

Hi, Jessica and Steven,

Thank you for taking the time to fill out my survey. I hope the analysis I've provided is fun to read, while also helping you with the process of naming your baby!

Summary of your family's tastes and goals.

You have some pretty clear goals for your baby's name. You would like the name to have a Spanish connection, and also to be read as Christian (or, at least, as not strongly tied to a different religion). Jessica noted that she'd prefer the name not be easily nicknameable; Steven says he would rather not use something in the Top 50. Based on your responses to my sample names, it seems like Steven is more of a fan of "traditional" Anglo names (like Abigail and Emily for girls and William and Carter for boys), and Jessica is more likely to like Biblical names (like Elijah). Unsurprisingly, given your specifications, you both gave high ratings to names that could be read as Latinx (Isabella, Mia, Julian).

The special thing I noticed about your family's naming practices is that you seem to have favorite letters; both your older kids' names are built around the letters L and S. This means that the kids' names sound good together; it also means that you may want to give some serious thought to using those letters again so that your third child will feel like they "fit in" with the rest of the family. More on that when we get to my list below 😊

The sibling factor.

For better or worse, the fact that this new baby will have a big brother named Lucas and a big sister named Elise will have an effect on the kinds of names that will fit them best. At the most basic level, you don't want your kids' names to sound *too* similar; that means Lewis and Reese are probably off the table. On the other hand, some people feel it's important that their kids' names "match," and this might be especially important for your family since you've already set a pattern with your older kids' names. If you wanted to search for a name that felt like it matched the others in ways other than sound, here are some factors that might be relevant:

- Compactness. A Sebastian or Ariana might feel out of place with a brother and sister whose names are only two syllables and five letters long.
- Familiarity. Lucas is more popular than Elise (#14 and #166 in 2016, respectively) but both are names that have a long history of use. People might mishear your kids' names from time to time, but no one is going to say "what kind of name is that?" the way they might with Nevaeh or Isla or Zayden.
- Multilingual/multicultural. Unsurprisingly given your family's multicultural background, both names work well (and/or have variants that work well) in many different languages. Lucas is at the top of the charts in Sweden, France, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands as well as being popular on the US mainland; Elise is a French short form of Elizabeth that's trendy in Belgium and familiar in German-speaking countries too.

Your existing list: basic analysis.

- Elena. Spanish, variant of Helen, "light." Ranked #94 in 2016. Rising in popularity at a more sedate pace; it broke into the top 100 for the first time in 2016, and the number of children getting the name increased by half between 2011 and 2016. A name that has the

Latinx connection you're looking for while also traveling well cross-culturally. The fact that it also starts with "E-L" might make it too close to Elise for some folks, but I could also see the argument that they're different enough to be OK.

- Noelle. French, "Christmas." Ranked #249 in 2016. Familiar without being hyper-popular; it's got a sound that's well-loved right now (Ella, Bella, Isabella) but has sat contentedly between 250 and 300 for the last five years with no signs of skyrocketing upward. It does read as very French; so does Elise, so I'm not sure whether you'd count that as a pro or a con.
- Nora. Irish, short form of Honora, "light." Ranked #36 in 2016. Definitely a trending name; it reached its highest rank ever in 2016, and the number of girls getting the name has more than doubled in the last 5 years (from about 2200 in 2011 to 5500 in 2016). It's a classic with some staying power but definitely seems to be following in Lucas's footsteps popularity-wise, which it seems from your survey is a point against it. Since you both like the sound of this name, I suggested an alternative below.

My list.

I've divided my list(s) into two groups. First, I list a few names that feel pretty "safe" to me based on the preferences you outlined; next, because everyone's taste and "safety zone" is a bit different, I'm including a few options that feel a little more quirky. I also include an illustration of how the different names would sound with your baby's family name, and with siblings' names. Finally, I make a call on which names are my favorites off each list.

Girls

Safer (in alphabetical order).

- Cecilia. Latin, "blind." Ranked #178 in 2016. This one has your "S" and "L" sounds (if not the letters) and it's also used in Spanish (as well as Italian, Swedish, and German). The meaning is not great, but you said in your survey that linguistic meaning is not a super-important element for you. It's more popular now than it's ever been (previously peaked at #190 in 1904) but still safely clear of the Top 50.
- Nola. Gaelic, "white shoulder." Ranked #820 in 2016. This name has a Spanish feel to me, despite its Irish origins; it also has a lot of the same feel as Nora without the trendiness. It doesn't have the "S" sound, but it meshes well with the other kids' names nonetheless.
- Rosalie. French, "rose." Ranked #254 in 2016. Another name that has your "S" and "L" sounds, and also sounds like a sister for Elise. It might be a little too flowery/ "girly" for your taste but I figured it was worth including. It's definitely climbing up the charts (has jumped from 330 girls getting the name in 2009 to 1240 in 2016) but doesn't look ready to storm the barricades of the Top 50 just yet.
- Stella. Latin, "star." Ranked #45 in 2016. Probably a little more popular than you're looking for (at its highest rank ever and not showing any signs of leveling off yet), but sounds like a natural sibling for your other kids. I also like it for your family specifically because it evokes a Spanish connection. If you're interested in something more directly Spanish-linked, Estrella is also in the Top 1000 but declining in popularity, down in the 800s.
- Sylvia or Silvia (Spanish spelling). Latin, "from the forest." Sylvia ranked #504 in 2016, Silvia ranked #1373 (given to 169 girls). This was the first name to pop into my head

when I realized your family had a set of common sounds; it's a bit longer than your other kids' names and a little more old-fashioned (Sylvia peaked at #50 in 1930), but the sounds mesh well.

Quirkier.

- Josefina. Spanish form of Josephine, "Jehovah increases." Ranked #2271 (given to 83 girls) in 2016. This name made the list because of its ties to Puerto Rican history. Josefina Barceló Bird de Romero was the first woman who ran a major political party on the island, and did a lot of work on women's rights and securing voting opportunities for women. Josephine is climbing the charts right now (it was #114 in 2016) so it wouldn't be a totally unfamiliar name in your daughter's classroom. Might be too nickname-heavy for Jessica's taste though.
- Marisol. Spanish, "solitude" or "sea and sun." Ranked #935 in 2016. This one made the list as a familiar Spanish name that includes S and L. It's been falling out of popularity in the last few years (it peaked in the mid-200s in 1996) so would be familiar but not overused.

Lucas, Elise, and Cecilia
 Lucas, Elise, and Nola
 Lucas, Elise, and Rosalie
 Lucas, Elise, and Stella
 Lucas, Elise, and Sylvia
 Lucas, Elise, and Josefina
 Lucas, Elise, and Marisol

Cecilia Frye
 Nola Frye
 Rosalie Frye
 Stella Frye
 Sylvia Frye
 Josefina Frye
 Marisol Frye

My picks for you. Cecilia or Nola.

Boys

Safer.

- Asa. Hebrew, "born in the morning." Ranked #518 in 2016. No L in this one, but it has the same kind of soft sound that you favored for your other kids' names, and a lovely gentle meaning. It's also easily pronounced and spelled, unlikely to be mistaken for something else, and feels enough like more popular Biblical names (Noah, Joshua, Isaiah) to be familiar without feeling saturated.
- Julian/Julius. Latin, "youthful." Ranked #39/#340 in 2016. Julian is one of the few names you both liked on my sample list, but is also climbing steadily if not speedily up the charts (has risen almost every year since entering the top 100 in 2000); Julius is a little less popular and also makes it feel more similar to Lucas without being overly matchy. I think either one could work for you.
- Samuel. Hebrew, "told by God." Ranked #21 in 2016. This one breaks your Top 50 rule, but I want to make a case for including it for a few reasons. First, it's a name that is timeless in the style of Michael or Daniel; it hasn't left the top 100 in all the years the Social Security Administration has been keeping records of popular names. Second, it can be easily pronounced in Spanish without needing a different spelling. Finally, it's a familiar boys' name that includes your S and L sounds. There is the nickname factor to consider, but I think that's not an insurmountable burden.

Quirlier.

- Ansel. German, “with divine protection.” Ranked #1190 in 2016. A name that doesn’t have many associations for most people in the US besides the photographer, but one that I suspect will hit the top 1000 in the next few years. It’s easy to spell and say while being distinctive, and it has your favorite letters.
- Roman. Latin, “citizen of Rome.” Ranked #98 in 2016. The other Puerto Rican historical figure whose name made the list, Román Baldorioty de Castro; an early Puerto Rican politician who fought for the island’s right to self-determination. He also worked for abolition and other benefits for the people of Puerto Rico. This name is moving quickly up the popularity charts, but it just hit the top 100 in 2016, so it’s unlikely to be in the top 10 in the next couple years.
- Silas. Latin, “forest.” Ranked #119 in 2016. On the list mainly because of its S-L combo and maybe its sound (SYE-las); another long vowel to match his siblings’ names 😊 It’s another name that’s likely to get more popular in the next few years.

Lucas, Elise, and Asa

Lucas, Elise, and Julius

Lucas, Elise, and Samuel

Lucas, Elise, and Ansel

Lucas, Elise, and Roman

Lucas, Elise, and Silas

Asa Frye

Julius Frye

Samuel Frye

Ansel Frye

Roman Frye

Silas Frye

My picks for you. Julius or Samuel.