

**Hello! We're the Friedland
Family.**

Nice to meet you!

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We are a home study-approved family of two in Indianapolis: a 38-year-old marketing executive and foster and adoptive mom, and Jack, a five-year-old ball of energy. We became a family through the gift of an open adoption via foster care, and we're ready to grow again.



But before you learn about us...

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But before you learn more about us, I want to say that I have immense respect for your position. I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to weigh your options and decide if you'd like to parent or place your child with a forever family through adoption -- and I'm sure the number of potential adoptive families to choose from is overwhelming. We have a fantastic open adoption relationship with Jack's birth family (mom, dad, and extended family), and we are so happy they are all part of our lives. If you're interested in an open adoption, we would be thrilled to grow our family not only by adding your baby, but you and your extended family as well. Of course, if you prefer to have a closed or semi-open adoption, we will respect and honor that as well.

No matter what you choose, I hope you know just how strong and brave you are, mama!

Our Family Journey

My motherhood journey began when I was 33 years old. I hadn't yet met Mr. Right and I wanted to start a family on my own. After months of training, I became a licensed foster parent and shortly after welcomed my first placement: a beautiful baby girl. Motherhood was hard (the sleepless nights!), but I loved it! Baby Girl was eventually reunited with family, and I continued fostering -- since then, I've fostered 14 beautiful babies and one amazing teen.

Jack was my fifth foster placement. I was on a business trip in Chicago when I got a phone call from a caseworker; she said there was a four-month-old baby boy who needed a home, and I immediately said yes! At the time, his case plan was to be reunified with family, so I thought he would be with me temporarily. As the months went on, his case plan was changed to adoption and I was thrilled to yes again to being his forever Mommy. His adoption was finalized in May of 2019 when he was 2.

While I'm single, we have a huge support network that loves Jack immensely -- and they're eager to watch our family grow, too! We have loads of cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and friends (some with kids and some without) who are a constant in his life. In fact, they sometimes argue over who gets to babysit Jack! We have amazing male family members and friends to provide a stable, healthy, male relationship with Jack and any future children. Eventually, I do hope to find a partner and get married, and of course finding a man who loves my children as much as me is key.

Being Jack's Mommy is the greatest joy I've ever known, and I can't wait to welcome another little one to our family and give both children the gift of having a sibling to experience the ups and downs of life with.

All About Jack

Jack is Mr. Popular! He's very talkative and has never met a stranger -- he'll happily chat up anyone around us. He's outgoing, friendly, and happy 99% of the time. Strangers will literally stop us when we're out and about and say, "Is he always that happy?!"

He loves trucks, puppies (we don't have one yet, but he loves to pet the dogs we meet outside), books, building with blocks, coloring and painting, and playing outside -- especially if it involves digging in the dirt, mowing the lawn (he has a pretend lawn mower) or washing his toy trucks with the gardening hose. He's super smart, full of energy, and so affectionate and loving. He likes to carry his Baby around and pretend to change his diaper and feed him. I know he'll make a loving brother!



All About Elizabeth

I've worked in marketing and public relations for 15+ years. After college at Indiana University, I moved to New York City to work in PR for a time before returning to Indianapolis. (I still love and miss New York!) My job allows me the flexibility to work from home or adjust my hours to meet the needs of Jack (and my future children). I love my career, and I hope I'm being a good role model to Jack in showing him that getting an education and working hard in life can be fun and rewarding.

I love to write, read (I devour a book every few weeks) and travel. My favorite trips have been Paris (I ate my way through the city!) and the Southwest (particularly Arizona and Utah -- it's so gorgeous to go hiking through the canyons). I have a weakness for Bravo TV reality shows, any kind of cookie or chocolate treat, and massages. (If there was a way I could get a massage while watching The Real Housewives AND eating cookies, I'd be in heaven.) I love all kinds of music, from pop to country to indie rock to rap. I probably listen to indie rock the most, but I love Taylor Swift. (I think I know every lyric to every song she's ever written.)

I'm Christian, though I want to encourage my children to learn about faiths from all over the world and make a decision on what speaks to their heart. I believe faith is a very personal choice that I don't want to push or force on anyone. We believe Black Lives Matter, and everyone should be treated with dignity, respect, and equal rights no matter their ethnicity, skin color, religion, or sexual orientation.

I consider myself an optimist and idealist; I prefer to look for the best in people and I love to volunteer my time. I currently teach a class the state men's prison, and though it might sound strange, it's such a high point of my week! I led the inmates through courses that help them learn from their mistakes and plan a healthy, happy, successful future.

Our Open Adoption

We have an open adoption with his birth parents and his three biological brothers. We see them monthly and they often include extended birth family members (aunts, cousins, grandparents) in the visit, which we love. His birth mother and I message each other frequently and share photos, videos, and stories. I am a huge supporter of Jack knowing his birth family, understanding how much they love him, and including them in his life as much as possible.

We would welcome another open adoption!



Family Life

Above all, we like to laugh! I want to make Jack's childhood as magical as possible. That doesn't mean buying the fanciest toys or going on the fanciest vacations necessarily, but rather I try to find joy, fun, wonder, and magic in what we do.

A typical weekend for us might include attending "Forest School" on Saturday morning, a play group that meets in the park. We explore the woods, hike down to the creek and splash around, climb fallen tree logs and have a picnic with our friends before heading home. It's a great way for little ones to enjoy the magic and wonder of the outdoors and discover new plants, animals, and surroundings. Or we might go to the Children's Museum (Indianapolis is home to the largest children's museum in the world!) and play around in the countless exhibits. We might decide to go for a swim (we belong to a country club with both an indoor and outdoor pool, so we can splash year-round and we also take swim lessons), head to the zoo, or hit up a special festival in town like the State Fair or the weekly farmer's market. We also have some family-friendly restaurants in our neighborhood we like to frequent for lunch or dinner. It's a great way to practice table manners while giving Mommy a break from cooking! (I'm not the world's best cook, but I try!) Jack also plays soccer with a group of 3 and 4 year olds.

Our Home and Child Care Plan

I chose our home specifically for its kid-friendly layout and space to grow our family. It's a 4-bedroom home with an enormous fenced-in backyard with a wooded area and loads of open space to play, and deck -- perfect for exploring and playing! We have a family room where we hang out, play, and watch TV; a formal living room to entertain; a big, open kitchen; a dining area just off the open kitchen; an attached, two-car garage; and an office where I work from home. I take up one bedroom (and have my own bathroom), Jack has his own bedroom, and there's a nursery for our future baby. There are two additional bathrooms available.

We live in beautiful neighborhood with lots of lush trees and quiet, winding roads -- it's not uncommon to see deer in our front yard even though we're just 5 minutes from a hip part of town called Broad Ripple, 5 minutes from upscale shopping at Keystone at the Crossing, and 20 minutes to the heart of downtown Indianapolis.

Jack's school is just a few miles down the road -- and it's also where I went as a child, so it's great to be back.

I work from home as a marketing director for a big, global company. We use a nanny during the summer for Jack, and would use a nanny for the baby as well so that he/she can stay home with me while I also get some work done. Our nanny is a former special ed kindergarten teacher -- she's amazing!



My whole world -- we can't wait to grow it!



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Jack playing in the backyard with our neighbor friend, and Jack at the farm -- we love to visit there!



We're always making each other laugh!



Jack helping with our garden, and playing in the pool!



My mom visits multiple times a week. Jack loves his Grandma time!



We have a large network of family and friends who are so excited for our family to grow.



Getting messy, feeding the birds at the Zoo, and cooling off at the pool



Pretending to be “Super Jack,” playing on a farm with chickens, and celebrating Adoption Day!



Playing at the park, doing a little gardening, and swinging!



Playing guitar, eating ice cream with Grandma, and Mommy and Jack



Jack and Mommy being silly, and celebrating Adoption Day with Grandma!



Some of Elizabeth's travels to Paris, the Grand Canyon, and Utah. We can't wait for family vacations!