

Backof Family Adoption Story
By: Jen Backof



They were right! The agency told us adoption would happen when we least expected it. We were told we would feel a connection so that there was absolutely no doubt in our mind this baby was meant to be with us. We were told we would look back on the wait and think, “That wasn’t so bad.”

Our daughter Emily was placed with us when she was five days young. The call came on a mild November Friday before Thanksgiving. Jen had just had an orthodontist appointment and was playing solitaire on the computer and sulking because the holidays were yet again around the corner and she had no little one to celebrate them with. (Unless you count the Chihuahuas!) To make matters worse, the crib and changing table that had been ordered had come in the day before and Mike wanted to set them up, while Jen didn’t want to look at baby furniture. At five o’clock, the phone rang and she looked over to check the caller ID, thinking Mike would be tied up at work later than anticipated. Nope...it was Adoptions Together. With an eyeball roll thinking there must be a piece of paper missing, Jen picked up the phone and tried to be cordial. What she heard on the other end left her speechless for only the second time in her life...there was a baby girl that the agency thought would be a great fit for our family!

After getting the details about Emily, Jen called Mike on his cell phone and told him to pull over. He told her to just tell him and as Jen quickly went over the details, Mike told her to call the agency and say yes before they called anybody else.

That weekend was a flurry of activity...Jen being a teacher had to write two weeks worth of plans for the teacher taking her place and get her act together for this parenting gig! They had plans with friends for dinner that night which of course turned

into quite a celebration. The next day Jen began those sub plans at four in the morning after having the first of many sleepless nights. Jen's mom, aunt, sister, and cousin took her shopping for baby gear. First we went to Babies-R-Us...everybody grabbed a cart and divided off only to meet up again to ooh and aah over the cute baby things. Jen had a mini meltdown in the store...she was in the tub aisle trying to decide which tub to get (Why are there so many choices with these things anyway?!) and in her inability to come to a decision about that caused her to question her ability to be a good parent. Little did she know that there was a lot of second-guessing in her future! After another celebratory dinner, the crew returned to Mike and Jen's home to de-tag, wash, and set up for little Emily's arrival the following Tuesday.

Emily was a name that Jen had picked out for a long time. She loved the way it sounded and there were several nicknames that the child could choose. When Jen was talking to the caseworker the next Monday, she was asked what name they had picked out. After Jen told her Emily, there was a pause. It seems as though the birthmother had picked that name out as well! Jen immediately felt a connection to this woman she did not know. Later, Jen and Mike would discover that Emily's birthmother LOVED music and was in marching band just like they had been. Common interests further cemented the knowledge that this baby was in the right place. Jen also found it a bit ironic that the crib and changing table had arrived the day Emily had been born...it had been placed on back order for several months and just a few weeks earlier Jen and Mike had been told the store was not sure when it would be in. Everything fell into place, despite having three days notice to prepare for Emily's arrival.

Even though they had been waiting fourteen months for a baby and those months felt like an eternity, today when they are looked back upon, it does seem as if it went pretty quickly. Twenty months later they are quite smitten with this little girl who loves to chat and eat berries. Jen's mother once commented that she had always wondered if you could love an adopted child as much as a biological one. She says the answer to this question is a wholehearted yes! The entire family cannot imagine life without little Emily! In fact this whole adoption thing worked out so well the first time, Jen and Mike have decided to do it again!