



Amy Yarns
Mother of Premature Quadruplets

Amy Yarns is the mother of six. In February 1998, she gave birth to quadruplets at 31½ weeks gestation, Tiana at 3 lbs 7 ozs, Chase at 2 lbs 2 ozs, Rhys at 3 lbs 12 ozs and Trey at 3 lbs 8 ozs. The quadruplets had a healthy birth and three were discharged from the hospital after three weeks. The fourth remained for further monitoring.

Within a week of bringing her children home, all three fell ill one after the other. The babies were diagnosed with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). This escalated to double pneumonia in Trey. He had such difficulty breathing that Yarns had to hold his mouth open on the way to the hospital so that he could breathe. Ultimately, all three were admitted to the hospital for care and two were transferred to a children's hospital two hours away. In the NICU, the preemies were isolated, put on ventilators and given vaporized mist and oxygen. All three of the babies that were re-admitted to the hospital with RSV recovered; the following year all four received Synagis®, a preventative medication, which prevented them from contracting RSV again.

Yarns shares her experience with others so that new parents know how to safeguard their preemies, what the warning signs of RSV are and the preventive measures families can take to protect their precious babies. Yarns' quadruplets are now five years old. Her other children Blaise and Ross are 15 and 12 respectively.