



Adoption Council of Ontario

How Zane came into our lives

We always knew that adoption was the best option for us to grow our family. Since this was always the plan, we registered with our local Children's Aid Society early on our relationship to ensure the process would move along when we felt the timing was right. Throughout the entire process and the waiting, we were constantly consulting the AdoptOntario website. On a few occasions, we requested additional information on children and sibling group. Even if we felt we could possibly be a good match for the child, we knew it would be difficult for us to actively pursue more information since our PRIDE training had not yet started and our homestudy was not complete.

In January of 2008, we saw a 2 and a half year old boy on the website that, for a reason that cannot be described, made an instant connection with us. His write-up seemed perfect, his photos were even better. Zane appeared to be such a perfect match for our family. We immediately requested more information. The AdoptOntario worker quickly connected us with Zane's case worker. Even though our homestudy was not completed, we submitted a detailed bio of ourselves and were left with a very positive feeling. At the same time, we were contacted by our local CAS to start our pride training. The timing all seemed very convenient.

Our PRIDE training started. We spoke with our instructor, who was also a case worker with the CAS and plead our case to have our homestudy expedited. When making that call, we were informed that since their workload was so behind, they would not be able to do our homestudy for at least a year. We felt very disappointed and felt that Zane on AdoptOntario was slowly slipping from our reach.

We knew that Zane was being presented at the Adoption Resource Exchange in Toronto. We decided to go for the opportunity to meet his worker and get additional information. She took time to speak with us at length and shared detailed information regarding the child's past, birth parents and medical history. We attempted to watch a video that was available of Zane but technical difficulties with the player prevented us from doing so.

After discussing options with our family and friends, we opted to use some of our savings to have a private homestudy completed, which could be completed much sooner than through CAS. The private practitioner we choose was absolutely amazing. She was very knowledgeable and shared many great strategies and ideas with us on how to best proceed once our homestudy was complete. She shared many additional details of Zane and we finally saw the video we couldn't see at the ARE. Throughout the process, we were in constant contact with Zane's agency, as well as our own to provide updates to



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ensure all parties were aware we were interested in actively pursuing this particular little boy.

Once our homestudy was complete, we were invited to Zane's agency for an interview. The process was very stressful, but extremely informative. Shortly after leaving the meeting, we received a phone call informing us that our family was selected for Zane. We were described as a great match. We were all equipped to meet his needs, particularly since he had some very specific global developmental delays. The feeling was very strange. We knew for the first time that we were going to be parents. We had to start planning for real; it wasn't just a plan anymore.

We were later invited for the full disclosure meeting. During the meeting, we met the case workers, foster parents, and medical care practitioners and learned everything we could about this little boy. We were still very excited, a little overwhelmed, but excited. Then came the first meeting... The feeling was indescribable. It was such a mix of emotions. Trying to comprehend how excited and thrilled we were but knowing that a 2 year old wouldn't comprehend what was happening, nor understand how we were feeling. We immediately fell in love with him.

Shortly thereafter, we started our visitations with our new son. The workers and foster parents were all great and extremely supportive. It was a very positive experience. Since the foster home was roughly a 4 hour drive from our home, we condensed the visitations into a two week intensive period. Before we knew it, our son was home to stay with us. The whole process, from the time we first saw Zane on AdoptOntario, to the time he moved into our home was roughly 7 months. Our adoption journey was short of two years. We are now in the process of finalizing everything.

All in all, the process was a rollercoaster of emotions. Many of the people that were involved were very supportive and continue to be. We are thrilled, our families are thrilled, and our son is very happy and settled in his new home and new family. This truly feels like a "meant to be" event in our lives (for us as a couple and for Zane). We look forward to giving Zane a little brother and/or sister in the next couple of years. AdoptOntario will definitely be an important resource during that process as well.



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