

Sarah



Dear Birth Mother,

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my profile. My name is Sarah and I am a single 34 year-old. I have one recently adopted African American daughter, Rayna.

Back in elementary school, I remember knowing that I wanted to have kids. I didn't know when or how that was going to happen, but I knew I loved kids and I always looked forward to having my own. Twenty-five years later, I still didn't know when or how it was going to happen, but I knew that I wanted nothing more than to have the opportunity to raise a child. I decided to apply to an adoption agency to adopt a newborn. I waited anxiously and in December 2010, I finally received the news that I had been matched with a birth mother.

My life has changed dramatically since Rayna came to live with me. I love her so much and can't imagine it any other way! Things are going very well and I am looking forward to Rayna having a younger sister or brother! Rayna is one of the happiest babies ever! She hardly ever cries - instead she makes a little grunting noise when she wants something. She likes to eat, smile, and play with her toys. She received lots of clothes and toys as gifts which she can't wait to share. Everyone who meets her, loves her sweet smile right away. While I am at work, my mom watches her two days a week and she goes to my friend's house on the other days - there are two other kids there for her to play with. I am able to work from home some days which is nice because then she can stay home with me.

I realize that when you made the very difficult decision to put your child up for adoption, you may have not planned on placing him/her with a single person, but I hope you are able to look past that detail. I always assumed I would be married by the time I was 30. That didn't happen. I don't know if it will ever happen. I am particular about who I get close to and I have not been lucky enough to find a man who I want to spend the rest of my life with. I am hopeful that will still happen, but if not, I know I will be lucky enough to share my life with two beautiful children.

I grew up in the Midwest with a younger sister and brother. I have lived in the same area my entire life. After I graduated from high school, I went to college at a nearby university. I got a Bachelor of Business degree in Accounting. After college, I moved away from campus and back to the town where I grew up. It's a small town which is consistently ranked as one of the top places to live in the country based on economic opportunities, good schools, safe streets, things to do, and a sense of community. It is a suburb of a larger city that offers many diverse, cultural activities and events. I am currently the Accounting and Finance Manager at a small healthcare clinic near my home. I have been there for seven years and enjoy it.

The schools in this area are great. I live very close to four elementary schools. We have open enrollment, so I will be able to choose which one I like best. I know several parents whose children have gone to each and I plan on talking to them to find out the advantages and disadvantages. The middle school and high school are also very close. The middle and high school are the same schools I attended. At the time I didn't appreciate them as much as I should have, but I now realize that both the educational and extracurricular opportunities are excellent.

My parents live about twenty-five minutes away from me and are very excited about me adopting again. They know how much I enjoy being around kids and they are both eager to help out when I need it. My dad is recently retired after being the president of a large financial institution for most of his life. My mom works part-time in customer service. My mom and dad both love babysitting Rayna - they are always looking forward to their next turn. My sister and brother-in-law live less than a mile away and recently had their first baby. We are very excited that we live so close and that the kids are close in age.

My sister is a nurse and has worked in pediatrics for the last eight years. She plans to return to work part-time and help out with my kids when necessary. My brother is still in college and lives about two hours away. He enjoys his role as the "cool uncle" and is very sweet and gentle with Rayna. He has always enjoyed playing with younger kids and occasionally babysat for our neighbor's kids when he was younger.

Besides my parents, I have a set of grandparents, six aunts and uncles and many cousins. Most of them live in the same state, but some are scattered across the country. It's hard for everyone to get together at the same time, but gatherings take place several times a year - Christmas, weddings, babies, etc. There are already lots of kids and another new addition to the family would be welcome by all!

My friends and co-workers are also excited about me adopting a second child. I have several friends who have children who I know I can go to for help and advice. A co-worker recently adopted a newborn daughter into her family and a friend of mine adopted a brother and sister several years ago. I look forward to both of them helping me out with issues related to adoption and transracial parenting. I am very much looking forward to learning, with my children, more about cultures and ethnicities different from my own.

I tend to be a quiet and reserved person. I generally keep to myself until I begin to feel comfortable with a person or situation and then I begin to open up. My friends are extremely important to me and once I get attached to someone, I usually have a friend for life. I think I'm a pretty funny person, but some people don't always understand my sense of humor or it may take them awhile before they are able to figure it out. I have always been a responsible and organized person and I value that trait in myself and others.

I like to read, play board games, do puzzles, work in the yard, and I enjoy leading an active life. Seven years ago I signed up to do a 105 mile bike ride as a fundraiser. The first thing I did was buy a bike.....while I had not previously been a very active person at all, the ride made me realize that I really enjoyed cycling a lot. During this time, I was also surrounded by other healthy people who spent a lot of time exercising. This made me wonder if I could do some of the things they had done. In the fall, I signed up to participate in my first Ironman triathlon which would be held a year later. I didn't know how to swim and could barely run half a mile and yet I signed up to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and run 26 miles. I definitely had some work to do! In the last six years I have completed the Ironman race four times and have also done numerous shorter triathlons and running events. I found that I really enjoy pushing my body and competing against myself in these events. However, I reached the point where I am no longer interested in spending so much of my time training – I have greatly enjoyed putting my time and efforts into my family life. While I will always lead an active life, I am exercising on a more relaxed and healthy schedule.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider me as an adoptive parent. I appreciate it very much and am very grateful. I wish you the best during your decision making process.

*Sarah*



# ME



This is me in front of a wall in Dublin, Ireland on a trip I took two years ago with my sister and brother-in-law.



Me with a friend after finishing one of the five 105 mile fundraiser bike rides I did in the last few years.



This is me (on the right) with a friend at the end of a Muddy Buddy race. Muddy Buddy is a bike and run relay race with obstacles. The last obstacle is crawling through a mud pit. Messy, but fun!



Mile 80 of 140 on Ironman day.

Me with my cousin's little boy.



Having fun with a couple friends.....



Getting ready to go skydiving -  
I won't be doing that again!



Me, Dopey, and my sister at Disney.



# RAYNA - BIG SISTER







**Happy  
Girl!**







Having fun swimming,  
going for a bike ride,  
and swinging in the  
backyard! (And getting  
ready for Christmas.)





# MORE FAMILY



Me, my dad, sister, brother-in-law, mom, and brother at my sister's wedding.



Me with my cousin's baby.



My grandma showing off her fork.



Another thumb's up - this one from my brother who's having a healthy breakfast of brownies on the first day of school.





Me, my brother-in-law, and my sister before a triathlon.



My sister, cousin, and her son.



My sister, me, and my brother at a wedding.



My sister and me on vacation.



# HOME



We recently moved to new house. It is in a quiet neighborhood with a lot of other kids.

The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, and dining area on the first floor. The basement is large with an additional bedroom and bathroom, a family room, and a movie/exercise room. The family room is a large room that has been taken over by toys but there is still a lot of space for another baby!



We were lucky enough to move into a house with a play structure already in the backyard. I have a baby swing to attach in the spring.

# NEIGHBORHOOD

Within walking distance from my house, there are several parks with play structures, basketball courts, and baseball and soccer fields.







There's a public library a few blocks away, and a brand new "splash park".



Nature trails with bike and walking paths are also very close, and there's a zoo about 10 miles away.







Thanks again for taking the time to review my profile and considering me as a parent for your child.

*Sarah*

