

## Great Beginnings Start Before Birth: Jewish Story

Jewish tradition advises not sharing news of the pregnancy with people outside of your immediate family until the second trimester, or (some rabbinic authorities recommend) until the pregnancy is visible. When a father asked a rabbi when he should start educating his child about religion, the rabbi answered, "Twenty years before the child's birth." The simple reading of this answer is that the children of religiously educated parents will benefit from their parent's knowledge, which they will then be able to teach them about Jewish life, from the meaning of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, to the details of the Jewish wedding ceremony, to the nature of God's relationship with the Jewish people.