

'Like, wow'!: 3-D ultrasound images allow blind parents 'glimpse' at their newborn's face

[S]ophisticated technology allows [blind parents] to “see” their little ones before they are born by creating a 3-D image to be formed in the likeness of their baby's face.

Receiving a 3-D bas-relief model of her baby's face in the mail was “really emotional” for Taylor Ellis, 26, a blind woman in Cockeysville, Md. “I was a little bit nervous about opening the box,” Ellis said. “I had never seen a 3-D [image], and now, it's your baby, and it's, like, wow.”

The idea evolved from a procedure developed several years ago at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for fetuses with spina bifida. Jena Miller, an obstetrician and surgeon with the [Johns Hopkins Center for Fetal Therapy](#), realized that a 3-D print would allow her to get a clear image of the spines of babies who needed surgery in utero for spina bifida.

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Ellis and her husband, Jeremy Ellis, who is also visually impaired, have two daughters, ages 5 and 3. When they were born, Taylor Ellis said she had some vision. But since then, her glaucoma has gotten worse, so the chance to know baby No. 3 this way was a new world.

“It feels super-real when you can feel it,” she says. It was almost like she was pregnant for the first time because she had so much more detail.

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