

Philosophy and Surrogacy

Philosophy Smash with Henry!

Activity Sheet.

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<https://henrytaylorphilosophy.com/philosophy-smash-with-henry/>

This activity should be used with the 'Philosophy and surrogacy' video, available at the website above.

Break off into small groups. Read the description in the box below and the three opinions in the box. As a group, decide what you think, and give reasons for your opinions.

Sam and Jay are a couple, who want a baby. They cannot have their own, for medical reasons. Tess is a friend of theirs, who offers to be their surrogate. Tess agrees that she will give the baby to them after it is born. They have a successful medical procedure, and Tess gets pregnant, using a sperm and egg from donors. Eventually, Tess gives birth to a baby girl, but by then she has changed her mind: she has decided that she doesn't want the baby to be given to and raised by Sam and Jay after all, and that she wants to keep it.

What should we do? Read the three opinions below and the arguments for them. As a group, decide which one you think is right.

- 1) The baby should be taken away from Tess.

Argument for this opinion: Tess agreed to give the baby to Sam and Jay. She can't change her mind later, after she made an agreement. Sam and Jay will be heartbroken to not have the baby, after expecting her for 9 months.

- 2) Tess should be allowed to keep the baby.

Argument for this opinion: Tess has been pregnant for 9 months with the baby. 'Growing' the baby involves a huge amount of time and effort for her. She did agree to give the baby to Sam and Jay, but she should be allowed to change her mind.

- 3) Tess, Sam and Jay should all have a relationship with the baby.

Argument for this opinion: They should work out a relationship where all three of them can see the baby and be in its life. If you agree with this opinion, think about what this relationship would look like: do Sam, Jay and Tess all have to live together? And who would have responsibility for the baby?



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