



It was Colin's charm and sense of humor that caught Nicole's eye, and Nicole won Colin's heart with her down- to-earth presence and warm smile. More than 15 years later, we still have those same feelings for each other, and continue to discover new things to love. We got married in 2007, and consider ourselves so blessed to have found someone that shares the same dreams for our family. We both love surprises, from bringing home a treat from the grocery store, to planning a birthday get-away.

**But the best surprise** thus far has been adopting our daughter, Ava, in July of 2015. While we had always planned and dreamed of adopting children, the surprise came in a phone call from Sunrise. And it was just one short week later that she was born, and we brought our baby girl home. We are so excited to grow our family, and we have so much love to give. Ava would be an excellent big sister. She loves to interact with anyone, especially kids. We both come from large families, and family is very important to us.

There is a strong and special bond knowing that no matter what, we'll always be there for each other. We were absolutely thrilled to welcome Ava into our family, and we would consider ourselves extremely blessed to be able to adopt again. We know there are many great things to come in our future, and we hope that includes welcoming another child into our family, one who we would fully embrace and love unconditionally.

"Colin is the kind of person everyone likes to be around. He's an easy going, warm, and funny guy. Friendly to anyone and everyone he talks to, Colin enjoys making people laugh. Full of gratitude and love, he has a big heart,

and likes to do anything he can to help others. I always

knew Colin would slide into fatherhood so easily. He has always shown a genuine love for kids, and they're drawn to his enthusiasm and positive attitude. Colin is a playful, affectionate, caring, and a compassionate dad; he takes interest in anything that our daughter does. He loves to read with her, play cars, take her for walks, and tuck her in bed at night. It warms my heart to see how much he adores her. He is so good telling and showing her how much he loves her." – Nicole

"Nicole is a genuine, compassionate, and considerate person. Her thoughtfulness for others is always evident whether it's buying a small gift for someone or sending an encouraging message. She is a very intentional listener, with a sweet tooth, and a generous

heart. She has the ability to make me smile whenever I look at her, and can make me laugh like no one else. I love seeing Nicole interact with Ava as she is so engaged with whatever she is doing or feeling. She really enjoys singing with Ava, and she loves to include actions too. Being a great mother is a passion of Nicole's and she embraces her role with open arms. Our family is so fortunate to have her love, devotion, and patience." – Colin





We recently bought our first home, and we have been enjoying making it our own. We have loved exploring our new community, putting down roots, and settling in. We have lots of family and friends who live nearby, and we love to hang out with them and host get togethers. We can definitely appreciate a warm sunny day at the beach, or spending time camping. We also really enjoy being at home, reading magazines and watching TV together in our down time. We have a bunch of nieces and nephews, who we enjoy babysitting, and planning fun games, crafts, and scavenger hunts. We've been lucky enough to go on many holidays with both sides of our families, often renting a lake house in the summer to share. These are some of our all-time favorite memories of swimming, games, yummy food, obstacle courses, late night movies, and lots of laughs.

Nicole has been very fortunate to be able to stay at home, and take care of our daughter while Colin works. She would continue to do so with another child as well. It has been an absolute joy to spend so much time with her, and watch her learn and grow. We enjoy going for walks, going to the community center and water park, hanging out with friends and family, and just being at home where crayons, puzzles, and books never go out of style. In her own time, Nicole likes to tap into her creative side, and usually has some sort of little project on the go. She enjoys painting furniture, hunting for treasures at the thrift store, baking cookies... and eating cookies.



Colin is an elementary school teacher who is living out his dream job. He loves being in a school environment, is full of energy and has a strong sense of community. He takes a special interest in his students' lives, is passionate about learning, and is involved in the school's athletics. While he loves his job, nothing beats coming home to his girls. No matter how busy his day was, he never runs short of energy. In his spare time, he really enjoys playing hockey, going for a bike ride, and watching a good movie. (He's always on the hunt for a good movie.) Colin is always up for a group game and is probably the one leading it.

## Adoption is plan A for us,

it is how we have always envisioned building our family. It is important to us that our children are proud of their birth story, and know where they came from. We have an open relationship with Ava's birth parents; we appreciate them, and they are a very important piece of our puzzle. We think it would be great if Ava and her future sibling could bond over their adoption stories, and relate to each other in a way not many can understand. We will respect your wishes on openness and would love the opportunity to talk to you about them.

We want our children to feel safe, to have a great sense of belonging, and to know they are loved unconditionally.

