



Natasha

Natasha Malin

Client Support Technician

First-Time Mom of Grace (6 weeks)

How did it feel to find out you were expecting a child at such a time of uncertainty?

Finding out I was pregnant was a blessing in these uncertain times. It has been a challenge though.

What were the greatest challenges you faced during quarantine?

My husband John hasn't been able to go into any of the baby appointments, he hasn't been able to hear her heartbeat or be present for any of the sonograms. With all the uncertainty, plus having friends and family that are high risk or work in high risk jobs, we made the decision not to have a baby shower.

How did you cope with and overcome those challenges?

In May, I was able to do a video chat with John while having a sonogram to reveal gender which was nice. As for the baby shower, we mailed out cards with a handwritten note letting everyone know that we wanted to have a shower but with so many unknowns, didn't want to chance it. We let them know where we are registered (Amazon & Target, by the way LOL). Once she is born, we'll introduce to everyone and ask them to send us advice. We're first-time parents, so any advice is appreciated.

You're well-loved by your colleagues. Did you still feel connected to them while working remotely?

I tried to stay connected with all my colleagues as much as possible. We've always been a close group so them not getting to share in the beginning of this journey was sad, but I tried to remember to post belly pictures on Facebook with updates. I'm sadly not very good at remembering to do this, so some of my co-workers have to remind me. Now that some of us are back in the office, it's great to be able to share what's going on and how our little one is doing.

How do you feel about being back in the office?

I'm glad to be back, but I'm glad it's only twice a week. I missed seeing everyone and having that connection, but the farther along I get, the more difficult and tiring it gets to just come into the office.



How are you better today than you were at the beginning of quarantine?

Other than growing a tiny human, I don't really feel as though I'm any better today than I was before. Most of that is due to my mind not working as well as it was.

Anything else you'd like to share about your 2020 experience so far?

Even with being on quarantine and not being able to get together with friends, family and co-workers, they have still shown their support. They have shown their support by sending us items from our registry and checking in with us to make sure things are going smoothly or if we need anything. For this, I am very grateful!