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Ryan, Katie & Asa

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# Dear Mama,

It's so nice to "meet" you! Thank you for looking through our profile. We're honored to be sharing our story with you. We would love the opportunity to meet you and hear yours too as we hope to have another open adoption. Should you choose us to be the parents of your baby, we promise to make their best interest our top priority.

We don't want to assume what you're thinking, where you're coming from, or how this experience makes you feel. However, please know that, even though we haven't met, we're thinking of you, respect you, and we are praying for you.

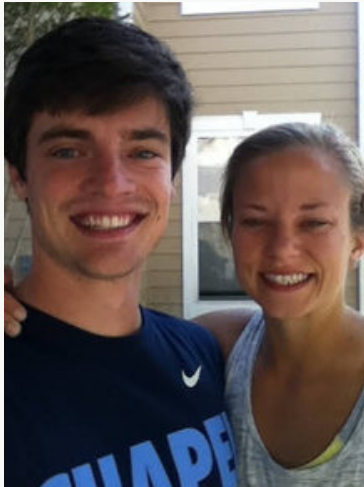
Our prayer is that this profile helps you learn more about our family as you make this decision. You are seen, known, and loved. We would be honored to step into the role of parents for your baby. With love,

*Ryan, Katie and Asa*



# Our Story

Ryan and I met on the school bus in our awkward middle school years. We got engaged on Christmas Eve in 2013 and married the next year. We've been married just over nine years and through the ups and downs, have become more committed to God and each other.



# Our heart for Adoption

Katie has wanted to adopt since she was a little girl. We started talking about adoption while dating. By the time we were engaged, we knew this was something we wanted to do. When we felt ready to start a family, we prayed with open hands about adoption and having biological children. We felt God leading us to adopt in numerous ways.

Then, just over three years ago, we adopted our son, Asa. He has such a sweet, fun personality and is a light to everyone he meets. We love being his Mommy and Daddy, and he's so excited to be a big brother!

Shortly after Asa was born we felt God calling us to adopt again. We've followed Him in that, and are honored to be growing our family through a second adoption.

We currently have an open adoption with Asa's birth parents. Although we haven't met them yet, we send letters with updates and recent photos to them regularly. We pray for and speak highly of them daily. We talk to Asa about his birth parents' favorite things, hobbies, and sing on their birthdays. He loves to read a book we made about how we anticipated his arrival and met him at the hospital. We will honor and respect you in all conversations and only share your story with your child. We will always love you and your child will also know how much you love them.



# Meet Ryan

## Through Katie's Eyes

I love watching and playing sports with Asa, running in the park near our house, having long conversations with friends, trying new recipes, reading good books, and studying the Bible. I love being a dad. It's a responsibility I take very seriously. I'll show your child unconditional love by showing lots of patience, listening to their feelings, and being fully engaged in their life. I'll be home to cook them dinner, read bedtime stories, and be their biggest fan!

At work, I help develop neighborhoods that will become homes for families like ours. I love my job because I get to make new friends and talk to people every day. It also gives me a lot of flexibility to be home and spend time with Katie and Asa. It's really important to me to be present for them. I'm already praying for you and your child and will do my best to show them the love that God shows us!

"Ryan is so thoughtful, patient and is my best friend. He speaks the truth, is quick to admit when he's wrong, and asks for forgiveness when he is. Ryan's a wonderful, involved dad. I already know he will be a wonderful example and positive influence in your baby's life. Ryan plays t-rex and wrestles on the floor with Asa, and also loves including him in making the most delicious meals. Ryan makes sure everyone feels heard and special. I just love him so much."



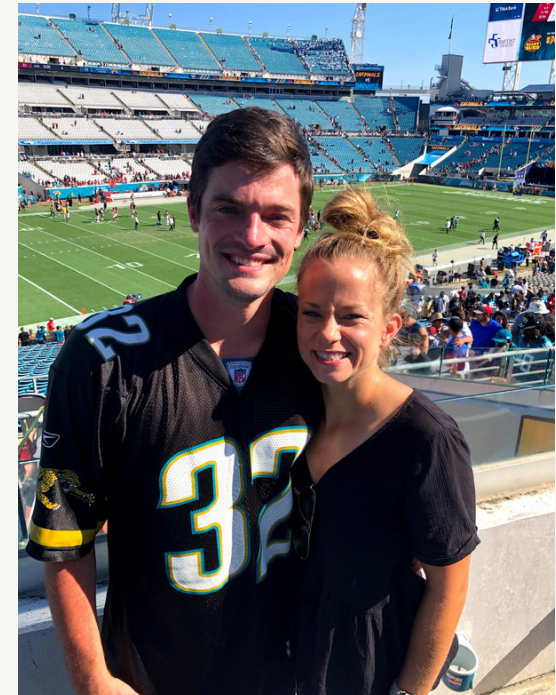
# Meet Katie

## Through Ryan's Eyes

In my free time, I can be found going for a walk with Ryan, playing in the yard with Asa, or hanging out with friends. You also might find me relaxing at home by watching TV or reading a book. I enjoy being around people but I need some quiet time to re-energize. My favorite place is anywhere by the water and in the sunshine. I enjoy walks by the local lakes, playing in the pool with Asa, and finding shark teeth on the beach.

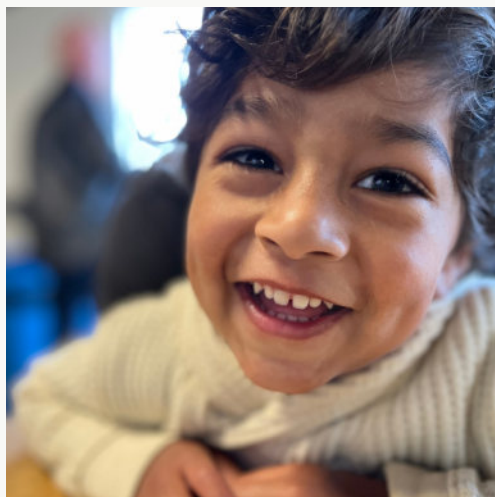
I have always loved kids and wanted to be a mom! As a teacher, I work with small groups of elementary school children struggling to keep up with reading or math in class. I love supporting children in their academic growth and seeing them gain confidence as they master new concepts. Teaching part-time also allows me to spend two days during the week at home with Asa! I'm excited for another child to join us doing all the fun things like play-dates, baseball in the backyard, and swim lessons. But the most important thing I want you to know about our family is that your child will be loved unconditionally.

"Katie is the real deal! She's the sweetest, most thoughtful, and encouraging person I know. She is always smiling and has the most amazing, infectious laugh. I love the way she looks at Asa with tender eyes full of love and can't wait to see her look at your child the same way! She's the mom who always goes the extra mile with a snack ready, activity planned, and lots of hugs to give. She'll make sure your baby knows how loved and precious they are every day."



# Meet Asa!

Asa is a very active, observant, inquisitive three-year-old. He loves playing outside, driving remote-controlled monster trucks, chasing our small dog (Ellerbe) in the backyard, and going for a “run” around our neighborhood to see his friends. He loves people, playing chase or hide-and-seek, and is always ready to eat ice cream. Asa enjoys cuddling on the couch while watching dinosaur shows and being together as a family around the dinner table. He spends two days per week at a wonderful daycare with friends and teachers he loves. He also goes to a church preschool for a half-day each week. The rest of his time is spent with Mommy, Daddy, and grandparents or family. Asa is encouraging, patient, and persistent. He’s excited to be a big brother and teach his little brother or sister all about baseball, monster trucks, dinosaurs, and Magna-tiles. Lately, he’s been waking up most mornings asking, “Is baby coming today?” and is ready to share milk, books, and cuddles with them.





# Ellerbe

Our Furry Friend



Ellerbe is our six-year-old Goldendoodle that lives for fetch, ear rubs, running around the neighborhood and eating crumbs off the floor around Asa's highchair. Ellerbe is very quiet, calm, and cuddly. She wakes up slowly in the morning, can take a nap anywhere, and loves to relax on the back deck in the sun after playing fetch. Ellerbe could have been named "Shadow" because she stays close by. She'll love having another high chair to clean up around!



# Katie's family

Your child's adoptive grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all live within an hour of us. Most of them are within 20 minutes! Both of our parents still live in our hometown an hour away, but Katie's parents plan to retire and move closer within the next year. Katie's brothers both live in the same city as us, one of whom is married and has two boys. His oldest is 6 months younger than Asa and they are best friends! Our youngest nephew is 6 months old and will surely be fast friends with your child. Asa loved getting to sit on the couch and hold him when he was little and now he feels that he knows all about taking care of babies.



# Ryan's family

Ryan's parents live down the street from Katie's, in the same house he grew up in. His mom is a music teacher and has already started lessons with Asa! Ryan's brother lives 20 minutes away with his wife, and is one of Ryan's closest friends. His sister also lives in the area and is about to start nursing school. With everyone so close, we gather together multiple times each month to go out for dinner, watch football, and celebrate birthdays or holidays.



# Holidays, Traditions, and Celebrations



We love to celebrate birthdays and holidays with family and friends. We start each year by thinking through the past year together and making goals to develop a few new habits in the new year. Ryan's family goes to the lake for a long weekend every year on July 4th and one of his best friends has started joining us. It's such a fun tradition of swimming, boat rides, and fireworks.

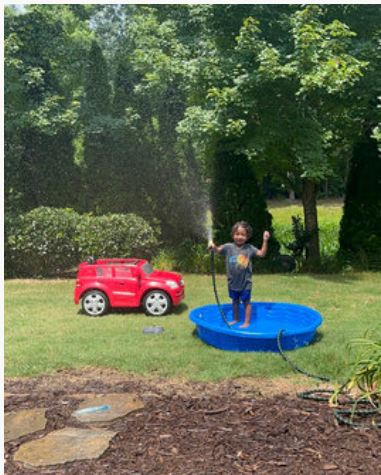
Because our parents live down the street from each other, we get to celebrate Christmas Day twice each year! We spend Christmas morning with Katie's family and then walk down the street for Christmas dinner with Ryan's family.

This year, Asa loved spotting Santa in the decorations, seeing all the lights, singing songs, and putting ornaments on our tree. He also loved talking about Jesus and enjoyed reading stories about His life. It was so fun watching him begin to understand the meaning of Christmas this year!



# Life With Us

As a family, we prioritize being outside, active, and together. Life with little ones is always busy and that means we have lots of opportunities to connect and have fun. We love exploring new places and trying new things but have also developed family routines and traditions. Most mornings Asa likes helping Ryan make coffee and then the two of them will sit on the couch together while Ryan reads the Bible before work. On Friday nights we typically invite friends or family over and order pizza. On the weekends we love walks in the neighborhood, hiking in the woods, playing football or baseball in the backyard, going to church, and cooking great meals. We're so grateful that Katie works part-time and Ryan's job allows him to work from home two days a week. Because Asa's grandmothers live close by and love spending time with him, he only goes to daycare two days a week. We feel that it provides him with the perfect balance of time with Mommy and Daddy, family, and friends.



# Our Family Adventures

We love making special memories together and take multiple trips a year with our families. In the summer, we spend many weekends boating on the lake and relaxing on the beach. We like to stay up late, wake up early, and soak up the sun. We also go skiing every winter in the North Carolina or West Virginia mountains. A couple of years ago, we even flew out to Wyoming for some really great snow! Between summer and winter, we enjoy traveling to see the National Parks, visiting friends in other cities, and exploring new places. We recently started a family tradition of taking a long weekend trip somewhere nearby over Memorial Day, just the three of us. We're excited to start taking trips as a family of four soon!



# Friendships

We're also grateful to have lots of friends who have so many little ones now. Asa always has someone to play with at the pool, chase in the backyard, and climb at a playground with. He also loves to attend their birthday parties. Many of our friends have recently had babies so your child will have lots of friends their age too! They'll also have our closest friends as extra aunts and uncles, who can't wait to help love and care for them.



# Our Home

We've lived in this area for over ten years now but moved into our current home last year. It's at the end of a long street on a cul-de-sac, and we love playing in the fenced-in backyard! We spend lots of time playing with monster trucks and building with Magna-tiles in the living room. We also love to be cuddled up on the couch watching TV and reading books.

Our neighbors are super fun and friendly. It is a mix of young families like ours and empty-nesters who have been in the neighborhood for 30 years. It's full of sidewalks where families enjoy walking and are always ready to stop and talk when we see them. Our neighborhood is next to a state park that we love hiking through together. We enjoy having our church close by along with friends, the pool, library, playgrounds, great schools, and a minor league baseball team. It's a wonderful place to live, and we look forward to welcoming your child to our home!





# The Nursery

The nursery is painted a dark green called Courtyard. I picked this color because I love bold, dark, and sleepy colors in the bedrooms. We have photos set up to show who is already praying for you and your baby. I teach reading so we have lots of children's books! Asa has some books that he loves on the shelves in the nursery. He is eager to share them with a sibling.

His favorites are his little bible, a book all about his adoption, books about trash trucks and dinosaurs, and a black and white book for babies. We will spend lots of time on the comfy rug for tummy time and read books together in the rocking chair. We have a matching teddy bear set for you and your baby. We think that will be a sweet, cozy way to make your connection tangible. We'd also love to put a photo of you in the room if you'd like! In the nursery, we'll pray for you together and remind your baby of who you are and all of your favorite things.



# What We Value as a Family

→ We value people and experiences more than things, listening over talking, and being quicker to apologize than to blame someone else. Our relationship with Jesus shows us how to love each other and our neighbors well.

→ Ryan strives to be an intentional father and starts most days by making coffee, reading the Bible, and praying. He leads our family by listening, being present with Asa, finding moments to reflect on scripture as a family, and guiding us in prayer. He's also silly and playful, and is always ready to join Asa in throwing the football or playing a new game he made up that day.

→ Katie is full of love and care for our family and others. Her passion is early childhood development, and it was amazing to see her teaching and engaging Asa from the very first day of his life. She loves sitting on the floor playing with him, holding him while reading a book, singing songs with him, and playing counting games. She's an incredible mother, and I'm so excited that we get to welcome another child into this family together!

→ In the past year, we've begun practicing a "Sabbath" on Sunday. That means eating breakfast together, putting away our phones for the day, and going to church. Then we spend the rest of the day connecting with family and friends, going for walks, taking naps, or making a fire pit in the backyard. It's become an important time to slow down, refocus on what's important, and recharge from the long week. It's a family tradition that adds joy to our lives and we can't wait to share it with your child!

→ We sing "Jesus Loves Me" and "Silent Night" every day, regularly read a children's Bible with Asa, and do activities to remember Jesus throughout the year (Easter, Advent, Christmas, etc.).

# Our Sentiments

Thank you again for looking through our profile. Please know we have been praying for you and your baby every day, and think of you so often. We can't imagine all of the things you're feeling, but we pray you feel loved and seen through this process because you are. We look forward to meeting you one day, if you wish. Your baby is beautifully and wonderfully made, just like you are!

Even though we haven't met, we love you.

*Ryan, Katie & Asa*



*Thank you for considering our family!*

Ryan, Katie & Asa