

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST FAMILY: THE RADFORDS WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR 19TH BABY



*(above) Sue Radford with 14 of her children on holiday in Lanzarote during the filming for the Channel 4 **documentary** which propelled the family to fame*

Britain's biggest family has grown again as they welcome their 19th baby and **refuse** to rule out another.

Sue Radford, 41, gave birth to Phoebe Willow in just 40 minutes earlier this month, despite **vowing** to not have any more children after the **arrival** of daughter, Hallie Alpha Beau, in June 2015.

The new baby girl weighs 7lb 15oz and is born into a family of nine brothers, nine sisters and father Noel.

They are believed to be Britain's biggest family, living in a **former** care home in Morecombe, Lancashire, and using a minibus to **get around**.

The couple have **raised** their family without **benefits** and own a bakery.

Mrs Radford first fell **pregnant** aged 14, deciding to keep baby Chris after they were both **adopted** as children.

The mother told the Sun newspaper: "Our friends and family keep saying I should have one to get an even number – so round it off to an even 20. I can't rule it out. At the moment I am happy to have Phoebe with us, she is **healthy** and a little **stunner**."

But the family consider themselves parents of 19 children after Mrs Radford lost baby Alfie at 21 weeks in July 2014.

Writing shortly after, Mrs Radford, said: "I think losing a child changes you as a person, I'm not the same person I was before I lost Alfie.

"I will never be that person again but I'm learning to live life as an **angel** mummy and put a smile on my face when there's times I really don't feel like smiling."

According to the Sun, the family spend £30,000 a year bringing up their children, including £100 per child on birthdays and £100-£250 at Christmas.

They also buy £250 worth of food each week, **consuming** three loaves of bread, two boxes of cereal and 18 pints of milk per day.

The average woman in Britain, on reaching 45, has had 1.9 children. That compares with 2.35 for a 45-year old woman living in 1985.

The world's largest family is said to be from Baktwang, India, where father Ziona

Chana has 94 children by 39 different **wives**.

Mr Chana, who has said he is a “lucky man”, lives in a 100-room, four-story home with another 14 **daughters-in-law** and 33 **grandchildren**.

Vocabulary word	Definition	Synonyms
documentary	<i>a film about real-life</i>	~~~~~
refuse	to say 'no' to something	
rule out	to say something will not happen	
vowing	promising	
arrival	entrance	
former	previous	
get around	to go from one place to another	
raised	to help a child grow up	
benefits	money from the government	welfare
pregnant		~~~~~
adopted		~~~~~
healthy	in good health	
stunner	a beautiful person	
angel	a good person	
consuming	using something	

Reading Comprehension: Britain's Biggest Family: The Radfords Welcome the Arrival of Their 19th Baby

Questions:

Who is Sue Radford?

- a) The first child of the Radford family
- b) The mother of the Radford family
- c) A famous celebrity
- d) A documentary filmmaker

How long did it take for Sue Radford to give birth to Phoebe Willow?

- a) 60 minutes
- b) 40 minutes
- c) 20 minutes
- d) 2 hours

Why did the Radfords gain media attention?

- a) They live in a mansion
- b) They have Britain's biggest family
- c) They are famous actors
- d) They travel a lot around the world

How many children do the Radfords have, including Phoebe Willow?

- a) 18
- b) 19
- c) 20
- d) 10

How much money does the Radford family spend per year on raising their children?

- a) £20,000
- b) £30,000
- c) £50,000
- d) £10,000

True or False:

1. The Radford family lives in Morecombe, Lancashire.
2. Sue Radford first became pregnant when she was 18 years old.
3. The Radfords buy £250 worth of food every week to feed their children.
4. Sue Radford lost a child, Alfie, at 21 weeks of pregnancy.
5. The average woman in Britain has had more children than a woman in 1985.

Short Answer:

1. What does Sue Radford say about the possibility of having another child after Phoebe Willow?
2. What is significant about the size of the Radford family in comparison to the average British family?
3. Why does Sue Radford say she has changed as a person after losing baby Alfie?

This reading comprehension activity highlights the unique story of Britain's largest family and gives students practice analyzing real-life news stories.