

HOPING TO ADOPT



We are Nate, McKell, Bryant and Chase

We are Nate, McKell, Bryant, and Chase and we are hoping to adopt! We are home study approved and live in Utah. Nate and I have been happily married for 10 years, and we have been blessed with two wonderful boys: Bryant (6) and Chase (4). Despite being unable to carry more children, Nate and I have felt for some time that our family is not yet complete. After much thought and prayer, we have decided to grow our family through adoption, and we could not be more excited. Our boys are the joy of our life, and we cannot wait to multiply that love with another baby.

Our Letter to YOU

Dear Friend,

It's hard to know where to start this letter, we have so many thoughts and emotions that flood in as we begin writing. First, we want you to know that we think you are a very courageous woman. You have a miracle inside of you and we will do whatever we can to help you on this seemingly impossible journey. Our two sons are our biological kids. We have a deep respect for the bonds of blood and want to emphasize that your bond to this baby will always be a priority.

We wanted to give you the top 5 reasons why we would be wonderful parents/family for your sweet baby.

1. Family is our number-one priority. Spending time together is so important to us. We have really enjoyed creating our own traditions as our family has grown. Something we have especially loved recently is taking our kids on "dates." It's such a fun time to focus on them one-on-one and enjoy things together that make us happy!
2. We're pretty fun. We make crepes every Saturday morning. According to my 6-year-old, there could be nothing better. Who doesn't love crepes? As our boys grow and interests change, we plan to create more and more traditions like this.
3. We love being outside and learning about our world. We live in a beautiful place and it's amazing to explore it. Our boys are the best explorers and love to take the lead on some of our adventures.
4. We love to bake together. We make cakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, and sweet rolls. This process is very messy, but so worth it. Our kids love to add the ingredients and do lots of taste testing. If you like eating the cookie dough before actually ever cooking the cookies, you would fit right in.
5. Lastly and most importantly, we want you to know that we will always welcome you with open arms. In our family, a birth-parent will always be highly respected. If desired, we would love to have an open relationship with you. We have so much family and love it. The more the merrier. You would be giving us the best gift anyone could ask for.

Thank you for considering us. We have a unique situation where we have two biological children, which has made us hesitant in moving forward with adoption. We have felt selfish, even guilty at times, for wanting this for our family, because we already have two kids. We have realized that those feelings are completely normal and don't want them to prevent us from finding the sweet baby that is meant to be a part of our family. We do feel like it could give us a greater connection. I have experienced pregnancy and childbirth and the many emotions that flood in during that time. We want to be a support to you in any way we can.

Our boys will be the best big brothers to a little sister. They are very invested in our hope to adopt and have a fierce love for her already. She will be a miracle for our family and her big brothers will always love and protect her. Thank you for reading about our family. We wish you the best in this difficult process.

Nate and McKell

McKell: I was born in American Fork, UT and spent my childhood in Highland, UT. I am the second of four kids. I have an older sister and two younger brothers. Growing up, we lived on a secluded lot surrounded by horse pastures. We always owned at least one dog and a few horses. I spent most of my childhood playing with my brothers and sister, exploring my yard, and loving on animals.

When I was 12, we moved to Alpine, Utah. This is when I met my Nate for the first time, never even considering how much that would change my future. I was excited to move to Alpine; I love new beginnings and have learned to embrace change. I made some lifelong friendships with girls in my church ward and at school, and loved being in Alpine for the rest of my growing up years. I worked several different jobs and loved the independence of making my own money. During high school, I worked as a nanny, a UPS store sales associate, and a golf course hostess.

My passion has always been teaching children. I was always searching for ways to spend my time with kids. My mom ran a preschool, and I arranged to get school credit for teaching with my mom. It was by far the most rewarding "class" I ever took and created some of my favorite memories. After high school, I knew I wanted to become an elementary school teacher. I spent the next 4 years studying elementary education, all while dating, (re)finding Nate, and planning a wedding. I taught 3rd grade after graduating from UVU and loved every minute of it. My students became my children, and we had a closely knit "classroom family." We learned to love each other and embrace one another's strengths and weaknesses. When I became pregnant with Bryant, I put my school teacher dream on hold to focus on raising my two beautiful boys. I'm the luckiest!

Words that describe ME:

planning, organization, mom-ing, Christmas cards, birthdays, TEACHING, projects, learning, girl time, fashion, shopping, boating, hiking, reading, children's books, scrapbooking, memories, HG SURVIVOR, swimming, journaling, the zoo, Lake Powell, my family ranch, date night, matching, weddings, sunshine, morning snuggles with my boys, packing cubes, Disney Plus, cleaning, decorating, holidays, gift giving, chocolate chip cookies, heated blankets





Nate was born and spent most of his youth in Orem, Utah. He ran around his neighborhood with a group of boys who introduced him to soccer, which became a major part of his life growing up. When he wasn't playing soccer, he was riding around the neighborhood on his Redline BMX bike (which he still proudly owns) or playing with one of his 5 sisters. His family moved to Alpine when he started junior high (thankfully because, this is how we ended up meeting). He found another impressive group of young men that have become lifelong friends. He continued to have a passion for soccer and even ended up with a high school state championship during his junior year. He was a part of the high school drumline and took several AP classes. During his senior year, he was on student council and loved being involved.

After high school, he attended Brigham Young University for his freshman year before leaving on a two-year mission in Santiago, Chile for our church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Nate returned home in the summer of 2009, went back to school at BYU, and in 2010 our love story began.

Nate and I dated most of 2010 and were married May of 2011. After we were married, Nate finished his undergrad at BYU, worked for Goldman Sachs for five years, and got his MBA from the University of Utah. During his studies, we welcomed two beautiful babies into our world and bought our first home that has become our sanctuary. Just 6 months after we bought our house, we decided we needed some more space for our boys to play. Nate finished our basement, with the help of amazing friends and family, in just over 5 months. He is currently working full-time for a processing platform company, where he is a Technical Integration Manager for their American market. Nate is always a husband and father first, but is so good at wearing all kinds of hats. He juggles the title of Husband, DAD, Technical Integration Manager, Exercise Enthusiast, and Executive Secretary for our church (that's a lot of hats!), and he does it well. He makes our family the happiest.

Nate is our provider and protector. He is a devoted husband and our kids' daddy. He is compassionate and patient. The best word that describes him is LOYAL. He always keeps his promises and gets things done. Nate is trustworthy and a fantastic friend. He's always looking to help those in need and never bats an eye at his own agenda. The words I hear most from him are "How can I help?". This makes him a fantastic father and my best friend.

Words that describe Nate:

Soccer, outdoors, trail running, slalom skiing, BYU, projects, expert YouTuber, handyman, good friend, boating, kind, ESPN, computers (Mac), camping, exercising, ice cream, MBA, buying second hand, Cadbury eggs, Santiago, Lake Powell, road trips, HIS BOYS

Our Love Story

Nate and I grew up just a few houses apart (after we both moved to Alpine). Nate was best friends with my older sister, Whittie. Lucky for me, she let me tag along and hang out with her and her friends even though I was 3 years younger. I always thought Nate was a cute boy, but I was pretty shy, and we didn't interact much.

I went to Utah State for my freshman year of college. Nate came home from his mission that same year and I went to his homecoming. I saw him at a few gatherings at my sister's house after that, and we slowly started talking more and more. After my freshman year at Utah State, I came home for the summer. Nate was also living at home for the summer, and that's when our dating life really began. We started spending everyday together, and I decided to continue my education at Utah Valley University since Nate was attending BYU. We both moved to Provo for the fall semester and continued spending every second we could with each other.

By the time fall semester ended and the holidays arrived, we had talked in depth about moving forward with our relationship. We really loved each other and decided we wanted to get married. Nate proposed on Christmas day with quite an elaborate scheme. I traveled around Alpine to all of our favorite spots, collecting clues and memories in a sort of scavenger hunt. It ended with a rose-covered little trailer that he had all set up in the spot where we had our first kiss. (I was so grateful for the warm trailer, because it was cold!). He knelt down on one knee and asked me to marry him. Of course I said yes! Nate is the best decision I've ever made.

For the next six months we planned our wedding, which took place in the spring of 2011. Our wedding day couldn't have been more perfect. It was the warmest day we'd had yet that spring and it felt like the heavens were smiling down on us. I'm sure there were things that didn't go exactly as we had planned, but I don't even remember because we were SO HAPPY. We were married in the Mount Timpanogos Temple by Nate's grandfather. All of the people we love and adore came to celebrate us, and it was the best party!



Bryant



Bryant was born August 30th. To our surprise he came a week earlier than expected, and we were beyond thrilled to meet him. He was a very pleasant baby and has always LOVED food. He walked at 9 months, but never really crawled much. As soon as he could start talking, he wanted to know the names of all the different types of dinosaurs. We learned a lot about dinosaurs. By the time he was 2, he could spout off their long, complicated names. And by the time he was 3 he memorized all of the leaders of our church, the alphabet, and several numbers, colors, and sounds. He loves to learn, and he soaks it all up like a sponge. He attended 2 years of preschool, which he enjoyed, and made some really cute little friends. He was very excited about Kindergarten because he got to ride the bus! It may have been a life highlight.

This year, Bryant started first grade and has been enjoying it even with a mask! Bryant loves to be active. He played t-ball, soccer, basketball and flag football this year. He enjoys being on a team, but doesn't seem to be too competitive, which makes the games pretty entertaining. Bryant has always been 98th percentile for weight and height! He's our big boy and gives the best bear hugs. He is such a happy kid. I've always called Bryant "my sunshine boy." He's empathetic and kind. He always tells me when he has done something wrong, which is hilarious and nice all at the same time. He is a sweet older brother and always looks out for those around him. Were so lucky he is the oldest of our family, I can't believe he is 6 years old!

Bryant's Favorites: red and blue, basketball, flag-football, eating crepes, riding the bus, FIRST GRADE, Imagine Dragons, Taylor Swift, wrestling with dad, movie nights with cousins, snuggling mom, Legos, riding his scooter and his bike, playing in the sandbox, and playing with friends. When he grows up he wants to be a builder or a singer.

Favorite's of our Bry Guy





Chase

Chase is my Christmas baby! He came into the world two weeks early, and it was the best early Christmas present ever! As a baby, Chase had bad reflux and chronic ear infections. Medication helped the reflux, but he was still a pretty uncomfortable infant. He ended up getting tubes placed at 8 months old, and that started to help with the infections. He finally slept through the night for the first time when he was just over 1. None of this stopped him from getting things done, though. He crawled at 6 months and walked at 9. His very favorite thing to do was SWING. We lived in our backyard, so Chase could swing all day long, and to this day, it's still one of his favorite things to do! He goes outside hops in the swing and pumps himself.

From the time he was tiny, we knew Chase was fiery. He knows what he wants, and he will get it. He is a very independent soul. As he has grown and gained more independence, he is so much happier! He loves to do everything on his own and in his own time. Chase is a climber. He scaled a 15-foot rock wall with ease and is always trying to climb something new. Chase loves being the boss! He tells us all the time that he is the boss of our house and he's not totally wrong...

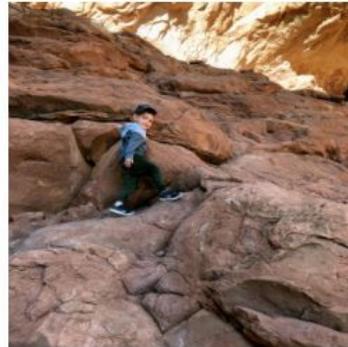
Chase's favorite thing to do is play with his big brother. They play so well together and come up with all kinds of imaginary games that I get to listen in on. Chase is going to a gymnastics class where he excels; he can climb and swing on things to his heart's desire. Chase started Preschool this fall and is doing so well! He loves to learn and is always happy to work on another art project at school. Chase is a giggler. He can always make us smile or laugh with him. Chase loves things to be clean and organized. He lines things up and puts things away in the right places. If we ever have anything out of place, Chase quickly corrects us. Chase is our tiny guy, only 3rd percentile for weight; he is way too busy for food! He is a goer and loves exploring the world around him. Chase keeps us all busy, and we wouldn't have it any other way. His strengths are STRONG, and I can't wait to see what he does with them as he grows.

Chase's Favorites: gymnastics "nastics", sausage, independence, "I can, I can", Hot Wheels, Bear Hollow Preschool, Wild Kratts, soccer games, scooter rides, yogurt, swinging, animals, counting, and Blacky the dog. When he grows up he wants to be a "Leopard."



Favorite's of our Chase man





Why Adoption

Welcoming our boys into this world was far more difficult than we expected. After some difficulty getting pregnant, Bryant joined our family in the summer of 2014. During Bryant's pregnancy, I was diagnosed with Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG), which is a pregnancy complication that is characterized by severe nausea, dehydration, and dangerous weight loss. His pregnancy required me to have IV therapy three times a week while I consistently lost weight, unable to eat. The pregnancy seemed to go on forever and was extremely difficult, but we were so happy to be parents and finally hold our sweet boy for the first time.

In April of 2016, I became pregnant with my little Chase man. His pregnancy was much worse than Bryant's and I ended up not being able to eat or drink anything at all and had to get all my nutrition via feeding tube and eventually intravenously, through a PICC line. After this pregnancy we were advised by our doctor that becoming pregnant with another child would be dangerous for my health and therefore detrimental to our family. We had to make the extremely difficult decision that I would not carry any additional children. In spite of this, we realize we are beyond fortunate to have our two boys and are forever grateful they joined our family.



Both Nate and I come from large, close-knit families, all of whom currently live in Utah. With both of our parents and even some of our siblings living within fifteen minutes of our home, our extended family plays a huge role in our lives and the lives of our boys. Both of our families are thrilled about our decision to adopt, and we can truly say that the baby who joins our family will enjoy the love and unconditional acceptance of an army of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.



McKell's Family

Reed (Poppy), Angie (Mimi)
Whitlee (aunt Whit) Dallin (uncle Dal) Brynlee (cousin)
Clayton (cousin);
Lance (uncle Lance) Michelle (aunt Shell) Jordan
(cousin);
Zach (uncle Zachy) Blaike (aunt Blaike)



Nate's Family

Blaine (Papa), Carolyn (Nana); Angela (aunt Ange);
Emily (aunt Em) John (uncle John) Quincy (cousin) Lily (cousin);
Natalie (aunt Nat) Matt (uncle Matt) Taylor (cousin) McKay
(cousin) Joshua (cousin) Emma (cousin);
Maurielle (aunt Mauri); Shaylee (aunt Shay) Trevan (uncle
Trevan) Baby Ryker (cousin)

What We Love to Do



We go to Lake Powell at least every year (usually twice)! Both Nate and I grew up going to Lake Powell, and staying on a houseboat and now we are lucky enough that we get to bring our kids. It has become our favorite week (or two) of the year. My boys ask all year long when it's time for Lake Powell.

Birthdays

We love birthdays! (Okay, mostly me). But my boys have learned to love them as much as I do. We plan together, choose a theme together, decorate together, and choose what games and activities we want together! It is such a fun experience to plan and hype up how fun it is to grow and learn.

When Chase turned 2, he was obsessed with The Little Blue Truck, and we had a great time coming up with fun farm snacks. A few months before his 3rd birthday, he had his heart set on a dinosaur theme, but then saw an image of the new Grinch movie, and his mind was changed and there was no going back! He talked about his Grinch party for 6 weeks leading up to it, and he loved the party so much. This year he decided on a snowman party! We made snowman cookies, watched frosty, played snowman games and built a snowman!

Bryant gets so excited over the littlest things, and it doesn't take much to make it the best day of his life. He woke up on his birthday this past year and came in my room and said, "Mom it feels like Christmas morning!" We hadn't done anything yet, I hadn't even told him what we had planned for the day, he was just so happy! He's had some pretty awesome birthday themes over the years, including Wild Kratts, Rescue Bots, and dinosaurs. This year Bryant wanted a "normal birthday." haha so I think my themed birthday parties might be coming to an end.

There is nothing I would rather do than celebrate my children and I look forward to birthdays as much as they do.



Hiking

Here are just a few pictures of the hiking adventures we have been on with our boys over the last 6 years. We love exploring the outdoors. We live so close to the beautiful mountains and take full advantage of spending time exploring them. We also love traveling to the national parks that are so close to us. We especially enjoyed visiting Arches National Park and Dead Horse Point last year. We are so lucky to have such magnificent beauty in our backyard.





Halloween

I have LOVED finding simple costumes that we can create a theme with and dress up together. Every year, Nate's mom has a fabulous Halloween party for the kids, and we all dress up. It's the best way to celebrate together. This year we had an EPIC Harry Potter themed party. We read the books as a family while quarantining. Our boys loved them!

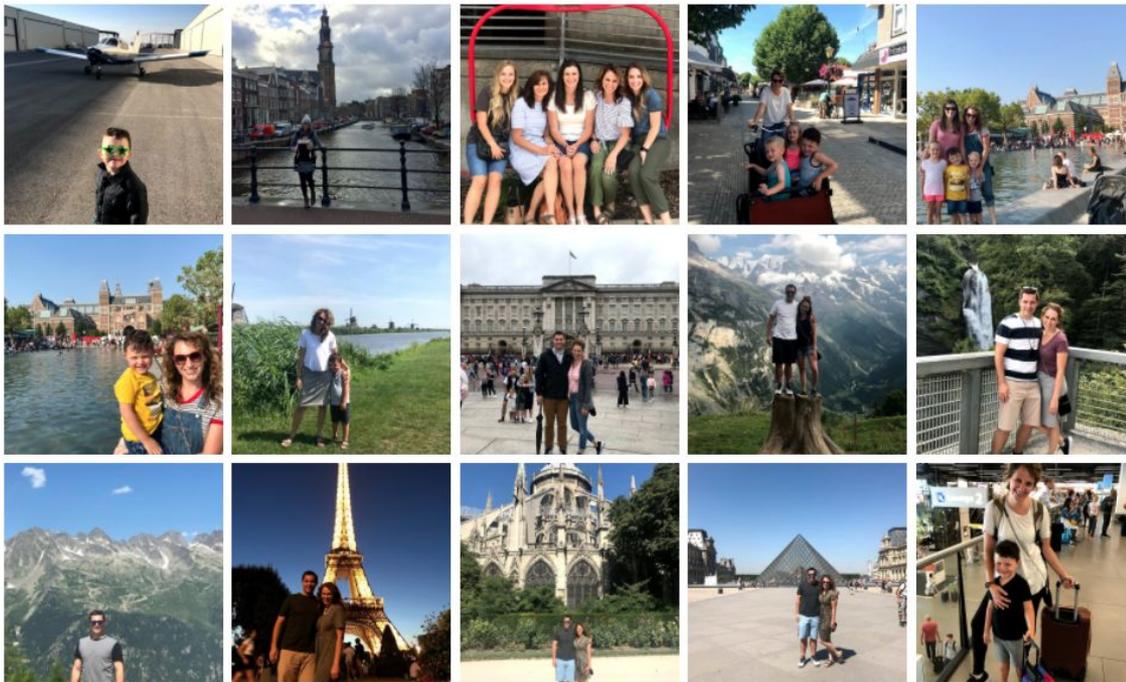
Reading

I have always loved to read, but I never realized how much I really loved it until I had kids. I started collecting children's books when I taught school and I have continued collecting them as my kids have grown. We have an outrageous amount of books and we read all of them! My boys love to read. Sometimes we sit down to read—and before we know it, an hour has passed. Bryant has recently started reading on his own, and it is so magical to hear him reading to his brother. I have my books organized by season, and I pull out special ones depending on the time of the year. It's so fun to read together. I will always treasure the memories I have of reading with my boys.



Traveling

We have been lucky enough to see some pretty amazing places around the world. When Nate and I were first married, we spent a summer on the East Coast. We lived in Connecticut while Nate was working in New York. We visited Washington D.C., Newport, Rhode Island, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. We ended up driving from Utah to New York and back so we got to see a lot of the United States on our very long drive. Shortly after Bryant was born we went to Hawaii for the first time with some friends. We visited Arizona and San Francisco after that. We were lucky enough to make it to Europe a couple of times while my sister was living there. Bryant and Chase are world travelers. We have loved the opportunity to see different cultures and visit all of these beautiful places.



Recommendations

I am McKell's mom. McKell has been a light in my life from the minute she was born. I called her my angel baby and she was a joy to raise. I quickly learned that I had created my best friend and to this day I love being with her and doing anything from shopping to cleaning house. I think that from visiting Nate and McKell's website you can see she is an incredible mom. She puts her boys first and is the perfect mix of discipline and fun. I think the best way to describe her is meek and steadfast. As a parent she is patient and kind, but expects her kids to be respectful and obedient. I would like to focus more on her personal characteristics than her parenting. McKell is the kind of woman who cares about other people. She has mentioned several times how concerned she is about the woman who has to let someone else raise her baby. She's worried about you, what you've been through and what you will go through. She has carried and delivered two babies and is very aware of the struggle it would be to share your baby with another woman. McKell is empathetic and compassionate and would be the prime candidate for an open adoption. She's my daughter, but you could ask anyone close to her about her sweet spirit. She's the person you become best friends with after talking to her for a few minutes. I've known Nate since he was in junior high and even then I hoped one of my girls would date him. I'll just say that if I could've chosen anyone in the world to marry McKell it would have been Nate. So you can imagine how pleased I was when she picked him. Nate and McKell are a power couple. They are doers, planners and partiers! I can recommend them in so many ways and I know you would feel confident and comfortable in choosing them.

Angie Murdoch (mother)

Nathan and McKell are incredible parents who I would highly recommend. They are both outstanding individuals, who work together to make even better parents. I genuinely feel that both Nathan and McKell would be superb adoptive parents. Nathan is naturally a more sensitive man than most, having been raised with five sisters. He was always good at "cluing in" to how people feel. He was very sensitive to his mother's needs and is still very attentive to her needs now. He is the same with his wife McKell and his kids. He also grew up with close cousins that were adopted and everyone has always accepted them as part of the family--there is no difference between them and all the other cousins. McKell is one who simply loves children. She was born with that special nurturing instinct. I think that is why she went to school to be a teacher so she could nurture and teach a whole class full of kids. She is very organized and plans well in order to have things for her kids to do and many of those things involve learning. She is also very skilled with discipline. I have learned different techniques from her that I wished I had used as a father when I had young children. Perhaps she has learned some of those skills keeping classrooms of kids on task and working productively, but a lot of it comes naturally. I wholeheartedly recommend Nathan and McKell as adoptive parents. Whoever chooses them as adoptive parents for their child will know for certain that their baby will be happy, well raised and loved unconditionally. They will also be part of a larger family with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who will love and accept them as one of their own. We are not perfect, and we wouldn't expect an adoptive child to be perfect either, but we all love, accept and support one another as a tight-knit family.

Blaine Dennis (father)

Recommendations

Nate and McKell are fantastic parents who have created a home filled with love, fun and learning. They are so excited to embrace another baby and I know that they'll give that child every opportunity available. They are kind, humble, hardworking, service-oriented, and all things good. They really are two of the very best people I've ever known and are raising a superb family. I highly recommend them as adoptive parents; they will be amazing!

Whitlie Kauffman (sister)

How we love McKell and Nate! And their boys too! My kids call her kids "Friend Bryant" and "Friend Chase", which they don't do for anyone else. They're just especially loved. McKell is so intentional about the way she parents. I love the way she thinks carefully about toys, routines, books, tone of voice, activities, food, and teaching values. And she's great at running a tidy and organized home, which is something I personally admire a lot. Nate is one of the hardest working and most loyal people I've ever met. Whenever we have a need for help, they both jump to our rescue and bring the troops to make our lives easier. They've been there for our moving days, hospital stays, and career celebrations. Truly, the Dennises are on the short list of people I'd trust to raise my own children. To any moms making the incredibly difficult decision of finding the right family for your little one, I recommend the Dennises with my whole heart.

Carly Thornock (friend)

We are sincere in saying that we cannot think of a better family than the Dennis family. McKell is generous, organized, loving, strong, purposeful, and focuses on what matters most in life. Nate is loyal, kind, playful, driven, hard-working, and very involved in their boys' lives. Their boys are active, inclusive, smart, and take care of each other. We have a toddler who absolutely loves to play with them, and even though they are older, they treat him so well. We have been friends with Nate and McKell for over 10 years and have seen them overcome many challenges with strength and humility. Any child they adopt will be incredibly blessed to join their family.

Alli and Jordan Roper (friends)