

Maital & David



and Benjamin

(and Gigi too!)

A Family Built by Adoption



Nice To Meet You



Thank you for letting us share a little bit about our lives with you. We deeply admire what we feel is courage and selflessness in considering adoption for your child. If you choose us, we promise to love your child unconditionally and provide a home filled with love and support where your child can thrive. As adoptive parents already, we have learned that love makes a family. We wish you strength and peace during what must be a difficult time. We hope you feel a growing sense of comfort and hopefulness as you continue on your journey.

A Little Bit About Us



We love to host guests at our home. Living in a resort town, we host out-of-town family and friends at our home often. Everyone jokes that our home is a hotel and "reservations" fill up fast. Over Spring Break, we babysat our seven-year-old nephew, Atticus, and five-year-old niece, Mav, for an entire weekend. We all had so much fun playing with toys on the family room floor, swimming in our pool and playing at our local park. Our niece, Mav, was so excited to be there to push our son, Benjamin, for his very first time on a swing! Your child will grow up in a home that welcomes everyone!

We don't take ourselves too seriously. We can be goofy at times, using silly voices and pulling small pranks on each other. For our first dance at our wedding, we started off with a classic slow dance to "At Last" (which seemed very fitting as we had dated since high school), but the music quickly switched to "Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer and David started break-dancing. Maital pretended to be shocked, but moments later, she joined in on the surprise dance to a mash up of various songs!



We love to explore, regularly seeking out unique places, foods and experiences. One of our favorite days together was when we went to Montreal where David attended a medical conference. We had a list of sites and restaurants we wanted to see on David's day off. We were also in the midst of training for a half-marathon and needed to get a long run in that day. Short on time, we doubled up and ran around the whole city, checking out parks, restaurants and other attractions -- we even stopped to taste some famous sandwiches and pastries mid-run!

A Little Bit About Maital

Maital loves to cook and bake. She grew up in the kitchen with her family and routinely exchanges new recipes and ideas with her parents and siblings. After moving to Chicago as newlyweds, **Maital became more creative in the kitchen** and David started taking photos of the food she cooked, which he affectionately called "Maital's Creations." Maital especially enjoys preparing breakfast for friends and family. Recently, Maital tested out a new breakfast recipe with the help of our friends' three-year-old daughter. They made avocado toast topped with chopped kale, toasted pumpkin seeds, crispy chickpeas and fresh pomegranate seeds. More recently, Maital has enjoyed preparing food for our son, Benjamin, and beginning to involve him in the kitchen.



Maital leads an active lifestyle practicing yoga, taking fun workout classes or hiking at any chance she gets. She really **loves to paddleboard** at our family beach house. She even took our five-year-old niece, Ronnie, on her very first paddleboard adventure. While Ronnie was a bit hesitant at first, she quickly became mesmerized watching her reflection gliding across the water. Your child's life will be filled with fun activities.

After working as a lawyer for over a decade, Maital recently stepped away from her job to become a **"stay at home mom."** She usually starts each day by taking our son, Benjamin, on a morning walk with our dog, Gigi. She takes Benjamin on fun midday outings, including going to our neighborhood park, a local kids physical fitness center, music class, swim lessons and story time at the library. Most afternoons she plays with Benjamin at home or in our backyard before making dinner.



A Little Bit About David



David has always loved staying active in a variety of sports and recently completed his first half-Ironman race. In high school, he was on the football team. Now, he reminisces about his days on the field while **volunteering as the team doctor at our local high school**. Last season, a key player on the team suffered a horrible injury. Luckily, David rehabilitated him in time for the playoffs and was happy to see the team win the conference title.

David is a grill master. One of his favorite things to make is **his famous Texas-style brisket**, which he **smokes on the grill for 20 hours**. Throughout the day, he patiently checks the smoker to ensure the meat is smoking properly and he has fun waking up throughout the night to tend to the brisket. In fact, a couple of years ago, he won first prize at his hospital's cook-off for his brisket. Your child will have a patient father.



David can fix anything. Growing up, David's dad involved him in various home and auto projects and repairs, including fixing sprinklers, patching holes in walls and restoring classic cars. He continues to use these skills today around our home, and **he recently started restoring a 1973 Bronco**. He is carefully taking it apart for a complete restoration. He loves the challenge of placing modern technology in a classic car to create a safe and fun driving experience.

Our Story

We met at camp when we were 13-years-old. After being friends for a couple years, David mustered the courage to ask Mital to dance with him at a camp dance. It just so happened that swing music was playing. Mital said she did not know how to swing dance, but neither did David, so he said, "We can learn together." Learning together has been a common theme in our relationship as we dated through adolescence and into adulthood.



Since we started dating so young, our families have had plenty of time to grow close to each other. Mital's dad grew fond of David because, as her dad would say, "he is a good eater" (among many other reasons he loves David). Once David tasted Mital's dad's famous kabobs, David began relentlessly asking him for the recipe, but was always jokingly told it was a family secret. It was so cute when **Mital's parents gave him the "top secret" recipe on our wedding day.**

After we got married, we wanted to spend some time as a couple before having kids. After careful planning, the timing seemed perfect and we were so excited to start a family! Unfortunately, after two ectopic pregnancies, neither of which resulted in a baby, we were unable to become pregnant naturally. We tried fertility treatment, but were unable to sustain a successful pregnancy. This was heartbreaking, but made us a stronger team and we never thought about giving up our dream of becoming parents. As our sister and aunt were both adopted, we always felt that **love makes a family, and adopting our son, Benjamin, further confirmed this.** We love being parents and have so much love to give. We are hopeful to move forward on this journey with you.



Benjamin

Benjamin loves the water. Whether he is in our pool, the bathtub or simply playing with a kitchen bowl filled with water, he loves it all. The first time we took him in the pool, he instantly knew how to float and kick his legs. We recently signed him up for swim lessons and enjoy watching him have fun in the water. Your child's interests will always be supported.



Your child will have a big brother to lookout for him/her. As the oldest of three, **Maital always looked out for her younger siblings.** When she was 5-years old and her mother was in labor with her brother, Maital's 3-year sister was crying, but wouldn't tell anyone what was wrong. Although everyone else assumed that her sister was upset about their mother being away at the hospital, Maital noticed that her sister was pulling her ears and recognized that her sister probably had an ear infection (which was not uncommon for her). Maital's father took her sister to urgent care, thanks to Maital for looking out for her.

We were very fortunate to have spent some time with Benjamin's birth mother before he was born to get to know her and his birth family. **We are grateful to still have an ongoing connection with her,** including regularly exchanging messages and photos and occasional video calls. We plan to have regular in-person visits with her in the future. We are also in the process of putting together a personalized storybook for Benjamin about his adoption to read with him regularly so that **he always knows his adoption story and where he is from.** We also plan to prepare a personalized story book for your child and maintain a relationship with you, to your level of comfort.



Gigi



We both grew up with dogs and a couple years ago, we got our very own pup, Gigi! Although David was raised with dogs, he became very allergic to them after he moved away to college. A few years ago, he started getting allergy shots so that we could get a dog. We decided to get a Goldendoodle because they are known for being hypoallergenic. After wanting a dog for so long, we are thrilled to finally have Gigi as part of our family.

Gigi's name is an abbreviation of sorts for "Golden Girl" (or G.G.), which we chose since she is a Goldendoodle. She is friendly, playful and determined. The first time Maital took Gigi to the vet, Gigi had so much fun in the lobby greeting every dog and human that walked through the door.



Gigi is great with kids. Once Benjamin started eating (and dropping) solid food, he and Gigi became best friends. When Benjamin naps, Gigi naps under his crib; when Benjamin eats, Gigi is under the table; and when Benjamin plays, Gigi is by his side.

Our Lives

We love experiencing nature through hiking most weekends. A few years ago, towards the end of a strenuous, eight-hour canyon hike in Zion National Park, we met exhausted hikers that were lost because the trail was not well marked. Maital offered them food and water while David scouted the correct path up the canyon. Once the hikers regained their energy, we helped guide them safely up to the trailhead and learned a little bit about them and where they were from. They were very thankful to make it safely out of the canyon.



We make it a priority to unplug from our everyday lives and visit new places. No matter where we explore, we enjoy taking photos to help us remember all of our adventures. We took our first family vacation with Benjamin to the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Our favorite day of the trip was when we drove around the entire island, stopping at various points including Hanalei Bay Beach and exploring a rainforest. Your child's life will be full of adventure.

We are foodies. We enjoy checking out new restaurants and local food festivals. One of our favorite festivals is the annual taco festival where local shops compete for the best taco in town. At the entrance, everyone gets a necklace with a punch card to try a street taco at each stand. After trying all of the tacos, everyone gets to vote for their favorite taco. We always have a good time tasting tacos and unique fruit juices while enjoying live music.



Our Home & Neighborhood



Our home in California is **warm and welcoming**. While we love to have friends and family over on weekends, we also enjoy cuddling up next to the fireplace in the winter and watching movies. We are currently setting up a playroom, which will be a perfect place to play and grow. We have a nursery waiting for your child, right next door to Benjamin's bedroom. It is right across from our bedroom, so we will never be far.

Our favorite part of our home is the backyard, which includes a swimming pool. While Gigi is surprisingly not a fan of the pool, Benjamin absolutely loves to be in the water. **After a long day of swimming we love sitting around our firepit** and making s'mores. We recently babysat our five-year-old niece and seven-year-old nephew for the weekend and had a blast making smores with them. Maital insists we keep a cabinet stocked with giant marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate so we are always prepared for s'mores!



We live on a cul-de-sac in a suburban neighborhood and are **walking distance from the park, hiking trails and the zoo**. On a recent trip to our local zoo with our friends and their two kids, we had so much fun hand-feeding the giraffes lunch. It was neat to see the giraffes eating up close, scooping up lettuce with their long black tongues. Your child will grow up in a kid-friendly community.

Family

If you choose us, in addition to a big brother, your child will be loved by one great grandmother, four grandparents, seven aunts and uncles, and **four cousins**, aged two to seven-years-old.

Our family **always finds an excuse to celebrate**. Since our nieces birthdays are a week apart, we have a combined birthday family celebration for them. This year, we all celebrated at a big pumpkin patch by riding the tractor ride, exploring the corn maze and checking out the farm animals. When our son, Benjamin, turned one, we also celebrated with our entire family at our family beach house with balloons, a bounce house and smash cake!



Whether it is a potluck or a barbeque, our family get-togethers always involve good food. For as long as we can **remember**, Mital's grandmother gave family members her "**famous**" **recipe box**, filled with hundreds of handwritten recipe cards as a wedding gift. She spent nearly a year writing out family recipes, jokes and marriage tips. One of our favorite recipes from our box is apple crisp. Per David's sister, Lonnie's request, Mital baked a dozen apple crisps to serve at Lonnie's baby shower. Served warm with vanilla ice cream on top, they were a huge hit!

Our family has been built by adoption as our **son, Benjamin**, as well as **our sister, Sandie**, and **aunt, Karen**, were also adopted. We are so grateful that we have an open relationship with Benjamin's birth mother so that we can share stories and pictures from his milestones with her. Being inclusive is the norm for our family and your child will always have others who share a similar background.



Holidays & Traditions



On the **Fourth of July**, we have a family barbeque, watch the **boat parade** and enjoy fireworks from the dock at our family beach house. On one recent Fourth of July, the sounds of laughter and screaming filled the air while Maital played chase with our five-year-old niece, Mav, and our seven-year-old nephew, Atti, rode on Maital's back.

Since David was a boy, it has been a tradition for his entire family to spend **Christmas Eve** at **Six Flags Magic Mountain** since it is also David's birthday. Once we started dating, Maital's family started joining in on the fun. One of David's best memories is riding Viper in the same seat without getting up 28 times in a row since the park was not very crowded one year. The very first time we went to Magic Mountain together we took a picture on the carousel. Last year, we recreated the same photo on the carousel when we took Benjamin to Magic Mountain for the first time for David's birthday! It was exciting to capture this moment with our growing family at one of the first places we went as a couple.



Our family has an **annual family Hanukkah party with a fun gift exchange**. Our aunts and cousins each bring their own version of potato pancakes (a traditional Hanukkah dish served with sour cream or apple sauce). As the sun goes down, we all gather around to light the Hanukkah menorah and, every year, the ongoing debate about the "right" way to light the candles, continues. We are excited to learn about and incorporate your cherished traditions in your child's life.

Weekdays

David works as a **doctor** at ur local hospital less than 15 minutes from our home. His medical experience makes him well-qualified to tend to any bumps or scrapes your child may encounter. Since David is in private practice, he has a good amount of **flexibility** in his schedule and is usually home to play a bit before dinner each night. He will be able to prioritize quality time with your child.



Maital recently left her job as an attorney to be a **stay at home mom**. She takes Benjamin on a long walk with Gigi each morning, followed by a mid-day outing, either to a children's fitness center, the library, the park, the zoo, swim or music class. She will be available for all of the big and small moments in your child's life.

In the evenings, **we eat** healthy, home-cooked **meals together**. We try to be creative with the foods we prepare. While traveling in Thailand, we took a cooking class together and now enjoy making pad thai at home. The first time we cooked Thai food, it turned out way too spicy, so now we are careful to make sure to get the spices just right! After dinner, we give Benjamin a bath, get him ready for bed and read him a book together. Your child will grow up spending quality time with us every day.



Thank You

We deeply admire and respect you for considering adoption for you and your child. We can only imagine how overwhelming and emotional this experience may be right now. With grateful hearts we sincerely thank you for considering us as adoptive parents for your child. **We look forward to maintaining contact with you** and hope to share lots of photos and updates about your child's life over the years, to your level of comfort, just as we do with Benjamin's birth mother. If you choose us, we will love your child unconditionally and we'll be sure that you'll always have a place in your child's heart and ours. We hope that you will choose us to take this beautiful journey together with you and your child. We are so thankful you have taken the time to get to know a little bit about us and can't wait to hear from you!



♡,
Maïtal
+
David

NOTES



Our Background



David is also an amateur photographer. He thought it would be unique to use his own photo as the background of this book. This photo was taken at Antelope Canyon in Arizona looking directly upwards in a slot canyon.