

Dear Expectant Parents



Thank you for taking a moment to see my profile book! This book was made with love! Many family members and friends contributed time and energy to help me showcase my family as authentically as possible. It is truly an honor to be a part of your journey if only for a moment.

I am adopting because I want to expand my family and provide a secure and loving home for a child in need. Becoming a single-parent-by-choice has been the most rewarding experience of my life. While I have always envisioned having two children, career priorities led me to delay pregnancy to a later age. Having another biological child is no longer realistic for me however I view adoption as an opportunity to have a positive impact on the life of a child in need as well as their birth parents. I believe I have created a home where a child can grow, learn, and develop into a happy and loved individual. Also, my son has a good and caring heart and is excited at the chance of being a big brother.

My adoption values are based on the following:

1. A child has the right to know their roots,
2. A child has the right to grow up in a stable and secure home where they can enjoy being a kid, and
3. Expectant mom/parents have the right to know their child is safe, well cared for, and loved.

With these values in mind, I believe in a **semi-open adoption** that can change and adapt based on the needs of the child and your desire for openness. Social media and technology have enabled us to stay connected across life circumstances, and I will use these tools to maintain a spirit of openness with you. I hope my profile book conveys to you our peaceful, fun, and warm life in pictures, words, and videos.



About

DEANNA

I am a university professor and a single parent by choice. I enjoy teaching biology, exploring cities, and sharing new experiences with friends and family. I would describe myself as disciplined, reflective, organized, patient, and kind. I have dedicated my life to learning, teaching and personal growth.

Becoming a single parent by choice has been the most rewarding experience of my life and has reaffirmed my dedication to learning, care for others, and growth. I strongly believe that the home is a place of rest, comfort, joy, empathy and safety. By creating this foundation, it is my hope to create an environment where my children can learn and discover what inspires them. I hope the home that I create serves as a touchstone for my children's lives as they explore fearlessly into their future.





I earned my PhD in ecology and teach biology courses at a university. Most of my fieldwork involves mentoring students on their research projects. I enjoy helping them think through the scientific process and making research findings.



As a university professor and scientist, I really enjoy talking to the public about the natural world. I am an expert in insects and how they interact with the environment. Here, I am teaching kids about ants and how they help flowers grow.





Working in the field as
well as the lab



TAKING

IN THE

Sights



I enjoy planning birthday parties that little children and adults can enjoy. For Eden's 3rd birthday, I asked him what his favorite color was and decorated the party with that color in mind, and asked my family to wear the party colors. There was a bouncy play area, games, and yummy foods for everyone. It was a lot of fun!



I like to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone. Many years ago, learning to fly a hang glider was one of my biggest challenges and meaningful accomplishments. I took my first solo flight back in 2015 and flew for a few years before shifting my energy to parenting.





ABOUT EDEN



Sneak Peek: Underwater Swimming



Eden gazing out at the neighborhood with Auntie Erin's dog, Bronx.

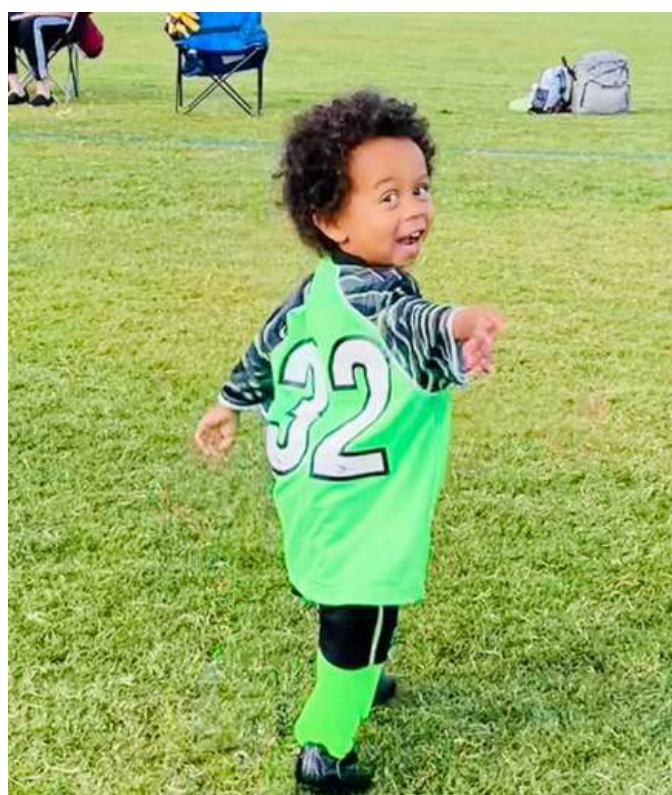


Eden enjoying a good swing at the park.

Eden is my only child and the joy in my heart. He is a curious, happy, and fun-loving child. He loves visiting the aquarium to see the penguins and spending time with his grandparents, aunt and uncle. While I am working, he goes to a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited child care center where he has made many friends and developed close relationships with his teachers. From his school experience, he has become more thoughtful and takes joy in being a helper. It is my hope that Eden can grow up with a sibling and develop additional healthy bonds.



We started a home garden where we have grown veggies and flowers. Eden was very proud of his harvest of peppers and cucumbers. Currently, we are growing a pollinator garden and enjoy watching bees, butterflies, ants, and birds visit the flowers.



We tried parent and child soccer for a season! I played soccer throughout my childhood and through college, so I was excited for the chance to play with my son. Eden loved running, but was not a fan of kicking the ball. Oh well! Perhaps when he's older we'll revisit



Sneak Peek: Sensory Jars



Eden LOVES singing 'Happy Birthday'. His face lights up whenever he hears people sing the song. For his fourth birthday, he requested airplanes and the color red. I set up a backyard party with yard games and flying-themed decorations. I even dressed up as an airline stewardess!



our

EXTENDED FAMILY



PENN Center family vacation

We have a wonderful supportive network of family and friends. My parents are retired and healthy. My dad was a university program director and my mom was an attorney. They enjoy traveling, staying active in their church community, and spending time with Eden.



Eden and Auntie Erin



Family support at Anthony's dissertation defense

I am the oldest of three children. My sister is a physical therapist and my brother is a science advisor. My brother's fiance works in real estate. Our family values hard work, education, and discipline. We also enjoy family vacations to the beach and mountains!



Eden and Uncle Anthony



MORE
family
PICTURES





A LITTLE BIT
MORE

family



Sneak Peek



about

KIYOSHI

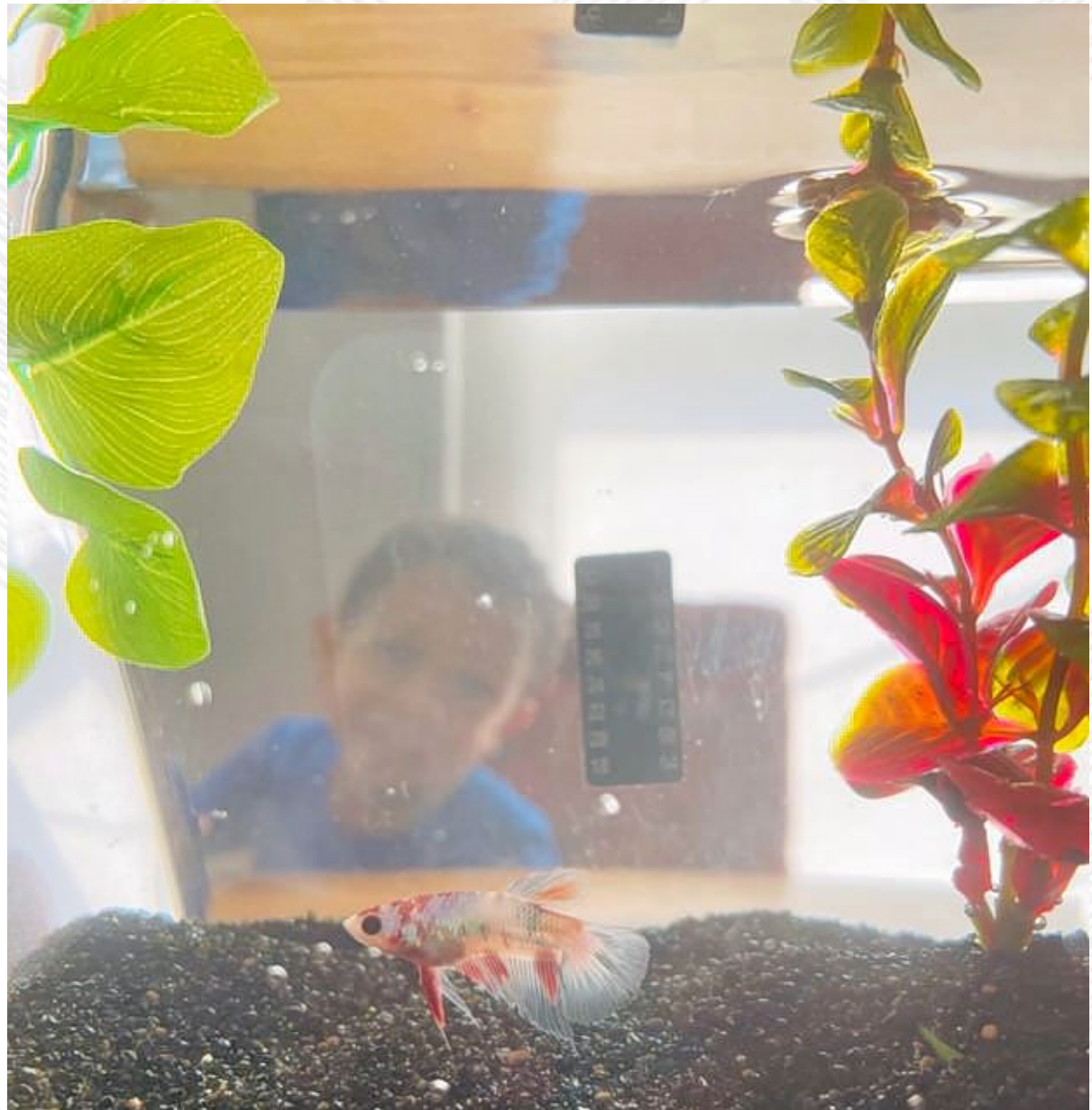
We have one cat named Kiyoshi. I rescued her while I was in graduate school, so she's been with me for over 12 years. The name Kiyoshi is Japanese and means "quiet". When I first got her, she was small and underweight. She could barely make a sound. I'm a fan of anime shows, so I wanted to give her a name that reflected the culture of something I enjoy. She is very patient with Eden.



about

NEMO

We recently got a rainbow betta fish. Eden loves visiting the aquarium and so I thought it would be nice to bring a little bit of the aquarium home. It was Eden's idea to name him Nemo. He enjoys feeding Nemo and watching him swim around. He's a lovely addition to our home!



Our Home & Neighborhood

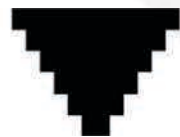


Our cozy home is located in a small neighborhood tucked away in a cul-de-sac. A number of our neighbors have small children, and it is a wonderful place for children to play safely. Our backyard has plenty of space for Eden's outdoor toys. Our friends and family can relax on our deck or patio. My favorite part of our home are the large windows that let in warm natural light. We are a short drive to downtown, so we visit the aquarium, children's museum and new restaurants as often as we can.





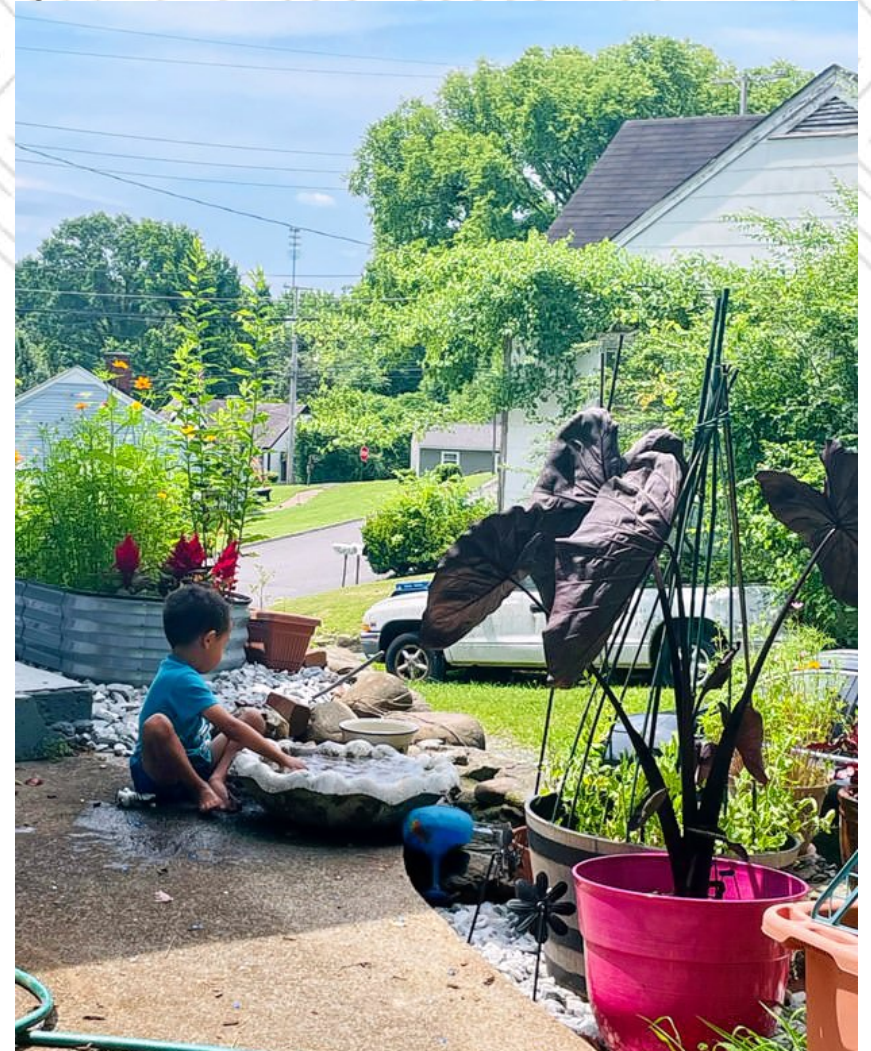
Creating Memories





I hosted Eden's 4th birthday party at our home. The children loved the yard games and music. After they ate cake and sang happy birthday, the kids went into the house to watch Paw Patrol in the living room. I loved watching him form bonds with his friends.

This past spring I installed a pollinator garden by our kitchen. It's been such a joy watching the flowers come in and observing the different pollinators that come to visit. Eden is currently fascinated by animals, so the garden has become an enriching space for exploration.



I love hosting the family for Christmas at our home. I set up a Christmas tree and place decorations throughout the house. Now that Eden's is older, we started a tradition of picking out a new ornament to place on the tree. This past year, he selected a scuba diving Santa from our beach vacation.





My goal is to enrich the lives of my children by allowing them to explore the world around them. I plan weekend outings for Eden such as trips to the aquarium and children's museum, which he enjoys immensely. We also travel in and out of the state. My ultimate goal is to travel internationally with my children to expose them to different cultures.




FRIENDS

OUR





FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR FAMILY

 I studied Tai Chi for over ten years and now teach classes at an adult education center.


 One of our family traditions is Sunday Funday where I make a sweet treat for us to enjoy. I've made cinnamon rolls, chocolate muffins (Eden's favorite), and nutella sandwiches!

 We have family roots in Charleston, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Raleigh, NC. We enjoy visiting whenever we can!

 I love art and enjoy going with my friends to an annual art festival to buy nice prints for the home. I tend to be drawn to mother and child inspired art and animals.

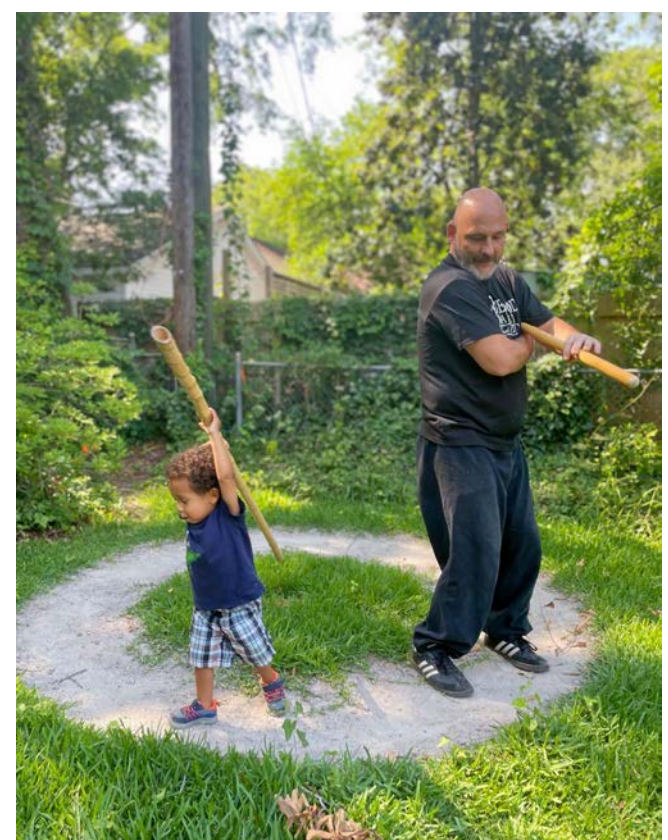
 I enjoy anime! Favorites include Bleach, Dr. Stone NEW WORLD, Barakamon, Natsume's Book of Friends, Black Clover, Frieren: Beyond Journey's End, The Apothecary Diaries, and Scavengers Reign.

 I'm an Atlanta Braves fan!

 My favorite sports tournaments are March Madness (college basketball) and World Cup soccer.

 Eden's favorite movie is The Croods. His favorite animals are dinosaurs. His favorite book is The Noise Inside Boys.

 Eden enjoys learning how to swim and gymnastics.





Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to see our profile! I believe our home and family have more love and care to give. My parenting approach is inspired by the words of the late Elijah E. Cummings:

“Our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see...so, we want to send them to that future healthy, strong, vibrant, and with their destinies in their own control.”



Sneak Peek

With Gratitude,
DeAnna



