

Hello we are...

Nate & Sarah



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We may not know what led you to consider adoption, but we want you to know we support you. You have our support in your own hopes and dreams for this child. We promise to put all of our love as individuals and as parents into raising your child and providing the best home we possibly can.

We can't wait to help your child grow. We relish in the responsibility of fostering strong values creatively and in a way that is entertaining. We are looking forward to sharing our lives, home, families and our friends with this child. We can't wait to introduce this child to the world and help them find their own place within it. We are ready to continue on the adventure of our lifetime and theirs. If you choose us to raise your child, we will work hard to incorporate any values and wishes you have into this child's life and value your decision for this adoption.

Before adopting our first child, we struggled with infertility for almost five years. Once we chose to go down the adoption route, we never looked back. In some ways, infertility has been the best thing to happen to us. It has been emotionally challenging at times as we worked to build a family since getting married in 2008. We feel this challenge has only made us stronger and more committed to parenthood.

We were matched with our daughter's birth mother through Graceful Adoptions a few years ago. We were nervous, but the process was inspiring. Sarah was able to be in the room when our daughter was born. The three days in the hospital with our daughter and birthmother allowed us the time to shape our relationships with each other. While the adoption process can be complex we quickly came to understand that it simply means more love is available to the child.

We have so much love to give that we would love to adopt a second child. We have strong educational opportunities in our community and in our family. We have a strong network of family and friends with children of all ages. We can guarantee this child will have access to all the support needed to thrive. We can't wait to bring a new child into our home to explore the alphabet, music, nature, making friends, or food.

Our family is very well-rounded. Sarah helps people tell their life stories for a living and Nate is an engineer who loves math, music and language. If nothing else, we have homework support covered. We also nurture honesty, comfort, and laughter. We know who we are as individuals and as a family unit and are comfortable in how we move forward in life.

As the birth mother, we want you to have the support you need to feel positive about the amazing choice of adoption you're making. We want you to feel secure your child is in a loving and supportive environment. Your child will know you as a part of our family. We will respect whatever part you wish to play in our family story and welcome you into our lives. We know from experience we can love an adoptive child without bounds. Your child will be given every opportunity to thrive and grow into a self-supportive, happy adult.

Respectfully,

Nate & Sarah



We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 GracefulAdoptions.com



Our values and beliefs as parents...

Curiosity and Exploration - We believe in fostering curiosity, with ourselves, our family, our friends, and with our future children. We believe as human beings we never stop learning and being curious, whether that curiosity is geared towards culture, sense-of-place, technology, mechanics or just the world at large. We will encourage our child to explore this curiosity, as we have done and continue to do, through travel, education, and freedom for discovery. Most importantly, we like to have fun, while expanding our horizons and maintaining the knowledge that there will always be new things for us to learn in the world.

Responsibility - In taking on the responsibility as parents to raise a child, we are committing ourselves to raise a socially and economically responsible human being. This includes responsibility to understand our role in society as individuals, neighbors, friends, family and strangers. We will instill this understanding to our children. To take care of ourselves as well as our loved ones through example, whether that is at home, volunteering in the community or ensuring life-lessons are met through the lens of responsibility as it is linked to our actions and consequences of those actions.

Compassion - This is one of the most important values we feel as parents to help our child develop. Compassion is a value that is inside of us all and if we nurture this compassion, we can grow into effective members of society in whatever direction our life points us. We would encourage the growth of this value in our child by encouraging continued service to our community and leading by example in the complex issues of helping those in need around us in ways that we are able.

Education - Whether formal or informal, facilitated or self-directed, we believe that education should be a keystone to our child's life. We will provide support and facilitate opportunity for this education in whatever methods the child needs. We value formalized, but we also value informal learning through exploration, problem solving, or necessity. We will have the means to send our children to college, if they choose. We will ensure they have the best education possible within our community and we will provide opportunities for learning in engaging and exciting environments, like traveling, reading and experimentation. We are excited about learning along with our child in this adventure!

Honesty - We value honesty as the primary factor in relationships built on understanding and affection. This value must be instilled and fostered at an early age and nurtured throughout development in order to create meaningful, lasting relationships with others over the course of our lives. In all of the qualities we have placed a high value on, honesty must be a factor in communication while raising a child if we expect the child to reciprocate this value. We will work hard to instill meaningful lessons throughout our child's life to illustrate, encourage, and reward honesty, above all else. From this, we can learn from our mistakes, build trust in our family and have confidence in our interactions with others.



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Our home...

Our home is a few miles outside of the main city limits. We deliberately chose this location with kids in mind. Our house is situated on 3.5 acres of large growth trees. We have a frog pond in the back of our yard that has various kinds of turtles and water animals, and an ornamental fish pond by our back porch with gold fish we feed in the evenings. Our town has a children's museum, two swimming pools and lots of outdoor adventure places, like "pick your own fruit" or a large botanical garden open to the community. For a relatively small community, there is an abundance of things for kids to do.

Our living space, and home in general, is comforting and nurturing. Our main living spaces are all open to each other in one large space, surrounded by an entire wall of windows and sliding glass doors that can open for fresh air and provide an abundance of natural light. It leads out to a large deck with lots of play space for water play, sandboxes and outside picnics. We have a swing set with a slide, toy cars, and tricycles. Our house is meant to be lived and played in!

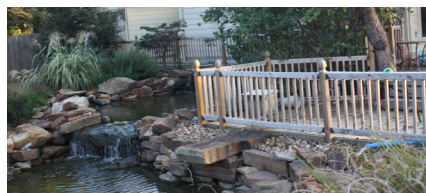
Inside we have comfy, durable furniture and creative kids' spaces. Our living room has a tile floor, which is easy to clean and easy for play. Our home is an endless space for creativity and play as well. We have lots of flexible space to make impromptu pillow forts and pop up tents. We often have family and friends visit us. All of our gatherings are focused around food and companionship. Our furniture can be rearranged to accommodate casual conversation or playing card or board games. We often host potlucks for our friends and the most common thing we hear is how our friends' children look forward to coming to visit.

We have a room just for our new child. The room is warm neutral color and heavy curtains to help make a comfortable space for sleep and play. We have several crafty friends and family who are planning on helping us decorate this space with wall hangings and handmade blankets. We look forward to decorating the room to fit our child's personality.

A typical day at our house involves Sarah and our daughter waking up and feeding the pets, making breakfast and picking out clothes for the day. We spend time reading books, doing chores and planning out the day. Often after naptime we will go to a park to play on the playground or feed the ducks at the city lake. We spend a lot of time on our back deck blowing bubbles, picking flowers or exploring the woods surrounding our house. We watch very little TV. We often cook together, toddler and all, and always eat our meals together.

Some of our favorite meals are ones we make together. One of Sarah's comfort foods is chicken and dumplings. Nate often makes pizza from scratch. Our favorite time of day at home is between 6 and 7pm at night. This is right after dinner time and rolling towards bedtime. As the day starts to wind down, we always have time to read our favorite books, get into comfortable clothes, and snuggle on the couch as we wind down for bed.

We work well together as a team, and have a good balance. Nate is a night owl and Sarah is an early riser, which has proven to be a good system to ensure everyone's needs are met. Our daughter is still pretty young to fully grasp what it means to become a sibling, but knowing how she plays and how she cares for other people, we know she will be a wonderful older sister. We also look forward to watching our children grow up together as siblings as well as adults.



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Traveling, Gardening, Reading, Getting Together with Friends, Knitting, Learning, Hiking, Camping

Adoptive Father:

Playing and Writing Music, Martial Arts, Problem-solving games (Chess, etc...), Audio Engineering, Tinkering in general with electronics, Traveling, Hiking, Flying UAVs, Robotics

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Head of Oral History Research Program at University

Adoptive Father: Graduate Student and Research Assistant

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Master's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree

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Our family...

We met through a mutual friend. Sarah was going to graduate school with Nate's childhood best friend. We spent a lot of time hanging out together as friends before we started to date.

We lived together for four years before we decided to get married. We wanted to make sure we were able to fund the kind of wedding we wanted. It was more about celebration for the ceremony and less about pomp and circumstance. We had about one hundred family and friends with us for great food, great music, and lots of love for our May wedding.

We met each other and developed a relationship after we had grown into our individual sense of independence. We have maintained our own interests, enjoy our time alone and can be together, often, without invading each other's space. We also respect and compliment each other tremendously. Nate's honesty, sense of humor, loyalty to friends, compassion for strangers and generosity are qualities that Sarah highly values and when combined with Sarah's ability to laugh, strong planning skills, and natural propensity for nurturing, the two make a solid team.

After 12 years together, we still enjoy spending time together.

We have traveled the world, together and apart, learned new languages, shared our culture and time with strangers and loved and lost many times. We continue to have those moments that shape us. For more than 10 years, Nate has worked for two weeks at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. At this event, there are people from all over the world to share a wide array of cultures and perspectives.

As a family tradition we spend a few days after Christmas each year at a cabin in a state park on one of the gorgeous lakes in south east Oklahoma, where we enjoy fishing, playing games, hiking, and watching movies. Sarah's family has done this for over two decades and the tradition now includes members of her sister-in-law's family and Nate's family as well. This is something we all look forward to coming into the Holiday season.

While Nate is an only child, he has a vast extended family with a total of fourteen aunts and uncles between both of his parents. Sarah has a very small extended family, with one sibling. We have very close relationships with our immediate family, visiting our parents often and being actively involved in our nieces and nephew's lives. We spend holidays with one part of our family or another and often take vacations with Sarah's family, including trips to Disney World. Both of our families are active travelers and are willing to join in an adventure if the opportunity arises. Both of our families enjoy and support each other and support us. We are extremely fortunate.

Our family was the definition of supportive when we brought our daughter home a few years ago and are equally as excited for a new addition to the family. We are close enough to our parents they are prepared to help with support for us and our children. We have retired or close to retired parents who are very good at providing support when needed and absolutely LOVE being grandparents.

Our family is completely thrilled to bring another member into the fold. Not only is our family completely in love with our first adopted child, there is nothing but support and anticipation for a second adopted child in the family.



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