



FAMILY PLANNING: Q-C couple didn't plan on children, but can't imagine lives without their son

Kay Luna | Posted: Thursday, October 16, 2008 12:00 am

ABOUT THE SERIES

This article is part of a periodic series on family planning among adults 18-30 years old, something that is not often talked about in public. The series is meant to start the conversation in the Quad-City region.

The two met by chance, over a CD rack at a Best Buy store.

They soon began dating.

And then, before they were ready, she got pregnant.

He had always wanted kids. She didn't.

But Tom and Grace McCubbin — now married — welcomed their 2½-year-old son, Maddox, into the world and can't imagine their lives without him.

"Kinda weird, huh," 24-year-old Tom said, referring to how their brief meeting turned into a family. "I did not see that coming at all."

Grace, 22, certainly did not expect it, either. She grew up believing that she never wanted to have children. She didn't even take on baby-sitting jobs as a teen.

Instead, the 2003 Moline High School graduate had what she calls "rock star dreams." She wanted to move to New York City.

Instead, she met a guy and got pregnant. She said her son is a "product of birth-control failure."

"The first time I was ever intimate with my now-husband, it changed my entire life," she said. "But I couldn't imagine not being a mother, now that I have a child. I don't know what I was thinking. It's awesome."

Grace credits Tom's support with giving her the courage to keep the baby. They moved in together, had their son and got married a year ago in September.

"We had a big, crazy wedding," she said. "It ended up working out."

Now, the Moline couple says they are "trying, but not trying" to have another child, hoping for an intended, wanted pregnancy this time.

The first time Grace got pregnant, they hadn't talked about their family hopes at all. Since then, they've had "a big old conversation," she said with a laugh.

Still, Grace has financial concerns. She worries about her obligations as registrar for the Illowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America office and paying for day care for two children.

But her husband, who works as a machinist in Geneseo, Ill., said that's part of her personality, to worry and get stressed out over things sometimes. He is more laidback and "can calm her down pretty good," Tom said.

"And Maddox, he's almost always happy," he said. "He loves just running around. He's really well-behaved, so that's awesome."

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