

The Children of My Dreams

A Toddler Girl

Julie said, “We both wanted a girl. From there, we began a journey of trusting our instincts. I’d always liked toddlers and was thinking about an older child, so we thought we’d ask for a twelve- to twenty-four-month-old. That gave us primarily Russia and China.”

Two Infants Who Have Contact with Birth Parents in the United States

Natalie said, “We decided on an open, domestic adoption. The most important thing for us was that our children know as much as possible about their birth parents. We also wanted to know as much as possible about our daughters’ medical history.”

Two Older Girls from U.S. Foster Care

Maureen said, “We knew from the get-go we wanted to have a large family. My husband and I actually met in a residential treatment center. I was the recreation therapist and he was a childcare worker in charge of the more aggressive adolescent males. He was a gentle giant with a big heart. We both knew we could work with special needs kids.”

A Five-year-old Boy from Kazakhstan

Lorie said, “I’m single and I have a career. I’m on the go a lot, so from the beginning I knew I wanted an older child. I also wanted to meet the child first, to make sure we connected. After a year of searching the Internet for waiting children, another adoptive mom told me about Kidsave, which brings children to the United States from abroad, and arranges for them to spend six weeks with potential adoptive families.”

your choices can have. Your decisions about your child’s age, ethnicity, and health will determine which adoption agencies you will work with, and whether you choose domestic or international adoption. Once you have answers to the questions in this chapter, you will be in an excellent position to decide on the best agency for your family. You will also be ready to respond to questionable “sales pitches” for adoptable children who might not be right for you and your family. And speaking of sales, a word about money. Adoption can be expensive, but prices vary widely—from state governments paying you to parent a child from foster care, to your spending many thousands of dollars in domestic adoption. But even in private U.S. adoptions, there are different types of adoption to fit many budgets.