

QUADRUPLE

the Blessings

*One Katy
Family's Life
with Quads*



*Written by Heather Lowrie
Photography by Marisa Hugonnett*

The Dietrich quadruplets are all in the same kindergarten class at Bonnie Holland Elementary

Most people couldn't imagine life with quadruplets. But the Dietrich family of Katy couldn't imagine it any other way. Their life changed with the miraculous birth of Augustine, Kiley, Micah, and Savanna. With 20 doctors and nurses in the room and a five-minute delivery via C-section, all four, ranging from 2.8 to 3.4 pounds, were taken immediately to NICU. Little did Carla know at the time, but it would be six weeks before she would be able to take even one baby home.

Augustine



Micah



What are your odds of having multiples?

Identical twinning is completely random and universal for all countries and ethnicities. The odds are 1 in 285. If one of your parents is an identical twin or if you (or your partner) is an identical twin, your odds are no higher for having twins than anyone else.

The odds of having fraternal twins does run in the family, but only the mother's side has any affect. The father may be a twin himself, and that has no bearing on your chances of having fraternal twins.

You have an increased chances of conceiving multiples if you're over 35 years old and you've already had several children.

What are your chances of having twins again? If you're using fertility treatments, your odds are the same as they were the first time. If you're not using fertility treatments, your odds of having a second set of fraternal twins quadruples. If you have identical twins, your odds of having a second set of identicals is about 1 in 70,000.

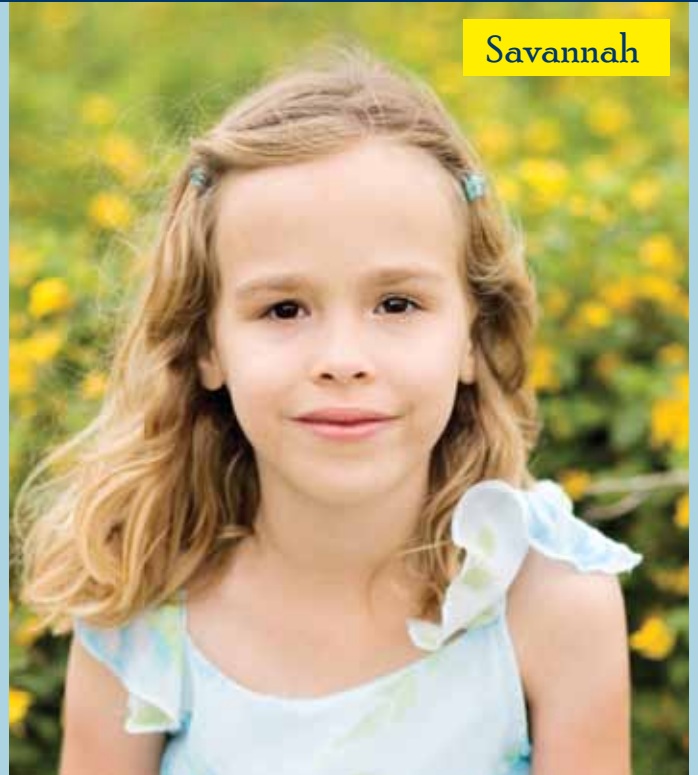
The odds of having naturally conceived quadruplets is about 1 in 729,000.

*Courtesy of storknet.com

Kylie



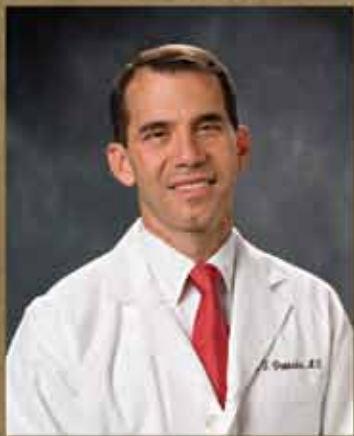
Savannah



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A Special Homecoming

Augustine was the first to come home and Carla remembers her “what do I do now” new mom moment. Just as she was starting to get adjusted to life with one newborn, sisters Micah and Kiley came home just one week later. “I literally went from one baby to three,” Carla remembers. By the time eight weeks had past, all four of her newborn babies were getting adjusted to life outside of the hospital while mom and dad were getting adjusted to life inside the house.

It Takes a Village

What does a new mom and dad do with four newborns? For Carla, she called on the support of her mother-in-law who stayed with them for three months after the babies came home. They also enlisted the support of Carla’s mom, her sister-in-law, neighbors, and people from church. “They truly sacrificed their own time to help my family, and that is who I owe all my thanks to during that first year.” Carla’s husband also spent many sleepless nights feeding and changing four babies at a time only to turn around and go to work the very next morning.

Working Through the Challenges

The terrible twos with one child can be a trying time in a mother’s life, but when it’s multiplied by four, the stress can be overwhelming. Once the quads turned two, they were napping less, yet they were still too young to take to the park to burn off some energy with only one set of eyes watching them. “I literally didn’t go anywhere for the first three years,” Carla remembers. She looked forward to her Wal-Mart outings when she could get out of the house alone.

The Dietrich Quadruplets Today

Today, the quadruplets are six years old, and they’re all in Ms. Lyday’s kindergarten class at Bonnie Holland Elementary. She’s a seven-year veteran and has never had quads in her class before the Dietrich children. Lyday says, “The Dietrich quads are extremely sweet and thoughtful children, but they definitely have their own personalities. One of the siblings is more outspoken and comfortable speaking in front of others. Another is quieter and shyer around others (although she is definitely becoming more confident!). One is very caring and protective of his sisters, and the other sibling is soft spoken, but very confident around others.” Lyday says they truly are a joy to have in class, and they love to let everyone know that they are quadruplets, even telling the whole school when they did the morning announcements. Lyday often lets her students select other students to help out with classroom activities, and she often has to tell the quadruplets to pick someone who doesn’t live in their house. She says they always pick each other, and it’s obvious they love each other and enjoy taking care of one another.

Enough Love to Go Around

The biggest challenge today is giving them all equal amounts of attention. They love talking at once, and their favorite phrase when they have something important to say is “Everybody quiet, it’s my turn to talk!” The concept of taking turns has been strongly enforced. They take turns sitting on mom’s lap during story time, and go one at a time to the store with mom. This one-on-one attention is important to Carla. She says that both parents are very adamant

about making sure they all get the same amount of love, attention, turns, and even gifts.

The Future

Ask Carla if she wants any more children, and her answer is 'no.' Her husband, William, on the other hand, would love more kids. The quads agree with mom though – four is enough for them. In the beginning, life for the Dietrich family was anything but calm and serene. But through it all, the good times and the bad, they always remember that they're lucky enough to have four blessings, and they wouldn't trade their busy life for anything else. **KM**

HEATHER LOWRIE is a kindergarten teacher and mother of two. She is married to her high school sweetheart, James. She is a freelance writer who enjoys the opportunity encourage people through her writing.



Carla and William with quadruplets Augustine, Micah, Kylie, and Savannah



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