

Saimdang's Timeline

년도	나이	내용
1504 10th year of the reign of Yeonsan	1	▶ Born on October 29 [lunar calendar] at the parental house of her mother Lady Yi in Bukpyeong, Gangneung, Gangwon-do, as the second of the five daughters (without a brother) of Shin Myeong-hwa (place of origin: Pyeongsan; age 29)
1510 5th year of the reign of Jungjong	7	▶ Although her father Shin Myeong-hwa came from Seoul, her mother Lady Yi always lived at her parental house, as she was the only child of the literati Yi Saon and Lady Choi. Saimdang also grew up there, learning Chinese classics from her grandfather and receiving virtuous instructions* from her mother. *) Cultivation of good character and ethical behavior ▶ Saimdang studied paintings of, among others, landscape, grapes, grasses, insects, by imitating An Kyeon's style.
1516 11th year of the reign of Jungjong	13	▶ Shin Myeong-hwa (age 41) passed the Jinsasi [Literary Licentiate Examination] in Seoul.
1519 14th year of the reign of Jungjong	16	▶ Gimyo-Sahwa broke out and many scholars, such as Cho Jeong-am perished, but Shin Myeong-hwa escaped the tragedy, although he was a victim.
1521 16th year of the reign of Jungjong	18	▶ Death of her maternal grandmother Lady Choi in Bukpyeong, Gangneung ▶ Shin Myeong-hwa fell ill on his way to Gangneung from Seoul, and was close to death when he arrived. Lady Yi prayed at the ancestral gravesite, cutting her middle finger as a sacrifice.* The next morning, a divine being appeared in Saimdang's dream and gave a date-shaped medicine ball to her father. He then miraculously recovered. *) Later, this story was written by Yulgok in <i>Lady Yi Moves Heaven</i> .
1522 17th year of the reign of Jungjong	19	▶ Married to Yi Won-su (place of origin: Deoksu; age 22) ▶ Lived at the parental house after the wedding; death of her father in Seoul on November 7
1524 19th year of the reign of Jungjong	21	▶ Met her mother-in-law in Seoul for the first time ▶ Gave birth to first son Seon in Seoul in September ▶ Lived in different places, such as Paju, Gangneung, and Bongpyeong for the next 10 years

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1528 23rd year of the reign of Jungjong	25	▶ Yeolhyeo Pavilion was constructed for her mother Lady Yi in Gangneung.
1529 24th year of the reign of Jungjong	26	▶ Gave birth to first daughter Maechang
Unknown		▶ Gave birth to second son Beon
Unknown		▶ Gave birth to second daughter
1536 31st year of the reign of Jungjong	33	▶ Gave birth to third son I
Unknown		▶ Gave birth to third daughter
1540 35th year of the reign of Jungjong	35	▶ Was seriously ill, Yulgok (age 5) disappeared while the whole family was in distress because of her illness. They found him on his hands and knees at the ancestral shrine praying for her mother's recovery.
1541 36th year of the reign of Jungjong	38	▶ Composed a poem on Daegwallyeong on her way to Seoul, leaving her mother ▶ Managed the household at her husband's parental house in Sujinbang, Seoul
1542 37th year of the reign of Jungjong	39	▶ Gave birth to fourth son Wu
Unknown		▶ Lived in Seoul and composed poems in tears, longing for her mother living alone
1545 Injong's coronation year	42	▶ Suffered from intense longings for her mother, as the Eulsa-Sahwa (literati purge) broke out and it reminded of her father
1550 5th year of the reign of Myeongjong	47	▶ In summer, her husband Yi Won-su was appointed as a Suwun-Pangwan, or chief clerk of the Seoul Magistracy, who was responsible for inland waterway transport,
1551 6th year of the reign of Myeongjong	48	▶ Moved to Samcheong-dong ▶ Her husband left for Pyeongan-do with Seon in summer to transport the grains collected as in-kind taxes ▶ Died on May 17 [lunar calendar] 2–3 days after falling ill. Her husband and two sons received the news of her death on the day they arrived at Seogang. ▶ Buried at Mt. Jawun, Dumun-ri in Paju