

House & Neighborhood, (continued)



Playing Outside in Our Yard

Our community is small, but also not far from the major city in our area. We have a park and playground, a community recreation center with a kid-friendly pool area, and lots of shops and restaurants just up the street from us. It's really convenient to find things to do together as a family. Our neighbors are very friendly and kind, and our neighborhood has several young families with children. As for schools, Elizabeth is enrolled in the preschool at our parish. We plan on giving all our kids a Catholic education.

Our Extended Families

Shawn comes from a very large, close-knit family – he's actually the youngest of ten kids! His parents, Don and Mary, have been together for over fifty years, and his nine brothers and sisters (Laura, Paul, Dave, Jeanette, Linda, Karen, Cheryl, Don, and Jenny) are all married with children of their own. Lizzie and Gwen love spending time with their cousins. We're lucky that Shawn's family lives close by, and that we get to spend a lot of time with them. We go out to eat, visit the zoo, and take vacations with his siblings and their kids. Having such a large family also makes the holidays fun (and very loud!). At the family's Christmas Eve celebration, one of Shawn's nephews dresses up as Santa Claus and passes out presents to all the little kids.

Lisa's side of the family is much smaller (and quieter!). Her mom, Sharon, and dad, Jim, have been married for over thirty years and live in a wonderful community only five minutes away from our home. Lisa and her younger sister, Jennifer, were very close growing up and still like to spend time together. Lizzie and Gwen are the only grandchildren on this side of the family, so Lisa's family absolutely adores them. We both work full-time, but Grandma and Papa help out by watching the kids during the day (and completely spoiling them). The girls love spending time with their grandparents and often request to go visit on the weekends, too!

Our families really have the best of both worlds – lots of cousins to laugh and play with on Shawn's side, and lots of personal attention and spoiling on Lisa's side. We are excited to welcome a new child into our loving, wonderful family!



Shawn's Parents with Our Nieces and Nephews



Lisa's Mom and Dad Holding Gwen

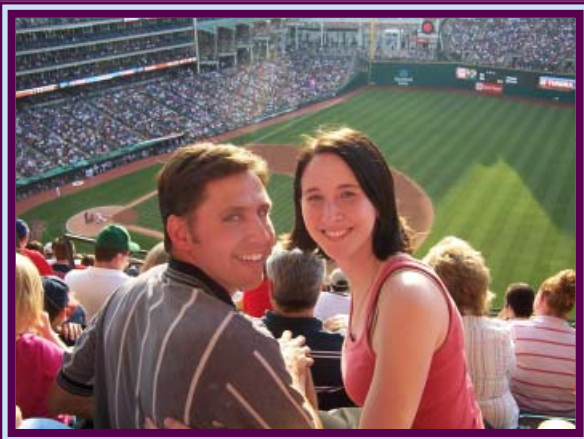
What Being Parents Means To Us



Playing in Our Living Room

Even though we're already a family of four, we want even more kids running around the house! That's because we love being parents and we adore our girls. Lizzie and Gwen bring so much joy into our lives. We love seeing them grow into smart, thoughtful, independent people and sharing our lives with them. Lisa's passionate about books and movies so she makes it a point to read to the girls every night and to share different types of movies and stories with them. Shawn is friendly and outgoing, and he has passed on his love of life to our children as well.

Together, we travel, go to the zoo, visit the botanical gardens, the art museum, the park, take walks, or spend time at the library. We both place a big emphasis on education, creativity, open-mindedness, and generosity, and we try to pass on these values to our children. We're Roman Catholic, so sharing our faith, going to church, and praying as a family are very important to us, too.



A Sunny Day at a Baseball Game



Hanging Out Downtown



In Front of Our Home

Shawn & Lisa



With an M&M in Las Vegas



Sightseeing at Hoover Dam



Lizzie & Gwen Playing

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. As you can see, adoption has been a huge blessing for us. We've been married for eight years, but have never been able to conceive children naturally. Because of two very special families like yours, we were able to become parents and to experience all the joys and trials of raising two beautiful, sweet, and delightful little girls. We will be forever grateful that Elizabeth and Gwendolyn's families chose us to be their parents.

The fact that we've already adopted two children probably makes us somewhat different from other families you've seen. It's also one of the things that makes us special. With us, your child will get two amazing and loving big sisters to go through life with, who also share in the experience of being adopted. Your child will have two devoted parents, who already love their children more than anything. Your child will have a large, wonderful, warm extended family. And, if you're open to it, your child can also have a special relationship with you.

Our daughters will make wonderful big sisters. They already have a special bond with each other that's been growing since the day Gwen came home. The two of them love to laugh and hug each other and spend lots of times playing together. We know they would love a new sibling to join their little club. It's our hope that our children will always be the best of friends, and that they will be able to lean on each other in the future.

Being parents is our greatest joy, but we also love being a couple. Anyone who knows us will tell you how crazy in love we are. We admire, respect, and adore each other so much. We have similar backgrounds and values, but we also compliment each other in different ways. Even when we've gone through tough times, we've always relied on each other to make it through and come out stronger, happier, and more in love.

Our life together is pretty amazing, but also very fun and nerdy at the same time. We make our own family Halloween costumes every year (last time, we went as the Scooby Doo gang) and we always go overboard decorating for our children's birthday parties (this year's theme will be mermaids!). There are so many things we love doing together and that we dream of in the future. We're thrilled to have another child become part of our family.

We can't promise you that we'll never make mistakes, but we can promise that we will always love our children unconditionally. We will help them grow into happy, healthy, thoughtful, faithful, and intelligent people and give them every advantage that we possibly can. That is our ultimate goal as parents.

Even though we've never met, we want you to know how much we admire and respect your choice to make an adoption plan for your child. We understand how difficult this must be for you and how important this decision is. Though we watched both our daughters' families go through this same process, we'll never really know what it's like to be in your shoes. All we can do is offer you our support and encouragement and the promise that we would love your child with all our hearts – just as much as you already love him or her.

Blessings,

Shawn and Lisa

