



Hello I am...



Kate



My Hopes & Dreams

I have always known I wanted to be a mother. My hopes and dreams have always been to create a small family that will thrive within my bigger family.

I have never married, and while I am not in any way against marriage, I didn't feel the need to wait for a partner to start my family. I have family members and close family friends who have either been adopted, adopted children themselves, or are foster parents. Therefore, the idea of creating my family through adoption always felt natural. What I knew then and what I know now is the same, I have the love to give and a huge support system surrounding us.

I have one son, whom I adopted at birth. I was able to form a very respectful relationship with his mother. We matched four months before our son was born and loved every minute of getting to know each other. Becoming his mother has been the most rewarding, humbling, scary, and joyful time of my life. However, my family isn't done yet, our whole story hasn't been written and we have more love to share, spread, and give.

Pursuing a second adoption is not something I came to lightly. The weight of responsibility feels heavier this time as I seek to grow my family. I am honored to be in this place. To enter this relationship knowing that it involves heart breaking and breaking open. To be the best adoptive parent I can be means that I lead with love and respect for my child's birth parents. And so, my wish is for birth parents to know that I honor them, respect them, and will always follow their lead. This is your story that I am hoping to have the privilege of joining.

I want to offer a child unconditional love and support for whoever they are and for whoever they become. I want to be a rock for them to always come back to over and over. I want to share everything I have with them, both the physical home and material things that make life easier and all of the intangible things like hope and faith, goodness and kindness, and respect and bravery. I will offer this child what I was given as a child - a massive extended family that is so involved and invested that sometimes you forget your cousin is not just a friend, but part of your family.

My family is beyond thrilled that I have started the adoption process again. Adoption and being foster parents have long been a part of my family's story. When I shared that I was pursuing adoption, I was met with both excitement and unwavering support. I can say without a doubt that my family will unconditionally welcome and receive this child with full and pure joy. Every life that enters our family is celebrated not just for being family, but for being who they are as an individual. While we do a lot in a group, we are also quick to celebrate what makes each of us special.

I will raise my family to know how special we are, how loved we are, and to know we are part of something bigger than ourselves - we are part of this world.

Respectfully,

Kate

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My Values & Beliefs as a Parent

LOVE FIRST - To lead with love means we lead with acceptance, kindness, and the genuine belief in the goodness of ourselves and others. If we lead with love, then we choose our words and actions through this lens. We won't and don't have to love everyone we meet but we can still lead with love. We live this out in our family by talking about how we showed love today and what ways we can show love in the coming days. We talk about who showed love to us. We are quick to ask for forgiveness when we make a mistake, we are quick to forgive, and we help each other with big and small things to lighten the load for everyone. We lead with love, and we end with love, no matter the day or circumstance.



HONESTY - We do not lie to each other or ourselves. If we are uncertain about something, we ask and we talk it out. If we are scared, we seek comfort. If we make a mistake, we acknowledge it. Honesty is important in our family because as a parent I believe it is my job to model not only accountability to each other but to ourselves. I want my children to grow into genuine and authentic individuals who feel grounded and centered in themselves no matter the situation. If they are grounded in themselves, the outside world cannot crack them. We show this in our family by sharing what we struggle with, what we are proud of, and what we do not know. We always encourage asking questions!



RESPECT - We don't have to like everyone we meet, but we can recognize their humanity by showing respect. We respect others even when they might not show us respect. We respect ourselves by how we take care of our minds and bodies and by who we surround ourselves with. If someone is not kind or respectful of us, then we step back and move away because we know we are worthy. I will continue to model this. In the big ways when they've made a mistake, I don't cast judgment; instead, I show them respect and guide them to other choices. But also, in the little things they see me say and do - how I speak to people at the store, on the road, the pets in our home, and the way I speak to myself. Kids are always listening and learning.

CONNECTION - It is important that we stay connected to our family, our friends, and ourselves. I believe we are people created for community and when we isolate or cut ourselves off from those we are connected to, we suffer. Everyone needs their privacy and time alone, but when we are connected through love then we can be miles apart and be together. Remaining connected to our cultures, histories, and communities keeps us grounded in purpose and belonging. We live this value by protecting family time through family dinners every night, and through playing together and working together. We live this by making the effort to visit family far away, by making plans with friends, and by showing up in our community, serving, and celebrating.



EDUCATION - I believe the best way to approach education is through wonder and enjoyment. I believe learning should be fun and exciting and not something dreaded. Learning is a process. I tell students, 'You aren't meant to know everything, that's why you are taking this class or seeking this help.' The point to learning is not the grade, it is the understanding, it is the growth that happens in our brain and spirit when we go through the process of trial and error, mistakes, and understanding. We learn from others in the community or on the playground. We learn when we are challenged by those around us.

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Home & Neighborhood

When we were house hunting several years ago, one of the specific things I was looking for was a fourth bedroom. I knew then that we were not complete as a family and wanted to make sure we had space to grow! I bought a home in the perfect neighborhood to raise a family. We live on a cul-de-sac, which has been ideal for playing, riding bikes, and sparklers when the occasion calls for them. Behind our house is a creek that runs the length of our street. This is another favorite gathering spot to look for bugs and generally just get wet and muddy. We are very lucky to have a pool and playground in our neighborhood as well; we can walk to both in about 10 minutes. We can get to the beach or the mountains in just a few hours or take the train to my sister's house just for fun.

Our life here at home is warm and cozy, but also loud and fun. We laugh a lot, we dance a lot, we play games inside that should probably be played outside, but we are usually too busy making memories to stop and take it outside. We love to cuddle here, we love to welcome people in, but we also prioritize family time. Our friends and family say they feel at ease in our home. They let go of their worries and enjoy their time here. The refrigerator and pantry are stocked with favorite treats and there are lots of blankets on the couches, perfect for relaxing.

We love mornings. I love waking up before everyone else, making my coffee, sitting in the sunroom, and thinking about the day ahead. I love watching my son wander out from his room, knowing he's looking for me and a cuddle. I love the quietness and the intentional slow time. It reminds me of the hope and goodness of a new day. There is nothing like watching the sun come up to remind us of the beauty in everything.

One of our favorite meals to make is chicken pot pie. It is not fancy, but it's my grandmother's recipe. I make it regardless of the weather outside, it always tastes right and when I make it, I think of my grandmother. Pizza is another favorite. We are not picky about it - order pizza delivery, make our own pizza at home, or frozen pizza. We eat it in any form for any meal.

Incorporating another child into life at home will be both seamless and intentional. The kids' rooms are right next to each other, and they will share a bathroom. I've got a lot of ideas for decorating, just waiting to know this child first! There is a great crib and rocker already to be set up. I love getting a nursery ready, sitting in the room, and just being still and imagining what it will be like once the child is here with us. Another child will double our joy and probably chaos. We welcome both!

I am most looking forward to learning all about this new child. Learning what comforts them, what makes them laugh or happy, what scares them, and what challenges them. It will be such an honor to love a whole new person and weave them into our family. I have a quote hanging in my closet that says, "You have not met all the people you will love yet." Ever since I found that quote about 2 years ago, I have believed it is talking about this child. I'm excited to see their relationship with their sibling and all my family members grow and flourish in love. I'm excited for another child to help us expand our perspective and learn new ways of loving and seeing the world.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Anything outside including hiking, walking trails, growing vegetables and weeding the garden; the heat of the summer and visiting the ocean, pools, lakes, and creeks; reading; designing, decorating, and being inspired by our home; dance parties after dinner; and spending quality time with my son, family, and friends

PROFESSION:

Adoptive Mother: Director of Counseling Services

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Master's Degree

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Family

I have one son, who is four years old. I adopted him at birth. His birthmother and I were able to form a close bond before he was born. He is sweet and spicy. He has a big personality and is funny. He is also very cuddly, quick to hug or kiss you, and if your hand is free, he'd just as soon hold it. He is a mover, he has lots of energy, and lots to say. He loves going to school and his friends there, and equally loves the weekends at home.

We love dancing - dancing games, dancing to our favorite songs, dancing in the car, and dancing in the store. We also love trivia games. We often play trivia games at dinner. Currently, our trivia games focus on Disney characters or different types of animals.

My son is beyond excited to have a sibling. He has already assigned tasks in the house and often adds to the list and shares them at the most random times. He is excited to be the oldest and proud to have someone to protect. He is ready to wear the badge of big brother with honor. His only concern is the poop diapers, which he has already assigned to me, so that is settled.

The closeness of both our immediate family and extended family is something we truly value. I have the privilege of saying my sister is my best friend. We have lived together as adults for the past 14 years and I wouldn't change a thing. My sisters and I have always been close. We have been each other's protectors, advocates, and friends ever since we were very little.

The additional privilege that we share is that we are surrounded by this massive supportive and loving extended family. I spend every holiday with family. Other days, I'm laughing at what someone said in our large family group chat. We are immersed in each other's lives; we know who is struggling, who had a victory, who is in transition. We live out a motto every day that started with my grandparents. That is, the core belief that we should seek to serve before being served. We recently counted, we have 23 educators, 22 working in the medical field, and five working in counseling or social services in our family. We truly live by our motto.

Our favorite tradition is our family reunion at the beach which started in 1987. We spend the whole year anticipating the week together. We make shirts, we have maps of where the houses are located. We have themed nights, like talent show night, girls' night, dance night, the Olympics, a golf tournament. At our last reunion there were more than 100 family members who participated.

Traditions I hope to continue with my family are attending the annual Christmas Eve party at my aunt and uncle's house and to continue hosting the annual gingerbread house making party. This started when we were kids, and my sister and I decided to continue it on with our friends and cousins. Every year people get more competitive and the houses more impressive. It is such a fun night of people of all ages coming together, laughing, building, creating, eating, and just enjoying each other. Traditions like these mean so much to me because they are all about being together. My theory and belief in life is why do it alone when we can do it together.



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