

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER WAITING FAMILY

Maria



I can't begin to imagine how you are feeling right now, the many complicated emotions you are experiencing. I am certain that this is the most difficult decision you have ever made and is not one you came to lightly. It is only through your courage and strength that you have chosen this path for your child. Adoption has always been my first choice as to how I wish to create my family. My wish is for my child to know their heritage and birthparents and I would hope that mutual correspondences would continue throughout the child's life, not just in the early years. However, I also respect if birthparents have a different preference and desire less contact.

I reside and work in the same community I grew up in. My neighborhood is very diverse and accepting of all different kinds of people. It is known for being a great place to raise a family and our school district is very highly ranked. I own a nice home in a quiet neighborhood that is within a few minutes of a vibrant downtown, shopping, restaurants, parks, museums and activities for families and children.

I live with my two dogs, a chihuahua, Belle, and pug, Missy. I am the oldest of three children, and have a younger brother and sister who live nearby. My parents have been married for 35 years and I see them every Sunday afternoon for weekly family dinners. Another grandchild would be a welcome addition to this family tradition.

I am a 5th grade teacher. Education and working with children are in my blood and an integral part of my identity. These lessons were modeled for me early in life as my mother is also a teacher. Even as a very young child, my mom instilled a love of books in me, reading to me all the time. I plan to do the same with my own child. I can't wait for the day when my own child is a student at the school I teach at. It will be indescribably special to have them so close during the day.

My greatest strength as an elementary school teacher is my relationship with my students and my ability to connect with them emotionally. In addition to the students I teach, I also enjoy spending time with my close friends' children and have taken on the title and role of honorary "auntie" to many of them. I have been in their lives since their births, and have participated in all of their birthday celebrations and many other important occasions. I am looking forward to cultivating this same relationship with my nephew, who just celebrated his first birthday, as he grows.

Thank you for considering me to be the person you will entrust with your greatest gift. It would be the highest honor to shape a young mind and help guide them down their chosen path as they learn and grow throughout the years.

About Maria

- **Age:** 34 years old
- **Work:** 5th Grade School Teacher
- **Food:** Bacon Cheeseburgers, Steak, Sushi
- **Favorite Authors:** Anything by Jodi Picoult and Mary Higgins Clark
- **Music:** Country
- **Hobbies:** Reading, Journaling, Writing Poetry, Biking, Yoga
- **Favorite Childhood Memory:** Anytime I got to hang out at grandma's house
- **Place I Want to Visit:** France
- **Fun Fact:** My ancestors are from Egypt
- **Most Admirable Quality:** Compassion, my heart drives every decision I make
- **Most Memorable Quotes:**
 - "Be who you are and say how you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." -Dr. Seuss
 - "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." -Plato
 - "Don't judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins." -Sharon Creech
- **Things I can't wait to do with my child:** Experience the world through their eyes, find the extraordinary in everyday moments