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MTV NEWSROOM

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Welcome to the MTV News Blog, where you'll get a sneak peek at what happens in our newroom on a daily basis. Staffers will keep you updated on what goes on behind the scenes, from what it's like interviewing our favorite artists to how we dig up news exclusives.
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Jamie Lynn Spears Birth, Teen Pregnancy Increase Concern Experts: 'Babies Need And Deserve Adult Parents'

16 Comments | Published by MTV News on Friday, June 20, 2008 at 1:25 pm.

(By Gil Kaufman)

So far, Jamie Lynn Spears appears to have taken the troubles faced by her sister, Britney, to heart as she celebrates the birth of her first child. The 17-year-old singer/actress, who delivered a baby girl on Thursday, recently bought a house near her hometown of Kentwood, Louisiana, and settled down with fiance Casey Aldridge, 19. She also tried to stay well away from the glare of the Hollywood paparazzi as she prepared to be a mom.



In addition to getting her GED earlier this year, the "Zoey 101" star has said she plans to take a hiatus from work in order to concentrate on being a mother. But that hasn't stopped some social critics from lamenting the seemingly glamorous take on teen pregnancy some high school students might be getting from the tabloid coverage of Spears' baby, as well as the nonjudgmental messages of recent accidental-pregnancy movies "Juno" and "Knocked Up."

On Thursday — the same day that *Time* magazine's Web site posted a story on a teen pregnancy "pact" in Massachusetts among 17 high school girls — the CEO of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy released a statement in response to the Spears birth.

"Every child deserves a warm welcome, and we hope that Jamie Lynn Spears' new daughter, Maddie Briann, will be surrounded by much love, support and comfort," Sarah Brown wrote. "But the media frenzy that is sure to now erupt, as it did when this pregnancy was announced last December, provides every parent, teacher, media outlet and more a chance to state the truth: Babies need and deserve adult parents who are committed to each other and to decades of being the best parents possible."

"Hundreds of thousands of teens and unmarried young adults get pregnant and become parents every single year, and few of them have Hollywood beginnings or endings," the statement continued. "Getting pregnant and bearing children is one of the most important steps that any person ever takes, and it deserves careful planning, thought and consideration."

The group's response comes amid reports that the teen birth rate was up by 3 percent in 2006, the first increase in nearly 15 years. According to the campaign, at present, three in 10 girls in the United States become pregnant by age 20, with more than 729,000 teen pregnancies annually.

How do you think Jamie Lynn has handled her pregnancy? Let us know!

Filed Under: High School, Jamie Lynn Spears, Teen Pregnancy

COMMENTS (16) EMAIL THIS POST PERMALINK

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16 COMMENTS TO "JAMIE LYNN SPEARS BIRTH, TEEN PREGNANCY INCREASE CONCERN EXPERTS: 'BABIES NEED AND DESERVE ADULT PARENTS'"

Kristy says: 2:55 on 06/20
 Jamie Lynn so far has proved herself of being a VERY responsible teen mother. She has been caring for her baby from the time she was conceived to now. She has gone through the hardest thing many teenagers do not go through. She proved herself as responsible because she has accepted her responsibilities as a teen mom. I am a teen mother myself and I know how difficult things can get but I know my child has everything he needs; a loving mother and family. Good luck Jamie Lynn I know you will be there for your baby; you have already proved yourself for the job of a teen mom. You go girl! and protect the greatest gift of life- your child!!!!

Steph B says: 3:02 on 06/20
 Leave her alone, Everyone is entitled to privacy your criticism is disgusting. She will be a good mother. As for Britney, Shes on her way up too so hal

Casey says: 4:16 on 06/20
 Obviously, a teen wrote the first comment. The comment would not receive a passing grade in

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