

## WELCOME BEAUTIFUL BABY MIA: JUNE 2006

By Sam F., Senior Director of Product Marketing at Shutterfly

Becoming a father was a highlight of my life. I wanted to remember every detail of those precious first days with our baby Mia—from the excitement of the birth to the miracle of her tiny toes. Creating a Photo Book was a fun and easy way to capture that special time, and now we have a keepsake our family and friends can enjoy for years to come.



### Here's how I did it:

1. **Select a Book:** I selected an 8x8 Baby Story Book. This mid-size hardcover book has a title on the spine and looks great on my bookshelf. I wanted to create a series of Photo Books about our daughter's life: one to remember her birth, another to celebrate the milestones of her first year, and then several books that capture the special times of her childhood.
2. **Choose Photos:** I used about 60 photos from my Shutterfly albums. I wanted to include pictures and stories about Mia's first moments in her mother's arms and the visits with friends and family. I also scanned in the ultrasound, the birth certificate and her footprints.
3. **Customize Pages:** It was fun to create a personalized baby book. I easily added my photos to the inside pages using the drag-and-drop feature that displays pictures in a strip at the bottom of the page. To customize each page with a baby-theme background, I clicked through design previews in a palette. I found a baby bottle background to match photos of our shower gifts and a pink paisley design that complemented a picture of Mia swaddled in her first blanket.

### Other inspiring ideas:

- I chose a full-page picture to showcase a close-up of Mia's face, and a series of six pictures to tell the story of her first bath. To remember the details, I wrote personal captions beneath the photos. I included words of wisdom from our congratulations cards, as well as some of the comments our loved ones made on photos I had posted on a Shutterfly Collections Web page.
- I also included Mia's family tree, with pictures of family members and their birthdates. The final touch was a "Welcome to Our Family" poem for our daughter.

4. **Personalize the Cover and Spine:** For the front cover, I chose a picture of Mia in her new hat, and on the back cover there is a photo of our family in front of our home. I added her name and the date to the cover and spine.
5. **Order and Share:** I ordered the book and surprised my wife with it. She wanted to share it right away. We had Shutterfly mail copies directly to grandparents and shared an online copy with relatives who were able to order their own books. Now I'm having a great time taking pictures for our next Photo Book, "Baby Days with Mia: Summer 2006."

