



A LITTLE RAY OF SUNSHINE

FEB 15 • MONTEREY PARK, CA

As you all know, we started our adoption journey back in August 2020. We were ready and able to embrace the 18-month long process, but fate decided to speed things up a bit. On Monday, February 15, 2021 our daughter, Olivia Ray, was born.

You're probably thinking, "Whoa! What just happened! Did they just have a baby?!" The answer is yes! If you want to

know what's been going on the past 6 months, go to pages 2-3.

The TLDR: We brought Olivia home from the hospital on February 17th and by the end of this year, we'll legally be her official parents!

We named her Olivia because we just like the name and it has a plethora of nicknames like:

SUNSHINE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INTRODUCING OLIVIA RAY

DATE February 15, 2021

TIME 4:13 PM

WEIGHT 7 pounds, 11 ounces

HEIGHT 19 inches

CITY Monterey Park, CA

ONE BABY A MILLION FACES

FEB 19 • LONG BEACH, CA

Every day we fall more in love with Olivia, but one of our favorite things is all of her expressions. A few of them already have coined names, like The Classic Smirk, Fart Face, Distressed Vampire, and Punk Rocker. We can't wait to

FACES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



SWEET SERENDIPITY

OUR JOURNEY TO PARENTHOOD

American Adoptions ←
our adoption agency

our home study facilitator →



VISTA DEL MAR
A COMMUNITY OF SERVICES



CPR and First Aid certified

our printed profile given to interested birth moms



check out our video profile on YouTube

AUGUST

READ, WRITE AND DOCUSIGN

Our journey began on August 8, 2020 with many manuals to read, legal forms to fill out and even an auto-biography to write. This month was all about learning how the adoption process worked and making sure we were both 100% all-in!

SEP · OCT

HOME STUDY AND TRAINING

Next, we embarked on the 2-month home study process, which included a home inspection, individual interviews, physicals, a few adoption prep classes, fingerprinting, CPR training, couples therapy, and character witness statements.

NOVEMBER

VIDEO INTERVIEWS & B-ROLL

One of our most challenging hurdles was recording our video profile for prospective birth moms. After shooting 2+ hours of interviews, slow pans of the house, and awkward filler b-roll, our agency whittled it down to a 4-minute snapshot of us.

The adoption process was nothing like we imagined. It definitely came with it's own set of "labor pains" and challenges, but everything has been well worth it. Now that we're holding our little girl in our arms, we've had time (especially at 3am) to reflect. Adoption has taught us that you can love someone at first sight, that it's okay to not be in control, to have a little faith and things will work out the way they're meant to. We're so incredibly thankful, thrilled and in awe of this entire journey... and it's only just begun!

We passed time by finding new hobbies



Latest hobby: Rock painting

ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY

BIRTH MOM'S NAME: Elly

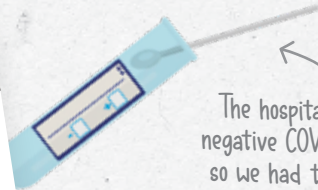
AGE: 30

LOCATION: rosemead, California

ETHNICITY: Asian (Chinese)

DUE DATE: 1/18/21 or 2/25/21 ??

We were given 24 hours to accept/deny this adoption opportunity



The hospital required a negative COVID test result so we had to quickly get this done just to meet Olivia



Meeting Olivia for the first time

DECEMBER

WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART

On December 1, 2020, our home study was approved and our profiles were published. All that was left to do was wait for a birth mom to select us. Our agency estimated a 270-day wait time for us, so we tried to go back to our normal lives.

JANUARY

THE MOST PERFECT MATCH!

Just 52 days after activating, we received a call on January 22, 2021 that a Californian birth mom had selected us to be her baby's adoptive family! Super quick match time + no out of state travel + due date in weeks = The best of all worlds!

FEBRUARY

BECOMING MOMMY & DADDY

On President's Day, we got the call that our birth mom went into labor. A few hours later, a healthy baby girl was born and we became parents. We met Olivia for the first time the following day and haven't stopped loving her since.

EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY

ADOPTION PROCESS IN MONTHS

	EXP	REAL
Complete a home study	3	2
Create a print and video profile	2	2
Time to match with a birth mom	9	2
Pre-delivery prep time	3	0
Travel time and delivery	1	0
Total Months	18	6

SUNSHINE CONTINUED

Ollie, Liv, Olallieberry, Olive, and Olly-olly-oxen-free! Her middle name, Ray, came from Shelby's late grandpa, Ray Driscoll, and because she will always be our ray of hope.



FACES CONTINUED

see the many faces Olivia will add to her collection.



LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOR

FEB 16 · MONTEREY PARK, CA

Today about 95% of domestic adoptions are considered open adoptions. This means the biological and adoptive families have contact with each other. When we started this journey, we knew we would not only be adopting a baby, but also welcoming another person into our lives: the birth mom.

Meet Elly, our selfless and brave birth mom. She's a friendly 30-year-old Southern California resident who loves to cook and sing. Even though we didn't get to spend much

time getting to know her, our mutual love for Olivia quickly bonded us. We're so excited that she still wants to be a part of Olivia's life!

Our adoption journey has not come to an end quite yet. For the next six months, we will have a handful of post-placement visits by a local social worker. Then in August 2021, the three of us will go to court to finalize the adoption! Until then, we love being parents and can't wait to see Olivia's personality shine!



The quick late night guide for new parents



how to burp a newborn Q