



Shawn

Abra

Job Description:

8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

8th Grade Science Teacher

Education:

Bachelors of Arts in
Elementary Education (K-8)
Special Education (K-12)
Masters Degree in
Educational Administration

Bachelors of Arts in
Elementary Education (K-8)
Special Education (K-12)
Early Childhood Education (Pre-K, K)
Masters Degree in Early Childhood
Intervention Specialist

Favorites:

Family Activity
Camping

Family Activity
Sundays at Grandma's House

Holiday Tradition
Family Meals

Holiday Tradition
Putting Up the Christmas Tree

Sport to Play
Golf

Sport to Play
Basketball

Subject in School
History

Subject in School
Math

Dessert
Pumpkin Pie

Dessert
Cheesecake

Children:

None

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What Makes Us Unique as a Couple

Something that makes us unique as a couple is our occupations. Not only are we in the same district, but we teach in the same middle school. As a matter of fact, we teach across the hallway from each other. Shawn teaches 8th grade language arts, and Abra teaches 8th grade science. We joke with our students and tell them that if they have the both of us for class they received a bad schedule! It is great working with each other and we love the age of the students we work with at the middle school. We love to dress up for Halloween with matching outfits. Last year, we were a scarecrow and Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. Along with working together, we also have the same holidays, summer months, and snow days off of work together. We will be able to spend the holidays, summer months, and snow days together as a family. We do not have to plan around schedules or days off. We enjoy spending time together and we never get tired of each other.

We love to spend time together, but we also love to give our time to the kids in our community. The two of us coach basketball, volleyball, and track for our school district. Although we enjoy spending this time with students in our school district, we are both planning to take time away from coaching as our family grows! We spend time with the kids in our community through the sports we coach. We also enjoy setting up the telescopes for the middle school's Astronomy Club. During this event, fifty to sixty students will meet at the football field in the evenings to learn about the constellations and the stars.

What Led Us to Choose Adoption to Build Our Family

After years of trying to get pregnant the natural way, we decided to go to a fertility specialist. The stress of the many procedures and tests were just too much for the two of us. After many tears and prayers, we decided that although our dream of having a family in the natural way may not happen, we still want to have a family. We chose adoption because it gives us an opportunity to fulfill our dream of having a family. We believe that, through adoption, our home may be filled with dirty diapers, toys, laughs, and sleepless nights. We can't wait to have a child we can love and raise in our home. We are excited to read bed time stories, play catch, and take nature walks. We know that the plan God has for us has brought us to the decision to adopt a child. We are excited to begin the adoption process and are looking forward to this time in our lives!

Our House and Neighborhood



Four years ago, we built our dream home with a family in mind. Our house has plenty of outside space as it sits on a one acre lot. It is a one story ranch home with three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. It has an open floor plan so we can do dishes and spend time with our family. We have a spacious family room in the basement which can be filled with toys or used to play games. We also have an unfinished portion that can be made into whatever our family needs as it grows. Our neighborhood is currently being developed as new families build their dream homes. Our neighborhood is filled with young couples with children. On any given afternoon the road in front of our house can be filled with bikes, strollers or sometimes even horses and goats.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Camping at a Local Campground

We love our community because of its rural and farm setting. It gives us the safety and slow pace life that only a small town can offer. With the annual County Fair, Rib Burn Off at the small airport, and holiday and school parades, we are part of a close community. Our community offers a YMCA, the Community Pool, and a local state park lake for family fun. Our community school is rated as a Highly Effective School District. The elementary, middle, and high schools are located on the same street near our public library. Along with the small town qualities, we still live in driving distance of larger towns that provide other resources, activities, and opportunities for our family.

Our Extended Families

Shawn's Family: Although my parents divorced at an early age, my family has grown and remained close throughout my whole life. Because my mom and step dad live fifteen minutes from our home, we visit with them often. My mom is excited to help baby sit on her days off. My dad and step-mom live about an hour from us. I have a large extended family of four brothers, Scott, Ryan, Raymond, and Zach and one sister, Jill. Ryan is stationed in a Navy Base in Florida with his son Cameron. Although my family is spread out, we take time to get together throughout the year at many family cookouts, camping trips, and holiday gatherings. Between the food cooked by my mom, step-mom, and Abra, we always have plenty of food to enjoy as we spend time together. Our family is always having lots of fun with each other, from water fights in the summer, playing games like Apple to Apples, and gathering around the television to cheer on The Steelers.



Family Cookout at Shawn's Parents

Abra's Family: My mother and father have been married for 31 years and still live on the 230 acre family farm. I have two younger brothers, Jabin and Cody. Jabin is married and lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Gretchen, who is finishing her internship as a doctor. Cody is a junior in college studying music. My parents' farm is 45 minutes away and they are excited for us to start a family. My mother has volunteered to baby sit on her days off. God has also blessed me by still having two grandmas and one grandpap. My grandma Helen still cooks Sunday and holiday dinners for our entire family, which includes aunts, uncles, cousins, and their children. Because we are so close to one another we cannot tell who is on my dad's or mom's side of the family. Our annual family reunion is held every year on the same Saturday in July at a local lake.



With Abra's Family for Her Brother's Birthday Pizza Party

Our family is one of the things that mean the most to us in our lives. Every Sunday after church we spend the afternoon eating and laughing at Grandma's house. We spend time with our cousin's children playing hide and seek and DINOSAURS. It is important to us to catch up on school and what is going on in their everyday lives. During these afternoons with dishwashing, football games playing, and children laughing, we are enjoying some of our best family moments. In addition to our weekly visits, our family loves to get together for other special occasions. In the summer, we have our annual family reunions and vacations.

Favorite Vacation Spots



Vacation at Holden Beach, North Carolina

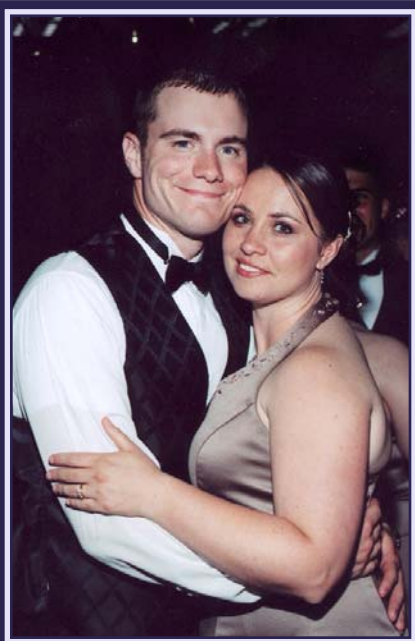
Vacations and family trips give us many fantastic family memories to last a lifetime. Our family enjoys visiting many different places together. We definitely love to vacation at the beach. Two of our favorite vacation spots are the Outer Banks and Holden Beach in North Carolina. We enjoy soaking up the sun, walking on the sand dunes, collecting sea shells, and visiting aquariums full of sea life. We have many "intense" games of bocce ball on the beach. At night, we laugh and eat while playing card and board games. We also like to take our flashlights out on the beach at night as the kids chase crabs across the sand. These places give us the opportunities to enjoy a week of relaxation with our friends and family.



On the Fishing Boat in North Beach



With Our Little Cousins at a Family Gathering



Dancing at Abra's Brother's Wedding

Shawn & Abra



Our Middle School's Trip to the White House



Sledding at a Friend's House



Fishing on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland with Family

Dear Birthparent(s),

We want to thank you for taking the time to read our letter and profile. Words cannot express our desire to become loving and supportive parents. Through our profile we hope that we have shown a vision of the life we want to provide to a child. With love, laughs, and memories we hope to build a family. Through adoption, our dream of becoming parents can be fulfilled. We know that the excitement and anticipation we are overjoyed with may not be the same feelings you are experiencing. The selfless decision you are considering shows us how much you are thinking and caring about your child. We cannot ever begin to understand the difficulty of the consideration of the decision of adoption. We hope to give you some comfort and peace in showing the loving and caring family we will provide for your child.

We were introduced by a close friend in college and we have been together ever since. We know that the reason we have been so happy and content is because God put us together. We have shared the same dreams of graduating from college, getting married, finding steady jobs, and building a home. The only dream left to fill is the one of having a family. The struggle with infertility has brought us closer together and we appreciate our family even more. Our marriage grows stronger every day and we know that God has a plan for us through adoption.

One of the activities that we like to do for fun is skiing in the mountains of Pennsylvania. We love to spend time with our family on the slopes of the ski resort during the days. We always have our share of laughs and falls as we try to ski or snowboard down the slopes. We also take time to throw a few snowballs at each other. During the evenings, we enjoy spending time with each other around the living room with a fire going in the fireplace.

Bringing a child into our family is exciting for the both of us and our extended families too. Both of our mothers are eagerly planning the days they will be able to babysit and spend time with the child. We look forward to planning birthday parties, holiday gatherings, play dates, and trips to the local lake. We look forward to including the child in our everyday lives with trips to Grandma's house for Sunday dinners, reading stories, playing games, and just giving hugs and kisses. We promise to provide your child with an education rich in both academics and extra activities of your child's choice. We promise to encourage and support your child in whatever he or she wants to accomplish. It is our hope to raise this child with a strong Christian faith and family values. We promise your child will know he or she is loved and supported every day.

We believe that education begins in the home. Education is one of our passions and it is what we do for our careers. We believe that we can teach many skills through reading stories and playing games. The child will attend the public school system in which we teach and work. We will encourage the child to extend his/her education in the field of their interests as he/she grows older. We will encourage the child to seek education beyond high school such as achieving a college degree. We will support the child in every way to continue his/her education. There will always be an importance placed on education in our home. We believe that education will help the child to be successful in his/her adult life.

Your courage and bravery of considering adoption displays your love and devotion to your child. If we are chosen as the adoptive family for your child, we promise to tell the child of your courage. We will express that you made a tough decision that was made in love. We promise to send you letters and pictures once a month for as long as you would be open to receiving them. We will update you on monthly happenings in the child's life. We promise that we will love, nurture, and support your child throughout his or her life. Thank you again for your time in reading about our family.

Sincerely,

Shawn and Abra

