

# KYOKO

**AGE:** 47

**ETHNICITY:** Japanese

**EDUCATION LEVEL:** Bachelor

**RELIGION:** Christian

**Occupation:** Graphic Designer



## *Dear Birth Parents*

### **THANK YOU FOR READING MY STORY.**

I really appreciate your time and I hope that that though my writing you're able to get to know me better and feel some kind of genuine connection to me.

I hope my words have given you a glimpse of my heart. For me, it feels miraculous to be given this opportunity to care for a child. I've always loved children and since I've been an adult I've wanted to raise a child and help him/her to grow, provide for them, help them to experience the world in their own way. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for me and I promise to give my best for your child. I hope that we can develop a unique connection and if you are interested in doing that, I will always be open to you and would love to share your child's growth with you as much as possible.

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# About me

## HELLO!

My name is Kyoko. I am a single Japanese female, who came to the US about 20 years ago. I work as a graphic designer and I love creating visually fun and practical work that is helpful in advertising a product or service. I enjoy being around people and I really enjoy talking and playing with children. I have a passion for the arts and enjoy dance, music and nature!

I was born and raised in Japan. After finishing college in Japan I came to the US to study graphic design. I was about 25 years old and I began working professionally as a graphic designer.

Because of my love of dance I enjoy spending my free time dancing salsa and hula and currently I really enjoy Zumba. After work I am usually taking a Zumba class, however I have also found much joy in Hawaiian hula dancing as well as Salsa and have even performed as part of a show. Dancing makes me so happy and relaxed. It provides an opportunity to express myself in different ways and allows me to interact with people from different cultures. I like going to the gym after work as well to boost and refresh myself after a day at the office.

Another extension of my artistic expression is photography. I am curious about people, as well as nature and the different events happening in the community. I love to capture these images.

# My home

I have a 4 bedroom/3 bathroom home with both a front and back yard. This allows plenty of room for outside playing. My house is located in a safe and quiet neighborhood - and is in a mixed community filled with neighbors of different cultures including Asian, Hispanic, African American and Caucasian. My home is less than a block from a distinguished elementary school. The neighborhood community members really take care of each other and offer lots of neighborhood involvement opportunities through different organizations. Often I see my neighbors out taking walks with their family members and with their pets. I am a few blocks away from both the middle and high schools that serve this area. Centrally located near two highways with access to several different supermarkets, restaurants, a few city parks, and only about 20 minutes to the beach.



also enjoy gardening as well. Each year I look forward to planting vegetables and flowers. I have a fairly large garden in my backyard that I tend to often. Planting gives me a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment. It's very interesting to observe how each plant grows during different seasons, and it is wonderful to watch the colors changing. I find it interesting to help them to grow - changing water times, soil types, fertilizers, and then to see the harvest of my labor.

Like most people, I love both eating out and cooking! Currently the community where I live provides me with a lot of opportunity to try food from different regions and I also enjoy trying to cook them myself. It's fun to learn things about various cultures through their food.

Since moving to California, I've developed a love of hiking trails and walking throughout my neighborhood. I enjoy the sounds of the wind and scenery I find walking fun and relaxing. It's very rewarding to reach the peak when climbing a mountain or to set a specific goal and reach it as part of the enjoyment of hiking. I have found that I enjoy hiking alone as well as with my friends.



# Meet Kyoko

My parents wanted me to grow into a respectful person so they included the Chinese character for “respect” in my name. My name “Kyoko” which means “respectful child”. I didn’t change my name when I came to the US because I wanted to honor my parents and their loving thoughts towards me.

I was born in and raised in a northern, fairly rural area of Japan. I was raised by both my biological parents and grandparents. I am the oldest of their two children ( I have a younger brother). As a young adult I loved talking with children. My parents wanted me to become a teacher so I studied education in Tokyo, which is a much bigger city than where I grew up. During my college years I realized how much I loved creating art in visual media such as painting and drawing. I found myself being drawn to some kind of profession related to visual art. After I graduated, I worked as a teacher for 3 years in Japan and then I came to the US to study graphic design. After graduating college in Massachusetts, I began my career as a graphic designer.

I was married for about 10 years but about 2 years ago we got divorced. During our marriage we tried infertility treatments but they didn’t go well. It was after this that my now ex-husband announced that he didn’t want to be a parent anymore. After much consideration we chose divorce. My ex-husband knows how much I want to have a child and he supports my desire to be a parent through adoption. We are still very close and I consider him to be a good friend. We are fortunate to still remain close even though we are not longer married. My friends are also very supportive of my decision to adopt and I am so grateful for their blessing.

As I mentioned before, I love to Zumba and going to the gym and exercising after work. I practiced Hawaiian dancing for 9 years and Salsa for 3 years and still love to watch Hula and Salsa performances. I love to listen to Hawaiian music as well as Latin music (Zumba music and Latin pop). I enjoy growing vegetables and flowers in my backyard garden. I like watching Japanese TV shows at night to relax. Sometimes I go to get a massage or I will go to a Korean spa to relax even more. I have a love for cooking and eating out. Hiking and walking are my choice for weekend exercise. I enjoy the sights and sounds while taking pictures and this satisfies my curiosity and interest in people, nature, and the many exciting things happening in my neighborhood as well as in and around Los Angeles.

I love other cultures and I am always interested in learning new things. When I have the opportunity to interact with other people from other cultures, I have tried to learn about their culture, food, habits, etc.

I enjoy traveling to other countries as well: I’ve been to Hong Kong, Australia, England, and Hawaii. I have a variety of friends, from different cultures including Japanese, Latino, American, Asian, (Filipino, Hawaiian, Indian, Korean, Singaporean, Taiwanese). I love to communicate with people from other cultures and development lifelong friendships with them.

My friends describe me as smart, strong, cheerful, generous, thoughtful, and willing to help others. I am not always very talkative but I do love talking with people and getting to know them better. I can’t ignore people in trouble and I sincerely want to help them. My friends know my history, and they know how resilient I can be (with some help from them :)). They believe that I have the strength to face new challenges and they continue to encourage me to proceed with my desire to adopt even as a single parent.

I am diligent and work hard, I like to observe my growth as I overcome new challenges. Since I came to the US, I’ve had to overcome difficult times. I’ve cried a lot, and have felt miserable at times. Sometimes I feel homesick for Japan. The U.S is not my native country and I miss speaking in Japanese to everyone. It has been during this time that I have come to realize there is always some help if you look for it , and that having good friends to lean on when you’re feeling down can be a great support during difficult times . Thanks to this attitude I am able to persevere in my life. I can empathize with people’s emotional pain and understand hurtful situations because I have had some harsh experiences myself. I understand heartbreak in its many forms and what it’s like to feel alone/ out of place, or like a stranger surrounded by many people.

I am a little shy but I make the effort to try and show who I am by expressing myself in different ways in an effort to communicate with people. I try to show my interest in others with extra care and kindness. I am responsible, honest and carry through with things I’ve started until they’re completed. I understand the importance of respecting deadlines and keeping promises.

My hope is that I have been able to provide you with a better understanding of who I am.



# My family value

I believe in family and having a home that is a safe and comfortable place to return to after a long day at school or work. A place filled with people who help/support you in any situation, people who love/care for each other. I will provide a loving family to my soon to be daughter or son and will have my extended family and friends beside us and they will provide their love and support to us as well.

During Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, I usually spend time with friends, we gather together bring lots of food and sometimes we decide to cook together. During our time together we talk about daily life experiences, sharing our feelings and; our hopes and plans for the future.

I have two roommates who are working professionals that rent two rooms in my home. Ashley is working as a TSA agent, and Yas is a manager of a ramen noodle



factory. Ashley is a cheerful, friendly person who loves food and fun with friends. Yas is quiet and kind. He likes running marathons. Both of them enjoy being with children.

# My thoughts on parenting

I want my child to enjoy their childhood, to be happy and know that they are loved. That's the most important thing. I look forward to enjoying the precious experience of parenting.

I want to teach my child about respect and the importance of basic manners. To follow the "golden rule" always say "please" "thank you", "sorry", "excuse me" and to be considerate of others. Even though basic, I believe that showing respect for others, caring for them and being grateful can be the foundation for a future filled with happiness for ones self as well as those around them.

The way I was disciplined growing up was strict but I believe it helped build my character and determination to never give up and my dedication to always trying to do my best. This discipline taught me to consider other people, never forget to have appreciation for someone/something and good common sense - not to be selfish, maintain a clean home, cook good food and maintain good health, etc. A disciplined environment helped to make me a independent, professional and a contributing member of society and I hope to share these value with my son or daughter.

I want my child to learn basic living skills and to be able to help them become independent emotionally and financially as well as become a stable, strong, warm-hearted, loving human being.

When I was a child, and my parents and grandparents were strict I couldn't understand why. I felt sad from time to time, but other extended family members helped me to understand their thinking. They explained the reasons for their rules and comforted me. In a loving way I will explain to my child why they're being disciplined verbally, the purpose of it and I will offer answers when questions or frustration arises. This is because I want my child to think about what they've done and how to change their behavior so it's more beneficial to themselves and others in the long run. I believe that if a child is told in a one-way manner, "do this! do that!" with no explanation they can become very frustrated and end up only fixing behavior to please the caregiver. I think the better long-term solution is to try and get a child to understand the results of their actions.

I want to help my child to think about 'why' he/she is doing something, instead of just being controlled. I want my child to grow into a strong confident adult who will have skills to accomplish many things in their life.