



MAP FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April 2017



Child Preferences?

Not what it seems like!



Each family is called to adoption for different and unique reasons, and individual ideas of what they want and think is best for their family. Your family is wanting to adopt a child, they aren't buying a house or new style of jeans, so "child preferences" may sound like a strange concept. A child has feelings, a personality, a complicated and more than likely traumatic history. But there really isn't a better way to say it, as a potential adoptive family you just need to understand what that actually means.

"Child preferences" are influenced by what a family knows about children in foster care, their lifestyle, their own family history, and ultimately their strengths and weaknesses. You may say that you are looking for a child that is under the age of 5 because you have two biological children in that age range and don't have experience with an older child. Or you might be empty nesters that are looking for a teenager because you have had 4 biological children that have all moved away for college. Many parents desire to adopt a child that fits their own racial and ethnic background, believing that the child will better fit into the family. Other parents take an opposite approach and specifically seek out children of different races and backgrounds to make their family more diverse.

It is possible that a child younger than your families preferences is wise beyond his or her years, a child from an ethnic background may be more open to other cultures, or a child with a disability may have already mastered the necessary skills to manage his or her issues. Being open to new cultural backgrounds can benefit your family and the child. Being open minded to any and all situations that you feel fit to handle will make the process go by a little bit quicker.

Openness in the searching and submission process will help your family gain a better understanding about available children. A Family for Every Child strives to support our families through their adoption journey. We are always available to answer questions about the foster care adoption process. We don't want to ask a family to take on more than they can handle, but we do want to encourage families to stretch their "preferences".

Resources for Parents:(click on article to open)

Deciding

Personal Stories - Adopting Older Children

Personal Story - Trans Racial Adoption



Meet the TANZER Family!
Judy, Thomas and Ryan



We are a close-knit family, and hope to maintain family or foster parent relationships our adopted child values. Having raised three boys, we would like to add a little Caucasian or mixed-race girl age 6-11 to our family (and maybe her brother or sister), and are excited

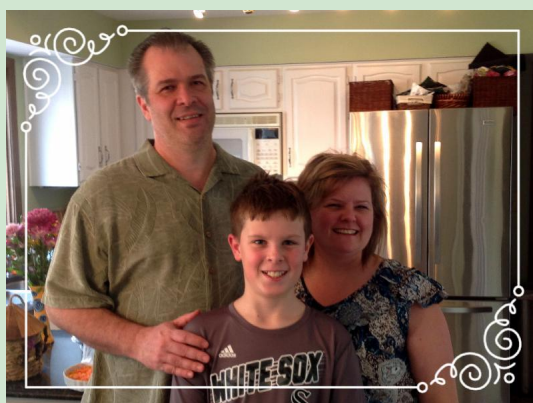
about adoption as a way to grow our family. We have a lot of love to give a child, and feel like we can support her needs for educational, speech, behavioral or emotional help. Our youngest son Ryan is 12 and our home is filled with games the three of us play together. Ideally, would like to have a daughter that wants to be part of a family like ours and will come to trust and love us.

Our family is a priority to us and we make time for it. Each weekday morning Ryan and I get up early and get ready for school and work together while Thomas works out or sleeps in. We talk about our day ahead and usually have breakfast together. After Ryan gets on the bus, I head to work. Thomas usually picks Ryan up in the afternoon and heads home. I meet him there where we alternate between making dinner and helping Ryan with homework.

When the weather is nice, we might play some ball outside or barbecue. In winter we may watch TV or play a game after dinner, if the dishes and homework are done. Ryan has chores like setting the table and taking care of our pets that earns him an allowance each week. It helps him learn responsibility and get a little spending money. Each night before bed there is quiet reading time to help everyone settle in for the evening.

We are experienced parents who are active in our son's life, and with children in the neighborhood schools and community. While our weekdays are very structured, on weekends it's not uncommon to find a half dozen neighbor kids at our house.

For several years Ryan has been part of a Destination Imagination (DI) team, which is a STEM program designed to teach children the creative thinking skills and teamwork they need to be successful. His group of seven boys and girls meets 1-2 times a week at our house for 6-9 months each year to build their amazing machines. Last year they built a complex wooden motorized machine that carried one of the girls 14 feet; they got 2nd place in the region and 4th in the world. It is a great organization that we are thrilled to support and participate in.



Ryan and the other kids learn so much from Thomas and Greg (the head coach), who help them learn how to use the woodworking tools in our shop. I also work with the team on instant challenges, which are short teamwork-building exercises that help them see and solve problems differently. I think the skills Thomas and I have learned dealing with the DI team will help prepare us for the addition of another child to our family.

For three years I co-chaired the Adler Carnival, an old-fashioned carnival at the elementary school, complete with a cake-walk, fishing game and more than 30 other games for elementary school children. Our elementary school offers a refreshing mix of old-fashioned

fun like the carnival, combined with great access to technology (every 5th grader has their own ipad and chromebook for class). Since Ryan moved into middle school this year, I co-chaired our neighborhood black party last summer. I like to stay involved with the kids in our community.

Thomas and I want to give back. We both have loving mothers (and I have an amazing Dad too) and together we believe our family can make a huge difference in the life of a child. We want to share our family traditions and make new ones that reflect the family this child was born into.

Thomas and I both have one sister, and we remain very close. It is our hope that Ryan and our adopted child will grow to have a close, life-long bond. Ryan has grown up effectively an only child in our home and is excited about having a little brother or sister. We have a lot of love, affection and attention to offer a child and, if we are chosen to parent a waiting child, she will be so cherished and protected. We understand that there will be challenges, but we have a strong support network and the financial resources to get whatever help we need.

We believe that somewhere out there is a little girl that we are meant to be "Mom" and "Dad" to. Every night I pray for our daughter, wherever she is, and hope that she is safe and somehow knows that we are looking for her. We know that it won't be easy, but neither of us have had things handed to us so we will work hard to earn our daughter's trust and love. We will do everything we can to help her overcome the losses she has faced, and she will grow up loved and safe.

[Click Here to see the Tanzer Family Profile](#)

Search Options Available to MAP Families

What is a Child Matching Event?

A Child Matching Event features children that are waiting for a forever family through an online webinar. Social workers have the ability to present children that are on their caseload to an audience of home study approved families. During the event social workers present 4-7 minutes of information about a child and families have the ability to ask questions about the featured children to better see if that child would be a good fit for their family.

What is a Family Matching Event?

A Family Matching Event features families that are home study approved and looking to add to their family through an online webinar. Workers listen in and can ask questions via the AFFEC staffer. This format allows the family to talk about their family members and activities, explain what resources are available to them in their community and what supports they have established and to talk about training and specialized knowledge. A knowledgeable AFFEC staffer guides the discussion so the flow is smooth and comfortable. Think of it as having an afternoon tea with a very good friend who wants to hear all about you!

What is the difference between a child matching event and a family matching event?

A Child Matching Event feature children that are looking for a forever family. Social workers pre-register as a presenter with the AFFEC recruitment coordinator and present children on their caseload to an audience of home study approved families.

A Family Matching Event features families that pre-register with the AFFEC recruitment coordinator. At a Family Matching Event any social worker can register to see if any of the featured families could potentially be a good fit for their children.

2017 Matching Events Calendar

Stay Connected



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