

Immersion/saline bath Information

Recommended Container (plastic or acrylic bin size XL):

<https://a.co/d/8D2ycXa>

“Bathtub” Container: (clear acrylic)

<https://a.co/d/dHpWMcd>

Medical Publication:

[Water Immersion in Neonatal Bereavement Photography - ScienceDirect](#)

Miscarriage Kits for purchase, intended for at home delivery:

[Heaven's Gain Miscarriage Kits](#)

At home bath & photography: Baby Girl Noa Nelson 20 weeks Gestation, born at home:

https://www.theepochtimes.com/bright/grieving-moms-underwater-photos-let-her-see-18-week-miscarried-baby-with-amazing-clarity-4883543?utm_source=ground.news&utm_medium=referra
!

In Hospital Professional Photographer:

<https://www.capturinghopesphoto.org/proofing/neonatal-immersion-photos/gallery>

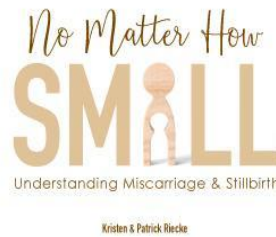
Baby Girl with Fetal Hydrops born at home:

<https://mumcentral.com.au/baby-born-still-saline-bath/>

Baby Girl born at home 10 weeks gestation in 2014:

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/woman-10-week-miscarriage-photos-humanity-baby/>

Immersion baths can be done using distilled water. This is just as effective as saline. If a family plans to place the baby in a container for a longer time period than the time it takes to bathe and photograph the baby, then saline would be best used. Water/saline can be changed as needed. I would recommend that immersion baths be used for babies up to 22-24 weeks gestation, which is the age of viability. Although there is little research regarding immersion/saline baths, there are MANY families who would testify to this experience as part of their comforting, bonding, and healing journey.



Immersion Bath Checklist for Nurses:

- Introduce immersion bath to family - “Simulating the in utero experience”
- Obtain written consent
- Invite family to participate
- Bring in clear bin with distilled water/saline 0.9%
- Prepare for photography
- Prepare clean clothing, blankets for after bath

Tips to follow for novice photographers:

- Lighting is KEY!
 - Natural light is best
 - Place the container and baby near a window
- Light from a side angle is best
 - Both natural light and a light source (eg, lamp or spotlight)
- Use a darker background on the sides
 - Place near a wall
 - Use a darker colored blanket, hold up as needed
 - Have family member wear a darker colored top and stand behind the container
- Use a lighter or dark background on the bottom
 - Some suggest a pillow case submerged in the container, this prevents a smooth surface, we recommend the baby be placed in the water uninhibited
 - A sheet, towel, pillow case, or blanket draped under and behind the container works best
- Avoid patterns if possible
 - Colorful stripes and patterns detract from the subject
- Incorporating the hands of family members creates a tender connection with the baby.

Oftentimes details such as ears, nose, fingers, and toes will fill out during immersion. Using the macro setting, we can capture these details.

All photographs are shared with permission and photographic credit given.

Here are some examples of saline/immersion baths.



(left)Baby girl Esther, 17 weeks gestation, hospital delivery. Photographed with natural light, near a window.





No Matter How
SMALL
Understanding Miscarriage & Stillbirth

Kristen & Patrick Riecke

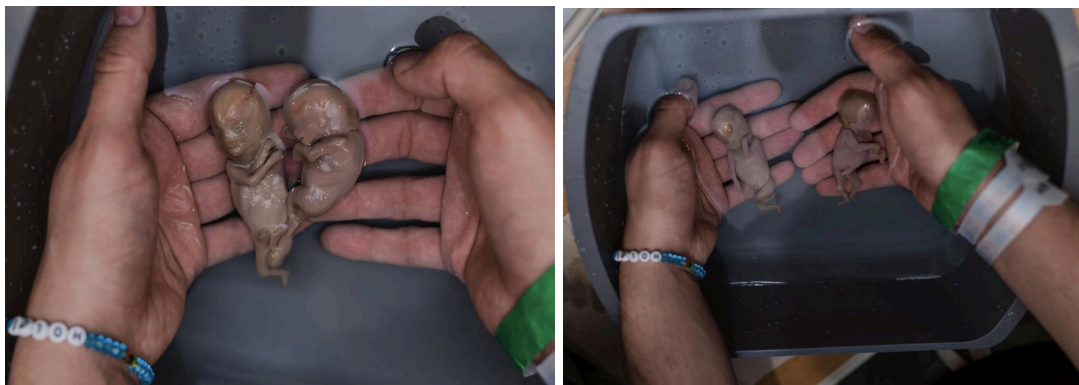
(right) Photographed with a dark background and mom's hands.
Michelle Glenn,
Loving Benjamin Remembrance Photography.



Baby Boy Hudson, born at home, 13w3d gestation. Glass bowl container used.
Shared by mom Justine S. and photographed by midwife, Michelle Gresham.



Baby boy Nash, 14 weeks gestation. Photographed by Michelle Glenn, hospital birth.
Clear container used. Did not have natural light and put a cloth inside the container.



Twin brothers, Holden and Felix born at 16 weeks gestation, measuring 12 weeks.



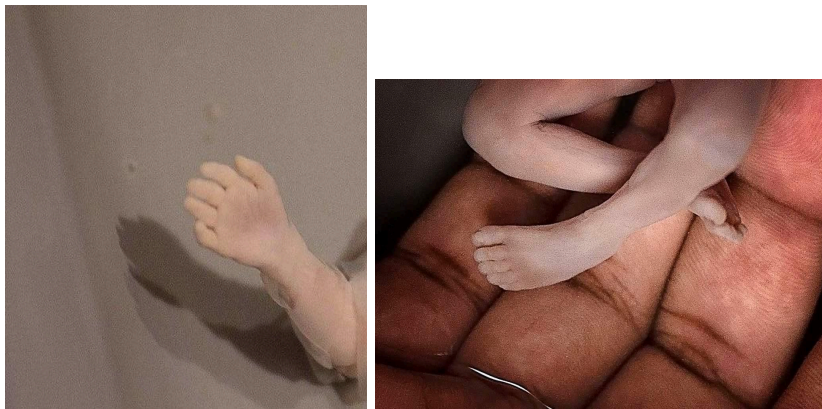
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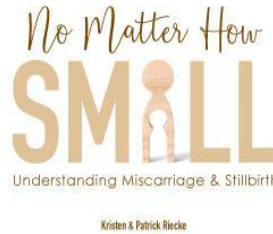
Hospital birth lasting 4 days. Parents bathed babies bedside, took immersion photographs, placed boys in cocoons and bonded with babies.



Felix & Holden were photographed by Michelle Glenn, Loving Benjamin Photography.



Photos taken by Michelle Glenn, Loving Benjamin Photography.



The obvious color changes can be seen almost immediately when immersed. Skin is fragile for younger gestations and much more transparent. The water helps to soften the shine and transparency. Fingers and toes will separate and skin becomes more pink and natural looking. Noses, ears, eyes and hair become more detailed.

In several baths I have witnessed, babies' mouths open and their tongue can be easily seen. It has been my experience that when a baby is immersed, parents are much more easily able to identify features which look like other family members. This creates a stronger bond and connection between family members and their baby. Although it can be counterintuitive to immerse a baby, when we explain that this is imitating the mother's womb, it becomes much more accepted.

The positive effects of the immersion on babies bodies will immediately dissipate when removed from the container.

Placing the baby on a sterile pad will help absorb the excess moisture and keep blankets and clothes from getting too wet or sticking to the skin. As always, their bodies are fragile and should not be rubbed dry. Laying the baby on an absorbent but nonstick surface to air dry is best or swaddle with an absorbent layer between baby and fabric.

To request supplies for saline submersion be donated to your Labor and Delivery floor or Emergency Department, please visit piperspurpose.org or email piperspurpose2020@gmail.com . Special thanks to Kristen and Patrick Riecke for their collaboration and wisdom in creating this document. You can visit their website patrickriecke.com and order their books in multiple formats on Amazon.

***With Gratitude,
Claire Olson, MS***



Kristen & Patrick Riecke

Founder Piper's Purpose

Piper's Mom