

Emily



I Enjoy Cooking



My Village



I Love the Beach

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to learn about me. I empathize with how you might be feeling while you are considering adoption for your baby. It must not be an easy decision, but I believe a mother knows what is best for her child. I hope that you are able to find comfort, peace, and joy as you move forward. Thank you again for considering me.



Who I Am:



I enjoy arts and crafts. This year, my nephew and I recycled a pumpkin and decorated it for Christmas. The carefully placed rhinestones really made it pop. His mom, who is an artist, was so proud of us that she displayed it on her front porch. Your baby will have the opportunity to express creativity through art.

I love dancing. One night while my friends and I were waiting for a dance venue to open, two of my friends demonstrated Bachata, a type of Latin dancing, in front of a local movie theater. I played DJ, and we all took plenty of twirls. I hope to learn Salsa, Merengue, and Zouk in the future.



As a former Girl Scout, **I love a night with friends by the bonfire.** Recently, some friends and I drove out to a farm when it was only 32 degrees outside. We stacked up a truck load of pallets to burn. I enjoyed tending to the fire and bonding with friends over this experience.

Hostess with the Mostess

I love hosting holiday gatherings! I hosted a pumpkin carving party at my house one year. I played song requests like "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo while everyone sang along. My guests enjoyed being able to light up their Jack-O-Lantern at the end of the party. My favorite carved pumpkin was one with the tree design because of the precision it took to whittle the branches into the pumpkin.



I enjoy hosting so much that I even won an award for it! One year while hosting a Bible study of 55 friends from church, **I won the Hostess with the Mostess Award** for always being the best party host with thoughtfulness, organization, and preparedness. The real fun that night was getting to see friends and sharing some delicious Southern food like mac and cheese, deviled eggs, and beef tenderloin. We even had 20 different desserts like pecan pie and apple pie, so people used dinner plates to get desserts! Your baby will learn the importance of being surrounded by loved ones.



I enjoy the tradition of hosting. Every Easter, I hold an Easter egg hunt for the kids in my family at our family beach house. I hide a shell inside one of the eggs and whoever finds it gets prize money. Last year, my nephew found the egg containing the clamshell hidden under a palm tree, and he squealed with excitement that he could buy ice cream with the prize money!



Melts in your Mouth Good

You can count on me for home cooked food to be delicious. I learned to cook from my grandmother. In my family, dinners are a time when everything else stops and we focus on each other, and making and sharing good food is a love language. When I would visit my grandma, she would hide a cake in the living room and eventually make a grand reveal. When I was 7-years-old, she finally shared her special recipe and showed me how to make her 21-layer chocolate cake that took 3 hours to make. Our family named it “Grandma’s cake.” For special occasions, I make this cake to honor her memory.



I adore Italian food. For three weeks in college, I went to Italy for a study abroad program. I got to eat many renditions of authentic Italian lasagna. True authentic lasagna has a cinnamon flavor. Your baby will have the opportunity to try foods from other cultures.



I’m famous for my favorite Southern delicacy, **deviled eggs**, as I add a savory flare of bacon on top. Due to the delicate nature of the boiled eggs and tedious assembly, deviled eggs are typically only served for special occasions. When I had my housewarming party for over 50 people, I made 100 deviled eggs. Trying to boil 6 pots of eggs while cooking three cookie sheets of bacon at once was a challenge! All of the work was worth it when my guests raved about them!

My Tight Knit Family

If you choose me, your child will grow up with 3 grandparents, 14 aunts and uncles, and **38 cousins**.



My family lives close by. I love a project, but sometimes I need a little last minute help to get the job done. One time I was changing a lightbulb that was really high up in the air. I realized I could use an extra hand, so I called my dad to come and help. He was able to be there in just a few minutes and install it for me.



My family believes in teamwork. My brother has been remodeling his kitchen. He has nowhere to cook or wash dishes. One night to help out, I made enchilada casserole at my house while my mom made chili. Dad came by with a cooler and took all of the food to my brother's house, so his family would have a home cooked meal for dinner.



My family loves to laugh. One summer we went to a local amphitheater to see the America's Got Talent ventriloquist and singer Darci Lynne. We ate popcorn and laughed the entire time while Darci sang with her puppet, Edna, about her crush on an endearing volunteer from the crowd.

Family Traditions

My dad, renamed Choo Choo by his grandchildren, has loved trains, since he was a little boy. Annually, my dad takes his grandchildren on a **train trip**. Recently, my dad took my nephew on his first train ride. Dad laughs as he shares that my nephew ate candy and jumped up and down on the train the entire time!



In our family, **if you get clothes for a Christmas gift, you have to put them on no matter how many you receive**. The cousins draw names, and one year I drew Frank Jr. who wanted a fishing bib. He joyfully wore the fishing bib for several hours afterwards as he is the one that started the tradition when he was a little boy. I look forward to learning some of your favorite traditions, so I can include them in my gatherings for your child.



In my family, every child is taught how to cook from an early age. My grandmother taught me when I was 5-years-old how to make 21-layer chocolate cake. To pass on the tradition, I taught my niece how to make a Ruth Chris carrot cake with homemade cream cheese frosting and a caramel dulce de leche sauce when she was only two-years-old! **We took it to a potluck dinner, and it was gone within 30 minutes!** People stopped eating their food to go get a slice because they heard how great it was!



Breathe in the Salt Air



My family loves to create memories at our beach house. 18 people gather here during all seasons of the year, even on the week after Christmas. We enjoy making motes, sand castles, and mud statues. Recently, my nephew made a train turn table out of sand and his mommy kept leaping over the hole he had dug. Your child will grow up spending quality time with family at the beach.

I love to spend quality time with family on the water. The weather was so nice in late fall that **we took a boat ride to lunch.** We hit a big wave from another boat going by and we got drenched with the cold, salt water. It didn't bother me at all! I got to dry out in the sun while eating by the water.



I love to **walk on the beach and look for shells.** It's an opportunity to reflect on the day. Last summer, I took some shells I found and put them in a vase for a flower arrangement.

A Life of Hope and Faith



My church family shows up whenever something is needed and truly prays when they say they will. Last year, my nephew was born with four heart defects that required open heart surgery. Our church prayed for my nephew for 20 months. He is doing well and just started talking and standing independently. He loves singing, “Row, Row, Row Your Boat!” He is eating way more than the doctors said he would and growing! Your baby will have a church community that encourages one another.

In addition to attending weekly services, on Christmas Eve, my family attends the children’s service where we hear the story of Jesus’ birth, sing Christmas carols, and watch the kids act out the live nativity. This year they had a new mother and father and their sweet newborn baby play Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. The baby didn’t even cry!



My family cares about others. We love to help whether it is from within our family or in the community. In the 1940s, my grandparents had planned to build a new house. On three occasions, they delayed building their home because they gave away the downpayment on their house for the church to build a new building. They wanted to help others more than they wanted to help themselves. Your child will see the importance of honoring others.

Home Sweet Home

My friends love the kitchen and breakfast table area in my house the most. On one occasion, my friends from several different friend groups came over for party where we ate delicious food and had a chance to catch up. Your baby will have friends from many different backgrounds and places in the community.



In my front yard, there's a **rope swing that a lot of the neighborhood kids play on**. I enjoy hearing the giggles outside my window. Recently, my neighbors, their twin boys, and baby girl dropped by for a visit. They loved spinning around and trying to make each other dizzy.

Your baby's nursery has a gender neutral beach theme. I wanted it to reflect **happy memories of the beach**. Paintings of boats and a Coast Guard regulation channel marker adorn the walls. Looking at the channel marker makes me think of when I first learned to drive a boat and my dad explaining, "Right on red when returning from the sea" which means to keep the green on the left. It is comforting and reassuring to remember his voice when I am in this room.



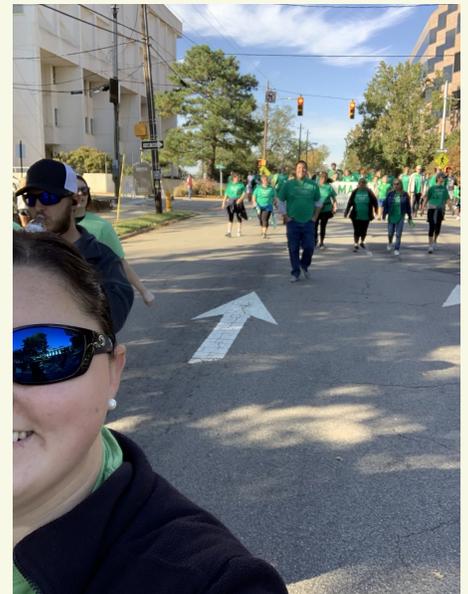
Neighborhood

I have **awesome neighbors who value looking out for each other** whether it is rolling a trashcan in while one is out of town, visiting an elderly neighbor, or delivering chocolate treats. One day at work I burned my hand. I could not wrap my hand on my own due to the angle I had to hold my arm. I called my next door neighbor, who is a nurse, to come and help me. Within 10 minutes, she walked over in her pajamas and applied the dressing to my hand. Your baby will be surrounded by neighbors who pitch in to help at a moment's notice.



I love my local Tex Mex restaurant. Steak fajita quesadillas are my favorite. Since I love this local spot so much, I had my birthday party there one year. I loved introducing my friends to the Tex Mex queso dip and jalapeño ranch. They loved it, too!

I love giving back to my community. In 2019, I walked downtown in an annual fundraiser to provide support services for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. I loved getting to see the participants excitement about finishing the race and their pride that they were self-advocating!



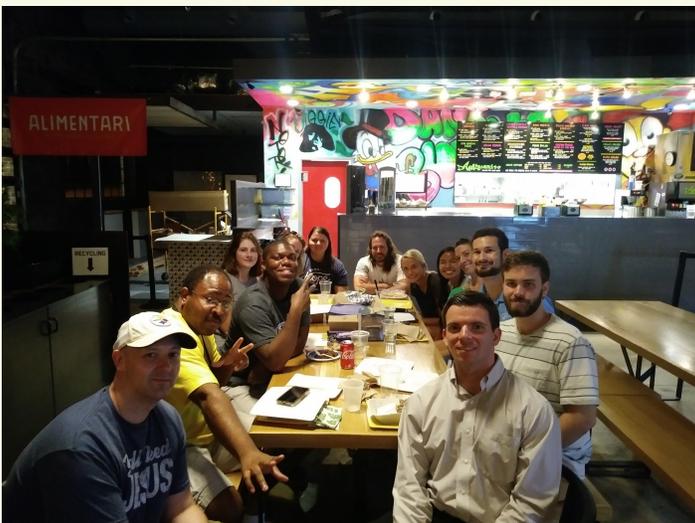
Weekdays



I work as an intake coordinator at a mental health agency that often treats children. Due to rapid company growth and the variety of responsibilities, I have become great multitasker am able to deescalate a mental health crisis quickly. Fortunately, I will have the flexibility to **stay home with your baby the first year** to make sure that all of your baby's needs are met.



After work, **I love trying new restaurants.** For my birthday, my friends and I went to a local Italian restaurant and devoured some cheesy manicotti. We loved learning the latest and greatest news about each other, since we had not seen each other in a while. Afterwards, we went back home and had homemade cookie dough cake.



I attend Bible study weekly. At the beginning of the year, we go around the table to **discuss a goal that we want to reach by the end of the year.** Last year, Taylor, who was new to the group, said that she wanted to be actively participating in the discussion. It became a running joke that when there was a long silence after one of the questions about the lesson was asked, someone would inevitably say, "Taylrrr..." As the year went on, her confidence grew. This year, Taylor is leading the group!

From My Friends

“I love Emily for her **honesty**. I can always count on her to tell me the truth in a loving way. She has a kind spirit and forgiving heart. One night I had to cancel our plans last minute. Most of my girl friends would either pretend they are fine even if they were upset or get mad and stop talking to me. Emily did neither. She told me she was hurt in a calm, kind way. Because of her honesty, we were able to talk about it openly, love each other, and come out stronger on the other side. Humans like that are rare, and I treasure her friendship.” - Holly, Emily’s Best Friend



“Emily worked with me in partial hospitalization for mental health in a group setting for children, and **she was able to notice when a child needed individual attention**. Also, Emily was able to seamlessly take over as a lead instructor in our group when I had to step out to complete administrative duties” - Tanazia, Former Supervisor and Friend

“Emily is **compassionate**. We met while attending a Christian Bible Study Fellowship group. One of the members of our group was a sweet man with Autism Spectrum Disorder. During many of our group events, this participant would show symptoms of his disorder by being disruptive during quiet moments or by invading people’s personal space at times. Like others, I would not know how to react. Emily took the time at the beginning of the year to provide group members and leaders with strategies to positively redirect his behavior in a compassionate way. While others got frustrated, Emily showed kindness. I learned a lot from Emily’s interactions with this man.” - Crystal, Friend



Until We Meet

Thank you for considering me as the adoptive mom for your baby. I believe adoption is putting your baby's needs first and choosing what you think is right for them, and must be an incredible act of love on your part.

There is nothing more I want than to be a mother. Although I am currently single, I do hope to marry the man of my dreams one day, but I just have not met the right person yet.

I look forward to **sharing photos and updates with you**. Thank you for considering me, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Emily



