that since you can just give me a call and I will bring more diapers to you.