

Oded & Noam

Dear Birthmother,

We are a young couple who are ready to start our family. We can't wait to tie (or velcro!) small shoes, make crayon drawings together and tell bedtime stories before watching our beloved child fall to sleep. We want to assure you that, if chosen, your child will be cared for at home by one of us as full-time at-home parents. We will both have time off from work when the baby first joins our family and then Oded will be able to take a 9-month leave from work to be at home, full-time, caring for our child. We need some help to fulfil our dream of becoming parents and that is why we are grateful to you and the adoption process.



Taking a short boat ride during a trip to Oregon



Oded with Yoav cracking a smile
(with help from Noam behind the camera)



Noam showing Rotem a picture of a kangaroo

We were lucky enough to find each other early in life --we've been together for over 14 years and have worked hard to establish our home and university teaching careers to be ready to be parents. We knew early in our relationship that our mutual dream was to raise children and we are very ready and eager to be dads. Our families and friends are 100% behind us and can't wait to add their love to our lives with a child. Because we are established in our lives and careers, we will

both have time during the day, as well as on weekends, to be with our child. Thank you for considering helping us to realize our life's dream!



Noam in the Mirror Hall of the Residenz Palace in Munich, Germany

From the outset, we want you to know we are comfortable having an open adoption, where we would do the travelling so that you can, if you'd like, stay connected with us and with your child. Both of us grew up overseas, studied in California and have made London, England our home. We already travel several times a year to the United States for work and to see friends; travelling with our child to spend time with you would be our delight and joy if this is something you would want. We have stable university teaching careers in psychology and music and need not let geography get in the way of giving your child the experience of everyone who loves her or him.



Noam with his mother (on the right) and grandmother (on the left)

Above all, we'd like to know what you'd like in this regard and what degree of connection you'd like to have over the years. We're happy to follow your comfort level; we just don't want our living in England to be an obstacle to more connection if you would like that. We are very eager to be dads and to know the joys and responsibilities of

being parents. We know that adoption brings with it special responsibilities to help the child understand their story and the depth of love felt for him or her by everyone in their life. We are grateful that you've taken the time to get to know us so that you might consider us as possible parents for your expected child.



Noam meeting the princess at Warwick castle



We met 14 years ago when we were both students in Israel, where we grew up. Two years after we met, Oded was offered a scholarship to study music in California. Although it meant we would have to live apart, we knew this opportunity was important enough for both of us. Noam stayed behind to finish his studies while also applying for graduate study in the US. Fortunately, Noam was accepted to study in California the following year which meant he could join Oded. Spending a year apart was difficult for us but also helped us realize how much we love each other and that we share the same dream of building a family together.

Now, in London, we both teach in universities. Noam teaches in the psychology department. Noam is not a therapist but, rather focuses on research and teaching. He is interested in understanding how the mind works. Oded is a composer and teaches music technology. Luckily our teaching careers mean that we have flexible working hours that will allow us both to spend time with our child. It is important to both of us that we each are active parents in our child's daily life. England offers generous childcare leave: our plan is that Oded will take 9 months paternity leave to care for the baby when we

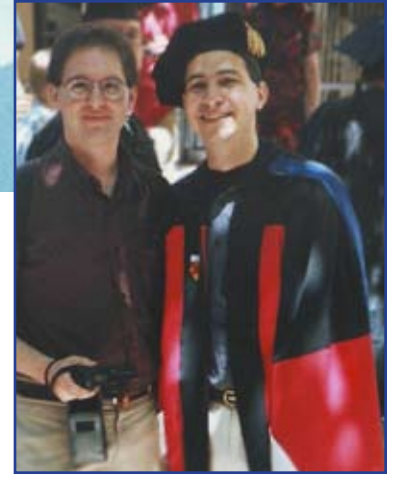


Noam in Paris

adopt. Since we both are eager to know the daily joys of childhood, and teaching at a university means our working hours are flexible, we will both adapt our schedules so that we each have time for walks, swim lessons, admiring the ladybugs and reading our favourite children's books together.

Our community and neighbourhood are very family friendly. Our immediate area is a quiet and nice neighborhood with several parks and children's play areas nearby and a nice path by the canal where we will be able to take our child for shorts walks and

Oded with his niece during our visit to New Zealand



Oded's graduation day at Stanford University



Noam, Michal (his sister) and Emmanuelle (his sister-in-law)

tricycle rides. On a day to day basis, London is a very lively city with beautiful museums, fun child-oriented concerts and historic palaces. There's a science museum, child-oriented arts and crafts workshops and an amazing zoo. With a growing list of our friends becoming parents, we look forward to sharing play dates and outings with other families. It will be fun for all the children to take walks along the boat canal, feed the ducks at the pond, and share in the enjoyment of each others birthday parties. As our child grows up, they'll know the exciting experience of watching theatre in England and the richness of life in a multi-cultural city.



Oded during a visit to New York

While London is an amazing place for a child to grow up, we also have all of Europe in our back yard. A train ride brings us to Paris and travel to other countries is quite easy. Your child will grow up knowing both about their American roots and yet have amazing experiences seeing the world. We both feel strongly that helping support a child's curiosity about the world is important and is a vital part of our role as parents. We look forward to giving our child the opportunity to grow up in a home where dinner conversation can range from philosophical question, to politics, to science, and where there will always be fun and interesting books to read together with us and on their own. For two years, Oded taught piano to his cousin's children. Music, in many forms, is part of our life and will be part of our child's environment growing up. We would encourage our child's creativity in music and whatever areas interest them. We will be supportive of their individual interests and passions wherever that may lead him or her.



With Noam's family in the north of England



We value kindness to others, appreciation for all our differences, respect for others and trying one's best. Our child will grow up with a strong sense of community and faith that they are surrounded by love and caring. The holidays in London are colorful, joyous and fun-filled. We will raise our child with a sense of appreciation. Our child will have all the opportunities to develop into a confident and happy individual who feels engaged with the community and world around them.



With our friend Sigal and her children during a summer visit to Israel

As professionals who work for the university, we understand the value of education and how a particularly good education can open life opportunities for our child. We are dedicated to covering the costs of our children's educations and to doing what we can to support their dreams. We, ourselves, continue to develop new areas of interest and learn new things as we engage in our professional lives as teachers and researchers in our fields. We would do all we can so that our child develops the tools to learn and so that they have a good education that will allow her or him to fulfil their potential, in whatever field they desire.

Our cat in a playful mood



For one of our anniversaries, we decided to welcome a cat, Pulcinella, into our family; she had been in a pet shelter in San Francisco. Her previous owners removed her front claws; this means she cannot go out and must remain indoors as she would be unsafe

Noam and our cat at work



Noam during a visit to New Zealand

there. She is very friendly with children. Bringing her with us to England was somewhat difficult because of strict rules about pets but we couldn't leave her. She is now 13 years old, and spends even more of her time sleeping in the sun or in front of the heating unit, but she also still likes to chase ribbons around the flat. Our child will find her gentle, soft and friendly.

When we are at home, we enjoy listening to music and watching films. Oded can't wait to read Winnie-the-Pooh to our daughter or son. And since Oded is an excellent cook, we enjoy inviting friends for dinner. Many of our friends are young parents; we all look forward to our children grow-

ing up playing together. Our child will grow up with friends who also joined their family through adoption. Justin and Janine adopted their son Dominic in the US and are now hoping to adopt another baby from the US. Our child will grow up in a loving community where having two fathers and being adopted are not unusual and won't subject them to unpleasant attention. Our child will have friends in an ac-

cepting, diverse, metropolitan community where being kind to each other is one of the most important values.

We are glad to share more about our relationship and our families. We were legally married 4 years ago in London after gay marriage became legal here. But we considered ourselves married for more than 10 years before that and we celebrate our anniversary in December which was our first date (a movie). We consider ourselves very lucky to have found each other and, now, to have the chance to raise a family together.



During a visit to San Francisco



Signing our Civil Partnership

When a child joins our family, our parents, brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews will be here in a heartbeat, overflowing with hugs, presents and melodies sung in soft tones. Noam's parents do not have any grandchildren yet and are very excited about showering their first grandchild with love. Noam is the eldest son in his family and he has a younger brother (Omer) who lives nearby in London and a sister (Michal). His parents and sister live in Israel, but visit regularly. Oded is the youngest of 3 brothers and he has 2 nephews in Israel and a niece in New Zealand. His parents are both retired which means they, too, will have the flexibility to visit and shower our child with love. They are very excited about our plans to adopt.

We also have many friends here in London and we get together with them regularly: going out for dinner together, off to see a film or play at the theatre, or just enjoying their company. In short, when a child joins our family, there will be love from our families and our "friends as family".



Freddie enjoying his first 'music lesson'



Oded with Noam's sister (Michal) great aunt (Aliza) and grandmother (Miriam)





Oded and our Friend Omer during a hiking trip in Canada

We are eager to welcome a baby into our home and our hearts. Thank you for reading our profile and we wish you many blessings in whatever decision you make. If you'd like to learn more about us or speak with us directly, please call Full Circle Adoptions at 1-800-452-3678. We hope you have gained some idea of who we are and feel comfortable considering us as adoptive parents for your child. We would love to hear from you.

Best,

Oded and Noam