

Has getting married changed you as a couple?

Despite having a wonderful first year as newlyweds there have been some difficulties along the way. However, this has brought us even closer together. We have worked hard on learning to communicate our frustrations and worries and feel like we have the perfect balance of support, friendship and love for each other.

What did you learn about yourselves and each other during the process of planning the wedding and getting married?

We've learnt that Emma is even more laid-back than we thought and Carly is a complete perfectionist. Planning a wedding during our first few months as a family of four, and from a distance, was challenging at times but travelling to Brighton meant we experienced some fabulous days – and meals – out. Part of planning our ceremony with Sam from Infinite Love (infinitelove.uk), involved completing a questionnaire about why we love each other, our quirks as individuals and our hopes as we went through our marriage. This really opened our eyes as to who we were as a couple and our distinct personality traits.

How was the wedding itself?

We were so fortunate to have some amazing people supporting us through our wedding day. Dan Chapman and Sarah Jane made us feel so at ease the morning of our wedding, while the music and champagne flowed. It was an amazingly relaxed start to our beautiful day. Once our flowers arrived from Kerry (foxglovesandalice.com) the tears also started to flow! We couldn't have asked for anything better; she completely understood our vision and brought it to life for us. Music played a very important part of our special day and that, combined with the stunning service that Sam created for us, still has everyone talking about how truly magical it felt. We were both exceptionally nervous about our first dance and thanks to our band GrooveZoo



it was everything we imagined. Who doesn't love a couple of confetti cannons!?! Sadly, we didn't get to eat any of our cakes on the day, because Miss Bean's Cakes had done such a good job people had eaten it all before we got there.

What were the best bits of the day?

We had both written each other a card that we took time to read in the morning while we were getting our dresses on. It was really important for us to have personal time during the wedding, as we wanted to remember all of the day. The best bit was our final two minutes, dancing under an arch of sparklers to our favourite song, heads pressed together. It really felt like the special moment we dreamed it would be.

Did you come up against any challenges in being a same-sex couple getting married?

All of our vendors and everyone we came into contact with regarding our wedding were respectful and inclusive of us as a same-sex couple. We took

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advice from travel experts regarding our familymoon, and unfortunately we found the Dominican Republic not to be welcoming of two women with children. Despite an initial bump in the road, where they refused to believe our marriage certificate, we thankfully managed to get recognised as a newlywed couple and enjoyed our two weeks away.

What did it mean to stand up in front of your friends and family and make your vows to each other?

For us, it was so important to stand with each other making those promises. We spent hours writing special words to each other and for us to share those intimate feelings in front of family and friends made the words feel even more meaningful. It made us feel so truly grateful to have found each other, and sharing that with other people made our marriage feel more understood. It was our moment for people to see us both as individuals and as a couple in a way they hadn't before. **D**

EMMA AND CARLY'S TOP TIPS FOR YOUR OWN DREAM WEDDING

- 1 Make it as intimate as you can
- 2 Take time for each other away from everyone else
- 3 Savour every moment
- 4 Save a bottle of champagne for when you get home