

Dear Dax,

Welcome to the world, sweet little boy. I am so happy to have you here with us, where you were meant to be. Our journey together so far has been a little rough. There hasn't been as much time as I would have liked to just sit still and feel you squirm around in my belly. We have been busy, because your Daddy has moved us into a new home—a better home, in a better neighborhood for you to grow up in. He has worked very hard to be able to do that, so I hope someday you will thank him.

I hope you will always know how much I wanted you here with me. I felt there was a special place in my heart that was waiting just for you to fill. As our third born child, you will definitely be at a disadvantage. We have less time available for individual attention. But, the advantage is, we are now experienced enough to know how to make what we do have quality time.

I know that you will love spending your days playing with, and learning from, your brother and sister. They are very sweet and have been awaiting your arrival. If you all treat each other as you should, they can be your forever friends.

There are many things that I would like to teach you as you grow into a young man. I want you to take in all that you see in this world. Truly appreciate the good and the beautiful. Try to do your part to change the bad and ugly.

Listen to others when they speak. Try to hear not just their words, but what they are feeling, too.

Don't let anyone else tell you how you should feel about anything. Trust your own judgement, and heart.

Never give up on attaining whatever the "thing" is that will make you happy.

Be a lover, not a fighter. But, fight for what you love.

Never walk away from anything until you can say you've done all that you can possibly do.

Work for what you get out of life, and stay motivated by the satisfaction that it brings.

Know that God's office is open, day or night. You can always talk to Him, and that fact alone can be very comforting when things get tough.

Do as I say, but as your father does. He is such a good example in so many ways of the man you should strive to be.

Be honest - in your words, actions, to others, and most importantly, to yourself.

Along with these things I want you to learn, there are also the things that I hope you will just know: That your smile will both lift my spirits and break my heart – if only because I can't always keep it on your face.

That you and your siblings are my world. I will always put you all first.

That you are special simply because you are you, and you are mine.

That I will kiss every boo-boo, wipe every tear, listen to every sad story, and be wherever you need me to be.

That you can always count on me to be your biggest fan.

That I will love you so much it may drive you crazy, forever and ever.

Love,

Momma