



# Hello FROM DENVER, COLORADO! I'M MARY



It's wonderful to have

**THIS OPPORTUNITY  
TO MEET YOU!**



HIKING IN  
COLORADO

I'm a  
**PROFESSOR OF  
COMMUNICATION**  
at a university.

➤ I GREW UP IN A SMALL TOWN IN CONNECTICUT WITH MY FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER AND SISTER.

**I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I DID NOT WANT TO BE A MOTHER** – either playing with dolls as a child, taking care of my younger sister as a teenager, or as a foster parent as an adult. Being a mother will be the greatest experience in my life and in return I will shower a child with love, support, and guidance and help them to live the most full and interesting life possible.

My great hope is that this is the first of many times I have the opportunity to share life experiences with you and that I will also get the opportunity to learn so much more about you. Although we are starting out as strangers to each other, **I hope that this book that I've put together will give you a little insight into who I am, what I value and find meaningful in life and most importantly, what your child's life might look like with me.**

# GET TO KNOW MY VALUES AND HOBBIES

**Values:** The most important thing for me in life is to be kind and caring. This is a value instilled in me by my parents and it is something that I also want to teach a child. I think that in a world that can be full of hardship and suffering, **there is no greater action we can take than to offer love, support and generosity to others.**

**Hobbies:** I'm learning how to play the saxophone, which I have wanted to play all of my life. I told my father about this desire a few years ago and he surprised me with a saxophone. It's not an easy instrument to learn but I am practicing every day. One day, I will to be able to play this thing really well!

▶ **MY JOB ALLOWS ME TO DO WHAT I LOVE:** WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENGAGE WITH THEIR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME, MY JOB ALSO ALLOWS ME A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE AND A LOT OF "TIME OFF".

**AS A COLLEGE PROFESSOR I HAVE ROOM TO MAKE MY OWN SCHEDULE AND TAKE LONG VACATIONS IN THE WINTER AND SUMMER.** Because of this, I will be able to be home when I need to, always be available for big moments (like school plays or doctor's appointments) and able to do lots of travel and expose your child to many different experiences and opportunities.

I find my work deeply meaningful, but I also enjoy my life beyond work. When I'm not working, I like to garden/plant flowers and I love to ride my bike. I love to be active and spending time with the people I love. **Because of my close relationships with friends and family, I will also have lots of support and help when needed and there will be lots of other children around to play with and learn from.**



WITH KIDS AT  
STORY TIME



I am going to be a single mother and what that means is that there will not be anyone in my life who is more important to me than your precious child.

They will be the absolute center of my universe!

# MY HOME & Community

EVERY MINUTE OF LIVING  
IN COLORADO HAS LIVED  
UP TO MY EXPECTATIONS!



In the next few years, I plan to buy a home so that I can have a backyard to garden in and build a swing set and an even bigger kitchen than I have now, to cook big meals for family and friends.

I live in an apartment building in a neighborhood that is not far from downtown. It has all of the comforts of a true neighborhood: a small park across the street, one of the largest parks in the city (about a mile away), restaurants, coffee shops, the best schools in the city.



MY LIVING ROOM IS A GREAT PLACE TO RELAX AND READ A BOOK

The kitchen is definitely one of my favorite spaces in my home and it's where I spend a lot of my time. I love to cook and get creative with recipes and try them out on my friends. I've been trying to perfect a few new bread recipes and it would be my greatest joy to pass along my love of cooking to a child. I've also started growing a lot of my own herbs and vegetables (on my patio garden), which was something I did with my mother when I was a child.



COOKING WITH MY FRIEND'S KIDS

## Fun Facts

### ABOUT ME

My Zodiac Sign: **LEO**

Favorite Animal:  
**MONKEY**

Favorite Children's  
Book: **WHERE THE  
WILD THINGS ARE**

Can't live without:  
**PIZZA**

Favorite Kid's Movie:  
**THE MUPPETS**

Favorite Place to  
Take a Child:  
**AMUSEMENT PARKS**

Favorite Holiday:  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

# My FAITH

My family raised me to value religious and spiritual practices. I think the exposure has allowed me to become a more open, accepting person. I was raised with Jewish practices, but we also celebrated Christmas and Easter and learned about Buddhism. (I still enjoy mediating and doing yoga). **I want to allow your child to be curious in a way that opens up opportunities to do good in the world.**



RIDING THE SKI LIFT IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



AT A SOCCER GAME IN MADRID, SPAIN

## I Love TO TRAVEL!

► I'VE VISITED OVER 30 COUNTRIES AND I'M NOT DONE YET!

**I would love to share my curiosity and interest in the world with a child and to see as much of it as possible together.** As a teacher, I have summers off from work, so this is the time that I do most of my travelling.

**While I love an adventure and discovering other places, I'm also very lucky to have wonderful friends in the city where I live.** Seeing friends and their children is a regular part of my week and I will be able to raise a child in a very supportive and loving network of people in my life.



I LOVE TO EXPLORE NEW PLACES ON VACATION!

One of my favorite childhood memories is

**BUILDING  
SANDCASTLES  
AT THE BEACH.**



**Every summer my family would take a vacation to the beach and my dad would spend all day building a huge sandcastle with us.** By the time we were leaving the beach for the day the sandcastle would be washed away by the ocean.



**CELEBRATING MY BIRTHDAY WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER**

# My FAMILY

▶ **MY FAMILY IS TRULY THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP OF PEOPLE IN MY LIFE.**

They are the people that I call first to share good news with and the first calls I make when I struggle or have suffered a loss. **They are everything to me!** My inner circle includes my dad, mom, and siblings.

Every year on my birthday, my dad calls to tell me the story of the day I was born. It always ends with him telling me that it was one of the most special days of his life. **My dad has a way of making you feel like you are the most important person in the world.** My dad is an avid reader and has a wicked sense of humor, both traits I got from him.



**WITH MY NIECE**



**MY DAD BUILDING SANDCASTLES WITH FOSTER KIDS WHO USED TO LIVE WITH ME**

**WITH MY MOM AND SIBLINGS IN CALIFORNIA**



**My mother was the one in our family who kept us all together like her "little ducklings".** She made sure that my siblings and I always watched out for each other. It is because of our mom that my siblings and I are so close. I also know that I get my love of cooking and making healthy and delicious meals from my mother.

**My younger sister Donna is the one that we call the "engine" of our family.** She is so fully of energy; every moment spent with her is exciting. My sister and her husband, Brian, are always traveling to find the newest adventure, like hiking in Southern Utah or climbing mountains in Oregon. I can always count on a postcard from the "dynamic duo"!



**My brother Jonathan and I are less than two years apart.** We were really close all growing up and attended college together. He has a nine-year-old daughter, who will be such an amazing cousin. My brother is one of my closest confidants and I trust that he will be an exceptional male role-model.

**THERE IS**

**NOTHING IN THE WORLD**  
that means  
more to me than my family!





SOMETIMES IT'S FUN TO PLAY ALONG, TOO



BEING A FOSTER PARENT WAS AMAZING!

I AM VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SO MANY CHILDREN IN MY LIFE THAT I AM ABLE TO LOVE AND CARE FOR.

Most of the children that I get to spend time with are the children of my friends. I have had the experience of being a foster parent. While I am no longer fostering, I am so grateful I had that experience and to have been able to support children who have needed a home for a temporary time in their lives.

# THE CHILDREN IN MY My Life

Each of the children who have been part of my life have taught me something: how to love, enjoy the simple moments (swinging on a swing or running barefoot through a park with really green grass), and how to experience every day with wonder and curiosity.

I love when children ask questions and want to learn about the world around them. I love watching movies that I remember as a child. For me, it is the simple moments that are the most magical!



HANGING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS LAST CHRISTMAS

## MY Friends

My heart becomes so full when I think about sharing all of the love and warmth in my life with a child. My friends often tell me that I have "a way with children" and while I don't think there is anything magical about me, I do know that my friends' children respond well to me and enjoy being together.

# I PROMISE TO TEACH Teach Your Child

How to name and EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS

THAT KINDNESS is the greatest gift they can give to others

The importance of "PLEASE" AND "THANK YOU"

That they are deserving and WORTHY OF LOVE

HOW TO COOK healthy and delicious meals



THANK YOU FOR  
TAKING THE  
TIME TO GET

To Know Me!

My wish is that you  
have been able to consider

WHAT YOUR CHILD'S  
LIFE WOULD BE LIKE  
WITH ME.

I hope you see their world full of love  
and support. **Most importantly, I hope  
that you see that you will be part of  
their world and their forever story.**

I would love an open adoption and  
creating space for you in the way that  
you would like.

**While being a mother is just a dream  
in my heart right now, I know I will  
be a parent who always makes sure a  
child knows how loved they are.** He  
or she will have someone cheering for  
them, ready to offer a hug when they  
are sad and a band-aid when they fall  
down. They will know that I am fierce  
when it comes to protecting them.

I LOOK FORWARD TO  
GETTING TO KNOW YOU  
BETTER, HEARING MORE OF  
YOUR STORY AND WALKING  
THIS PATH TOGETHER.

