



# Kids Count Too, Inc.

Foster Care & Adoption Agency

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## Adoptive Family Profile Examples & Tips

Please see attached examples of Adoptive Family Profiles to provide you with some guidance when completing your own profile. In addition **please submit at least 5 but no more than 10 photographs** you would like to share with your future birth mother.

Reaching out to prospective birth parents through your profile takes kindness, thought and consideration. The goal of a profile is create an emotional connection with your child's parents that will eventually lead to a long and lasting relationship for everyone involved. The following are some tips to assist you in creating your profile:

- **Be You:** Be yourself and everything else will fall into place. You will not be chosen for qualities that you have in common with other adoptive families, you will be chosen for something that sets you apart from the other families and for something that an expectant mother can connect with.
- **Stay away from old clichés:** While they may be true, many of the same things are seen on 75% of adoption profiles. It should be unique to you and your life. Be yourself, you are speaking to someone when you create your bio. Use your own words....don't be a Hallmark Card.
- **Explain the kind of parent you hope to be and what you want to share with your future child:** Share the type of parent you want to be, speaking like you would when you are telling your friends and family your hopes and dreams that you want to share with a child. Are you the parent that wants to get your child involved in sports? Will you be a coach? Do you listen to music while you cook dinner? Do you have special family traditions you want to share with your child? If so, say it! It's the little things that make you, you and that will stand out to the expectant mother.
- **Play to your strengths:** Find the traits or characteristics that differentiate or define you and weave a story around them. Give a great first impression and get to the heart of who you are.
- **Be empathetic:** You more than likely will know little to nothing about who is reading your profile, but the one thing you do know is that she is more than likely in a difficult situation and is looking for help. Put yourself in her shoes and show that you are someone she can trust and confide in. Be warm and welcoming – it can build trust and lead to mutual respect and understanding
- **Cut to the chase:** Create an inviting tone, but don't overdo it. Don't waste valuable space explaining how much respect you have for your reader or the difficult decision she faces. She already knows what she is going through. After reading the same statements over and over, it can get monotonous and almost offensive. Maybe a sentence or two, then get to your message to her.

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- **Use concrete details:** Be as specific as you can when describing yourself. It's those concrete details that will set you apart and draw readers in. Remember, the little things can make a big difference.
- **Be selective:** What may seem important to you may not be important to expectant parents. Find the details that tie back to your message and will make your profile come alive. For example, the names of your nieces and nephews are not important, but how you spend your time with them is.
- **Keep it focused:** Less is more. The shorter it is the greater chance your reader will read to the end. Don't try to cover everything. Pick three or four stories that capture who you are and create a narrative around them.
- **Be real, not perfect:** Perfect people sound alike, flat and boring. You need to distinguish yourself from others. Talk about the challenges you've faced, how you overcame them and the lessons you've learned along the way. This will create trust and transparency.
- **Be passionate:** Don't just talk about your partner's attributes, describe how you feel about them and what they mean to you.
- **Begin at the beginning:** A great way to get your reader's attention is by telling the story of how you first met and what drew you to each other. Through your selection of details this will give your reader a sense of your values and what is important to you.

# **Adoptive Parent Bio Example #1**

## **About us:**

We met ballroom-dancing at a monthly dance party. Soon after we went on a date and hit it off and began dating exclusively. Our relationship grew and Praveen proposed on Valentine's day two years later and we were married that summer. The wedding was intimate and beautiful with close family and friends travelling from around the country and overseas, to grace this happy occasion. We have been very happily married for four years and looking forward to parenting a child together.

Praveen is a Senior Director in a software company thirty minutes from home and manages a team of twenty professionals in the US and overseas. Valerie is a Worldwide Controller (accounting) at a Boston startup and has the flexibility to work from home. Valerie plans to be home full time for three months with the baby.

## **Qualities we see in each other:**

Praveen says about Valerie: Valerie is an amazing wife who is caring and cherishes every minute together. She has embraced my children and is selfless. She is smart and beautiful. She has a great sense of humor that meshes with mine. She loves children and will be a wonderful and dedicated mother.

Valerie says about Praveen: Praveen is a dedicated husband and loving father. He is hard working and detailed oriented. He loves children and cannot wait for our child to arrive. He is outgoing and has a great sense of humor. His positive nature and pleasing personality has endeared himself to my family.

## **Our hobbies:**

Praveen loves racquet sports – particularly tennis and table-tennis and plays in competitive leagues. Valerie likes working out at the gym, walking and gardening.

Together we like to bike, hike, travel and ballroom dance at monthly socials. We have a time-share that we use for vacationing with Praveen's children every year and are excited to take our child with us.

## **Activities we look forward to doing with our child:**

We look forward to sharing the joy of parenting – eating meals together, cuddling up for bed time reading, the joys of birthdays and lots of love. We look forward to taking our child to various activities and games; cheering and sharing the joy of victory while teaching them grace in defeat. We look forward to fun times with our extended families and travelling with them across the country and overseas.

## **Extended family and holiday gatherings:**

Praveen has two sisters in Michigan and Georgia while Valerie has a brother and sister in Georgia and North Carolina, respectively. Eight cousins aged seventeen to six months old from both our families and Praveen's two teenage children cannot wait for the baby to arrive. Praveen's parents in India and Valerie's parents in Maine are supportive and excited for the baby's arrival.

We host Praveen's children for Easter and enjoy a sumptuous Easter meal with Easter eggs and candy. We alternate between hosting Praveen's children and spending time with Valerie's family (siblings or mother) for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These gatherings include a lot of cooking together, taking pictures, playing games and relaxing. We enjoy the holidays and are excited to incorporate the baby into these holiday gatherings.

## **Our adoption story:**

We plan to be open and honest with our child about his/her adoption. We will remind him/her about the sacrifice made by you and teach him/her about you. We will listen to their questions and be sincere in providing the answers to help them grow into successful individuals.

## **Our home and neighborhood:**

We live in a beautiful intimate four bedroom colonial house with a spacious backyard on a private street. Our home is a few minutes away from several playgrounds and a family oriented bike path that we really like. The schools are excellent academically and for sports and a few minutes from our home.

## **Adoptive Parent Bio Example #2**

### **About us:**

We met almost 11 years ago while we were out with different groups of friends. We accidentally bumped into each other and started talking. Joe still claims to this day that Ali tripped him. A few nights later we made plans to meet again and have been together ever since.

Our relationship grew quickly; we had so much fun spending time together. Whether we were hanging out at Joe's apartment or out with friends, we were always laughing. In just over 4 years of dating, we were married. We both feel at ease in each other's presence and cannot imagine life without the other. Many people would describe us as having easygoing demeanors, but we are also driven to build a successful and enjoyable life for our family. We feel it is important not to take life too seriously.

Ali is a Real Estate Agent and Joe is Director of Sales for a global technology company. Ali is planning on spending her time at home when the baby arrives. Once the baby is settled Ali will consider working part-time. Luckily, both Ali and Joe have flexible work schedules which allow them to work from home or schedule around family priorities.

### **What we do for fun:**

Ali enjoys reading, spending time with her girlfriends, hiking, and cooking. Joe enjoys exercising, watching football, golfing, fishing and grilling. As a couple, we enjoy cooking, traveling and watching movies together.

### **Qualities we see in each other:**

What Ali says about Joe: Joe is hard working, smart (sometimes even nerdy) and very motivated to succeed. In addition, he is extremely friendly and easy to be around. Joe is someone you can count on in both good times and bad, with advice, support or humor.

What Joe says about Ali: There is no better way to describe Ali than to say she is beautiful, inside and out. She is extremely kind and fair, always willing to support her friends and family. Joe also admires Ali around patience and comfort around children; she was born to be a mother.

### **Special activities we look forward to doing with our child:**

We are looking forward to spending summers at the cape with our child where they will learn how to swim, row a boat, and fish. Our family has a property on the water with a small beach, perfect for summer fun. We are also looking forward to traveling with them, going to sporting events, and taking our dog Rocky for walks to the park. We have many friends with young children and hope to surround our child with many friends and family.

## Extended family and holidays:

Both Joe and Ali are very close with their families. Joe's sister has two little girls (6 and 4) and Ali's cousins (11 and 9) are all very excited to have a baby in the family. We are always making plans to meet up and spend time with our sisters and cousins. Ali's parents live nearby and spend a lot of time over the house. Unfortunately, Joe's mom passed away several years ago but his Dad is retired and very active in his grandchildren's lives.

Our holidays are always filled with lots of family and friends. We love hosting holidays this past Thanksgiving we had 20 guests for a sit down dinner. For Christmas we will travel to NY to see Joe's family and our adorable nieces.

## Our home and neighborhood:

We live in a suburban neighborhood with ample outdoor space to walk the dog and explore. Our home has lots of room for children including a large kitchen opening into an extended family room. The home was designed with a nursery located right next door to the master bedroom. The backyard is a great place to run around and play. In addition, we have a large in ground pool (which is safely fenced in), which will be great for summer swimming.

## **Adoptive Parent Bio Example #3**

### **About us:**

We grew up in the same city and had mutual friends but didn't officially meet until after high school. We were friends for a few months before Chris asked Amy to go to the movies. While we were just friends we would casually go out for breakfast/lunch 1-2 weeks. Going out for breakfast is still one of our favorite things to do

Chris is on the shy side and Amy is more outgoing which makes for a great match. We have been happily married for 7 years this coming August. Chris works as a Butcher and Amy is a Nurse.

### **What we do for fun:**

Amy enjoys photography, loves to drive around looking at foliage and enjoying autumn, learning about history and New England holds the perfect setting. Chris likes cooking and is an avid Boston sports fan, with the Boston Bruins being his favorite.

Together we love to spend time with friends and family as they are most important to us. Traveling is a true passion - especially around New England. We have been many places throughout the country and every year visit Maine and Cape Cod several times. We are really looking forward to sharing our love of traveling and exploring new places with our child. We like to enjoy life, playing with our dogs, listening to music (singing in the car), being spontaneous, fun and learning as we go along.

### **Qualities we see in each other:**

What Amy says about Chris- "Chris is a wonderful husband and I'm thankful every day to have married such a kind, gentle soul. Chris is extremely hard working and is always willing to go the extra mile. Chris is going to be an incredible Dad just by the way he treats others. My sister has Down's syndrome and he is so patient and loving toward her. It is one of the reasons I fell in love with him."

What Chris says about Amy- "Amy is my loving wife of almost 7 years and we have been together for 13 . I couldn't imagine my life without her in it. She is my rock. She is very kind, thoughtful, friendly, fun and an extremely positive, optimistic woman. She is a funny lady and loves to make people laugh. She is a hardworking nurse who loves her job taking care of the veterans."

### **Our extended family:**

We have a large family who get together regularly during holidays, parties or just friendly get togethers. Amy has many first cousins who Amy and Chris are both very close with. Whether its going out to eat, playing games, weekends away, going golfing, bbq's or just hanging out at our Nana's house, we always have a great time!

We are very close with our parents and siblings. We live on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Amy's parent's house. Amy has one sister and one brother. Chris's parents live only a 5 minute car ride down the street. Chris has one sister.

We also have a large group of friends that are more like family. We are "Auntie & Uncle" to many of their children. Our family and friends mean so much to us and have been more than supportive during our adoption journey and cannot wait to welcome our child into their lives.

## Holidays and Birthdays:

Holidays and Birthdays are a big deal to us and are spent surrounded by family and friends. Thanksgiving is an eventful one and Amy's favorite holiday. Thanksgiving at Amy's parents starts at 11am and usually ends around 8pm. It's filled with many courses, turkey presentation, pictures, movie time, card games and "2<sup>nd</sup> thanksgiving" which all the food is re-presented. Christmas Eve is big with Chris's family and Chris's parents have the "Feast of the 7 fishes" .

## Our home and neighborhood:

We live on the 2nd multi family home in Amy's parents house. Amy's parents live on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Our house is located in a multi cultural neighborhood. It's on a beautiful tree lined street, within walking distance to an elementary school, large park, community pool, shops and restaurants. It is the house Amy grew up in so it holds special meaning. We have a large fenced in yard, perfect for riding bikes and playing outside games. Our home is filled with a lot of laughter and love