

Hello! We're the Cutter family!

Celebrating five years of marriage, Fred and Carolyn have recently purchased their first home to raise their children in.

Fred is a Lieutenant in the Army and Carolyn is a stay at home mom and online student. Carolyn plans to teach within the next two years after finishing her first degree. She is excited about the flexibility that teaching will offer her in being able to stay on the same schedule as her children. Having a parent at home while the children are home is important to both Fred and Carolyn. We are also fortunate in that Carolyn's mom stays with the family, so there will always be adult supervision in the home. It's a blessing to be so close to one's family, and a value we hope to pass on to our children.

We have a 4 year old (biological) daughter, Emily who is enjoying preschool this year. Although Emily is Autistic, she does well in her preschool program and is a well rounded, happy child.

We also have a special love for pets around here and currently have 3 cats, a dog, and some fish.

All About Family

Family is extremely important to us. We make a habit of eating dinner together at the table most every night. Carolyn loves to cook healthy foods from scratch! We enjoy family time together, be it talking about our day, taking a walk round the neighborhood, or even watching a favorite show together. Although we each pursue our own hobbies and interests and respect individuality, we also respect the need for family relationships and nurture them to the best of our ability. It is our intention to encourage any adoptive children to participate in family activities, though we understand that getting used to a new family can take time, and the child will need to approach the idea at their own pace.

Extended family is also very important to us.

What we do around here

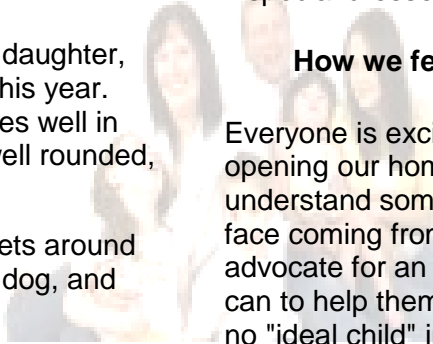
With summer coming up we plan on spending our free time at the Zoo and at the Beach. We also love to watch Emily (and hopefully more children) play on the swing set in the back yard while enjoying Bar-B-Que with friends.

Fred and I both enjoy music, especially playing the guitar or singing karaoke! Fred also plays the piano when he can get his hands on one.

Carolyn scrapbooks everything and loves to take photographs. Fred spends most of his free time writing fiction, and Carolyn's mom who lives with us spends time designing and sewing cute boutique clothing for girls. Gramma looks forward to creating special dresses for her new grand children!

How we feel about Children and Adoption

Everyone is excited about expanding our family and opening our home to more children! Fred and I understand some of the hardships that children can face coming from an unfortunate situation and would advocate for an adoptive child in whatever ways we can to help them reach their fullest potential. We have no "ideal child" in mind because in fairness, no child is alike. We understand that any child is going to have mixed feelings. They might be scared about a new situation, or feel like they do not have control over the big decisions happening in their lives right now. Carolyn spent a few months in Foster Care before her parents divorce, until her mother was able to care for her and her siblings. During that period in her life she felt alone and confused and very angry. Thankfully her mother supported and participated in family counseling and Carolyn and her family were able to work through their experience together. Even so, it took a lot of years to get over such a short interruption, so we understand that children coming out of the foster care system will likely come with similar issues and their own battles to work through, and we fully accept the responsibility of helping them through it. We want to make sure that our children know that once they become a part of our family, they will always be a part of our family, and we will love and accept them unconditionally.



Fred and Carolyn are both close with their families and we try to make a habit of visiting at least twice a year. Everyone is on board with the adoption and needless to say, everyone is excited about expanding our family and opening our home to more children!

Fred and I feel we would be a good adoptive parents because we encourage children to be children, to play and learn and discover what life has to offer them. We strongly believe that children benefit from social and structured activities, so we would encourage participation in social activities such as sports or dance or anything that can get them involved!

We think it's important to encourage children to pursue hobbies and interests and explore new opportunities to grow, and so we hope that our children will learn self-confidence, self-worth, and will discover they shouldn't be afraid to have fun and search out their personalities to experience all that life has to offer them.

Fred loves to be silly and play and laugh. He's not afraid to be a fun dad! Carolyn loves being a stay at home mom, and even looks forward to having a flexible schedule as a teacher when she is finished with her education.

Fred and Carolyn love children and have decided that adoption is the perfect way to expand their family. They hope to be the forever family to one or two children who yearn to be adopted out of the foster care system. They believe that adopting girls will allow Emily and the newly adopted child to form a special bond that only sisters can have.

"We look forward to the day when our forever family is complete!"

Our Experience with behavioral problems, medical problems, and raising children

Our experience with behavioral problems, developmental delays, and even seizure, sleep, and eating disorders emerged when our daughter was diagnosed with Autism, but our advocacy for her began long before her diagnosis. Emily has had many struggles in life but has always had a soft spot to land at home. She progressed ahead of her peers in speech, comprehension, and even reading, but suddenly lost her skills at about 15 mos. of age. We can only imagine how terrifying this was for Emily from the fear we had ourselves, but seeing the need to help her in whatever ways we could, we set our own fears aside and began the journey of doctor appointments, testing, support groups, reading material, and understanding this lifelong disease called Autism. We have been our child's advocate every step of the way, from searching for answers ourselves, to not letting the doctors procrastinate with a diagnosis, to fighting for the right treatments for Emily, but we have come through it stronger and more willing to advocate for our daughter's needs, and we would do the same for any child in our family, biological or adopted. Children cannot often speak for themselves, so it is up to us as their parents to be their best advocate.

Through ABA Therapy, an IEP for school, respite care, and many other resources, Emily is learning to function much like a child just a few years younger than her. She has grown leaps and bounds socially and in her self-help skills, and it is our hope that her speech will be soon to follow. Although she is non-verbal, she gets along well with other children. We are not afraid to go the distance for our kids, and are looking forward to providing the same love, care, and commitment to any child we bring into our hearts and home. We believe that bringing more children into our family will be a positive experience for everyone!

