

Dear Friend and Family,

I entered this world on August 1, 2021 – as my mom is of advanced maternal age, my entrance was rushed before I was ready. Now that I'm here, I'll share a few notes on my year-to-date:

- Until I had been here for about 9 weeks, I didn't realize people besides Mom and Dad had noses and mouths! Mom is CONSTANTLY pointing to her nose and my nose and saying "nose nose nose" so I thought it was something unique we shared. Once I'd been to the doctor and had painful jabs into my chubby thighs, people started showing me their nose nose nose and mouths.
- Even though I'm seeing full faces these days, I still don't leave the house much. Mom refers to me as a house cat and said if I'd been born two years earlier – I would be passed around and kissed a lot. For now, she seems to Heisman anyone that approaches me. Maybe when I'm older people will put their faces in mine and smash their lips to my cheeks.
- When I first came on the scene, my dad would make the same noise as the bathroom exhaust fan in my ear and that was phenomenal. It put me right to sleep. He's really talented. Now he sings Paul Simon songs to me – it's less effective at getting me to sleep, but dad seems happier to make that noise.
- My sister is AMAZING. Every time she sees me, she sings the same song that includes this great phrase: banana fana fo figgy. Never gets old – makes me chuckle every time!
- My brother is so KIND. Every time he sees me, he looks at me and says "I love you." Makes me feel great. He said he'd teach me about chess and Dungeons & Dragons in a few years.
- There's a cat in the house that apparently throws up way more than me. She's almost 17 years old – not sure if that'll happen when I turn 17 too?
- I'm the first grandchild for one of my grandpas. He thinks everything I do is marvelous – he even loves my tiny diapers.
- My other grandparents buy me clothes all the time and are pretty excited about the size of my feet. They keep saying how big I'm going to be. Like my nose, my mom also talks about my toes toes toes alllll the time.

I know I wasn't born at the "best of times" but I'm pretty hopeful for 2022. There's a lot to learn – and it seems a lot to unlearn for the adults in my life – and that seems pretty exciting. I've evolved a lot in four months, so seems promising that lots of things can improve in that timeframe as well.

Happy New Year everyone! May you feel the joy I feel when I look at lights, and the love I feel when I look into people's eyes.