

Promise me you'll always remember:
you're **braver** than you believe,
and **stronger** than you seem,
and **smarter** than you think.

AA Milne, Winnie the Pooh



To Someone Special,

Hi! How are you? I know we haven't met yet, but even though I don't know you, I know I already like you because I respect what you are doing. I know you must be feeling a million things at once. So I just want you to know that I'm thinking about you and sending sunny thoughts your way because you are the first hero in your child's life.

You are doing the hard part by bringing him or her into the world. I would be so grateful if you gave me the honor of raising your child. I give you my solemn promise that I will give him or her a lifetime of unconditional love, nurturing, support, security and guidance, not to mention lots of happiness, hugs and laughter.

I've wanted children all my life, but couldn't, and have waited to adopt until I knew I was financially independent and could provide him or her with a great life.

I will protect your child with my life and make sure he or she knows every single day what a light of joy they are. Every night I will tuck them in, sing a little song and be forever grateful that you gave me this opportunity to raise a child. They will have wonderful educational opportunities, lots of friends and family and will know that their presence in this world was very much wanted and welcome, both by you and me.

~ *Stephanie*



About Me

My friends and family would describe me as sweet, patient, loving, outgoing and warm. (I asked them because I feel funny talking about myself!)

I like to laugh and can be kind of silly sometimes. Folks say they can recognize my laugh across the room. I truly believe that attitude is a choice and I choose to be happy and upbeat. I see life as a wonderful gift and I try to appreciate it every day. I'm pretty outgoing and love to meet new people as well as keep my old friends. Like in parenting, you can't always fix things for other people, but you can be a steady, loyal force and be there for people when they need you.



Hiking in New Zealand



Boating with friends

With my friend's daughter Charlotte



MY FAVORITE...

Things to do – Canoeing down a river enjoying the scenery, and going to a Broadway show.

Holiday – Christmas because of our strong family traditions, but Easter is also special because we always have egg hunts before church, then a family brunch afterwards.

Ice cream flavor – Peppermint
Game – I love playing Pictionary with a group of friends.

Vacation spot – I love to travel so it's hard to pick just one, but New Zealand stands out. When my child gets older, we will travel together.

Hidden talent- I played drums in the school band and later took an African drumming class and loved it.

Children's book - For little ones, I love *Good Night Moon*. When they get a little older I will definitely read to them *Charlotte's Web*, *Little Women*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Little House on the Prairie* and many, many more.

Most importantly, I adore children. I love to talk to them about what's going on in their lives and listen to them talk about what they think. I think children have a wonderful, innocent wisdom and I will always try to protect that. My friend's 9 year old son told me that he thought I'd be a great mom, which was about the best compliment I think I ever received!

On a biking trip



I work in marketing and public relations and have the flexibility to work from home. My work, along with income from the farm and rental property I own, means I will always have a solid and diverse source of income in order to give my child a great life.

I have a wide range of interests. I love cultural events such as the symphony, plays and art museums, but I also love to go to the rodeo every year! Plus, I enjoy sporting events and can't wait to take my child to a baseball game. I like outdoor activities too like hiking, camping, white water rafting and more. I also love to read. I am in a book club with several great women, several of whom are moms who have adopted and are offering me great advice.

I collect childrens' books and will read to my child all the time. I love to play board games, catch, tag and all the fun things you do outside with kids. I was always the aunt who was on the floor playing with my nieces and nephews. Plus, I love to do crafts with them including making and painting Christmas ornaments, making gingerbread houses, dying Easter eggs and lots more.

My home

I live in the suburbs of a mid-sized city. I own a cute house in a great school district with a big backyard and two playgrounds in walking distance. I also own a farm with my sister in my hometown about 2.5 hours away. We have a house there too with lots of open space to run and play, so we can have the best of both worlds.

My city is a great place for children and most things are designed with families in mind. There are lots of great schools and parks, a wonderful zoo, fun places to explore like The Magic House, The Science Center, The City Museum, a circus and lots and lots more. I take my friends' kids to do fun things all the time and for awhile was a Big Sister in the Big Brother/Big Sister program. I want to give my child lots of opportunities to learn things and have fun.



Me at the beautiful park in walking distance from my house



Our farm is a wonderful place for a child to explore





My mom and me

My mom and dad



Growing up...

I grew up in a small town in southeastern Missouri, so I'm part Midwestern/part Southern. We were very blessed to have had a wonderful childhood. I was very close to both my parents. They were two of the nicest, sweetest, most loving people I've ever known. They had a great marriage and I never heard them say a cross word to each other. I learned by watching them how to create a loving, calm and happy home life.

My mom was a true southern lady. She had a great sense of style and elegance and was a wonderful hostess. She loved to have dinner parties and entertain family and friends. She taught me how to play the piano and was my Brownie Scout troop leader. We played tennis, went shopping and enjoyed being together.

I was also a "Daddy's girl." He was a great man, who was kind, friendly and gracious to everyone. As a little girl, he would read me a story every night and sing this special little song to me until I fell asleep. We would sit and have long talks and he really helped me develop self-assurance and confidence. While I knew he loved me unconditionally, he also taught me to be self reliant and independent. I really appreciate those lessons.

I've had several great people in my life. One was our housekeeper, Polly, who was like a second mother to me. I'd hang out in the kitchen where she taught me how to cook biscuits and make chicken and dumplings. We would enjoy each other's company and sing and laugh! She is really an angel on earth and we're working on writing a cookbook together.

I had a cocker spaniel dog named Freckles and a cat named Purr that I loved. I will definitely get my child a dog or cat (or both!) if they want one.

I went to college and earned a degree in Journalism, and also have a Master's degree in International Business. I spent a semester in London when in college and was lucky enough to work in the ABC News bureau in London and tour all over Europe. I also worked one summer as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C. I've lived in New York and San Francisco, but now love being settled in the Midwest and spending time at home with friends and family.



With my "second mother" Polly

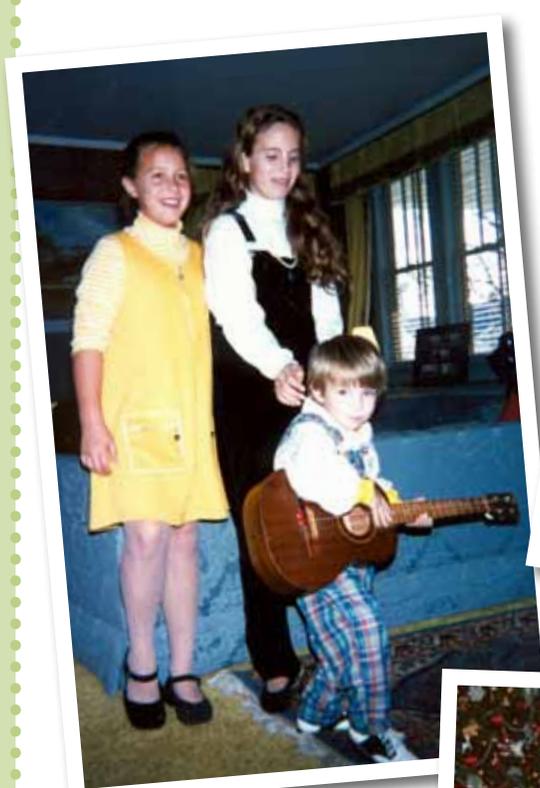
*With my niece Catharine
at my graduation*



Meet my Family & Friends...

I'm fortunate to have a great family and lots of friends. My sister, Tricia, has three kids I adore – Sarah, Catharine and Josh. They will make great cousins for my child and are very excited about this adoption. These kids are great role models and will love and spoil a baby. My nephew is a great soccer player, so he'll have fun kicking a ball around with a little girl or boy. I had birthday parties for both my nieces at my house when they were younger and took my nephew to Disney World one year as his Christmas gift.

I have lots of good friends with kids so my child will grow up with many friends. I love to have people over for get-togethers and barbecues and I will make sure my child will always have people in their life who love them and make them feel special.



Catharine, Sarah, and Josh



My dad with my nieces



With my cousins at Christmas



*My friend Gary is like
a brother to me*

With Bob



I also have several very nice male friends and relatives who will be wonderful role models. I have dated a man named Bob for the last several years. He is a geology professor at a local university and very smart. He is great with kids and as a teacher, loves to show them new things. He will always be a wonderful friend and great helper.

My great brother-in-law, nephew, male cousins, friends and neighbors will all enjoy teaching my child and playing sports, building things and all those great “guy” things.

FIVE THINGS I WILL TEACH A CHILD...

Unconditional love - First and foremost, I will show my child that he or she is loved, no matter what.

Communication - I want my child to know that they can always talk to me and we will solve any problem together. By listening and encouraging, I will teach him or her self-confidence.

Respect- Not only do I want to raise a child with a strong sense of self worth, but one who is kind and tender, with compassion for all kinds of people, especially the less fortunate.

Enjoy the Outdoors- I will teach them how to swim, swing a bat, serve a tennis ball, canoe, ride a horse and put up a tent. I will show them the joy of a sunset, and to appreciate nature in all its glorious beauty.

Faith - I will teach the peace and fulfillment that comes from a relationship with God, pride in their country, community involvement, and the satisfaction of knowing they tried to be the best they can be.



My nieces' birthday party at my house

The Kind of Parent I Will Be

I will expose my child to a wide range of activities such as music, sports, art, scouting, camping, etc. to see what he or she likes. If they like something and want to pursue it – I will support them. If not, I won't force anything because I think kids should enjoy their childhood and get to use their imagination and play.

They may want to grow up to be a doctor, a musician, a farmer or something in between. Anything is fine with me. I will give them the support, love and educational abilities they need to have a full, fun and interesting life and to make their own dreams come true.

I will also raise my child in a warm, friendly and nurturing church environment. I have always found church welcoming and peaceful. I will make sure they are always surrounded by warm and loving people who help them feel good about themselves and discover all the nice things in this world.

I will always put my child first. His or her needs will be more important than my own. I've had a great, full life and the only thing missing is a child. I have a heart full of love and happiness and want to give a child a wonderful life with lots of opportunities. But I do believe in setting boundaries with love. I think manners are very important and will teach a child to be polite, responsible and caring so when they grow up they can function well in the world and be a good parent themselves.





My Promise to You...

I absolutely promise you that I will love your child with my whole heart and give them a childhood that is special and memorable. I will make sure that when they grow up they will have wonderful memories of a home filled with laughter, love and song.

But most importantly, I promise you that every day they will know they are loved and wanted and special. I think a child is the most precious thing in the world. They will also know as much about you as you want them to, and I will always tell them that their birthmother is a hero who gave them an opportunity at a wonderful life!

Thank you very much for taking the time to read about me. If you have any more questions, I'm happy to talk to you at any time if you'd like to chat.

With love,
Stephanie