



Gemma's Hope

## Handprints & Footprints: A Simple Printmaking Guide

Creating handprints and footprints can provide a meaningful keepsake for families. While every baby is unique, the tips below can help improve print quality and preserve precious memories.

### Tips for Better Prints

#### 1. Less Ink Is Better

Apply a thin, even layer of ink. Too much ink can blur tiny details and cause smudging.

#### 2. Support the Hand or Foot

Rather than pressing the paper onto the baby, gently roll the hand or foot onto the paper while supporting it from underneath.

#### 3. Take Multiple Prints

Even experienced caregivers rarely get a perfect print on the first attempt. Try several prints from different angles.

#### 4. Label Immediately

Record the baby's name, date, gestational age (if desired), and any other meaningful details while they are readily available.

#### 5. Preserve Originals

Store prints flat in a protective sleeve or memory box away from direct sunlight and moisture.

### Recommended Ink Pads

When selecting an ink pad, look for:

- Acid-free, archival-safe ink, or forensic ink
- High-detail impression quality
- Quick drying time
- Easy cleanup

### Our favorites that we recommend:

1. Forensic-quality, Easy-to-Clean Ink Pad (very clear prints, very easy to clean, won't dry out for years, \$\$\$)
2. Clear, Black Prints (but not good for >1 print, \$\$)
3. Large, Colorful Ink Pads (but tend to dry out fast, \$).