

Kitsap Adoption Group

a KAG newsletter

Feature Family — *The Kohlers*

In this issue, we introduce the Kohler's, Joe, Gayle, Emma, Sophie & Isabel!

Gayle and Joe Kohler are the proud parents of three wonderful girls from China. Joe, a PSNS engineer, and Gayle, a Department of Veterans Affairs claims examiner, were a bit older when they married. However, they jumped in to parenthood, applying with WACAP early on, and asking for a healthy, young daughter.

To their hearts amazement, Emma was referred to them shortly before her 1st birthday, coming home just before their 2nd anniversary in October, 1999. They also found out she was born exactly 9 months after they were married!

They didn't wait long to sign on with WACAP again, asking once more for a healthy girl. In April, 2002, they finally met Sophie, the day after her 1st birthday.

After parenting two girls through bumps, bruises, night terrors, and illnesses, they found they were open to asking for a special needs older child. Their plan was to wait due to the expense but fellow KAG member, Vicki Peterson, sent them a picture and information about a toddler girl. Joe said they had to go get her! With a leap of faith, they signed on with Adoption House, preparing for a toddler adoption. They planned for the worst, hoped for the best and reality fell in between.



Traveling as a whole family, in 2005, to Jiangxi, they met 2.5 yr old Isabel. Having been blessed with a loving foster family, she did not want to be with the Kohler's at first. That first week as a family was rough, but they took comfort in Isabel's first family bonds, knowing it meant she could bond with them in time. After meeting with the foster family, Isabel became more peaceful, giving them her first smiles and laughs. Having her two older sisters in China helped Isabel, too.

Isabel has had a wonderful transition and picked up English incredibly fast. Less than a year home, she was issuing driving directions to Gayle from the backseat!

The Kohler's are happy to discuss the waiting child program with anyone who might have questions.

Issue 3

July, August,
September, 2008

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Summer BBQ & Get-Together

- ☑ DATE: Saturday, August 2nd
- ☑ TIME: 3:00 pm — Dusk
- ☑ LOCATION: Raab Park
in Poulsbo

Come play starting at 3:00.
Bring something to share for the
potluck dinner at 5:30. We'll
make yummy s'mores at 7:30.
Come for any or all of the get-
together. See you there!

Playground “Dates”

Come join us for some summer time fun at the parks! We have expanded our alternating Thursday get togethers, to every Thursday this summer. Hope to see you there!

- **7/24 Silverdale Waterfront Park
- **7/31 Commons Park, Port Orchard near foot ferry
- **8/7 Silverdale Waterfront Park
- **8/14 Salsbury Park, Poulsbo, past the Hood Canal Bridge
- **8/21 KAG CAMPING TRIP!

**8/28 Lyons Park, Poulsbo

**9/4 Silverdale Waterfront Park

All park events start at 10 am and usually last 2 hours depending on the weather. Bring a lunch. Cold or rainy weather means we meet at the Silverdale Mall indoor playground.



KAG CAMPING TRIP



When: Thurs, August 21
For one or two nights,
based on your schedule
Check in—after 2:30 pm

Where: Fort Flagler Park, group camp site (tents, RVs)

Cost: FREE to KAG member families,
Nominal fee to non members

Food: Potluck dinner on the 21st. Bring a dish to share!

RSVP: Carrie Bays, 360-930-0680,
carriebays@comcast.net

Tell her the # in your party, Tent or RV, and # of nights you will stay.

What else? Last year’s reviews were great. Please join us, even if it’s just for the day!

More Upcoming Events

First Friday Family Fun Dinners! 5:30—?

- August 8th—Roundtable Pizza—Silverdale
- September 12th, Panda Inn

Don’t forget to bring your Kitsap Cards!

Summer Monthly Chats:

- July 26 — Kitsap Memorial State Park (time may change) 9—11 am open chat
- August — NONE (due to camping trip)

Contact: Wendy Harris - 779-7374, adoption@comcast.net

WISH (Waiting Is So Hard) for any stage of the process

2nd Thursday each month, 4-6 pm, @ The Kohler’s 4937 NW Discovery Ridge Court, Silverdale, (360) 662-0630

Congratulations to the Benze's!

John, Lisa and Cassie Benze received their referral of their new son, Su Xu Ding!

Su Zu Ding will be 2 years old on August 20th. He lives in Suzhou City, not far from Shanghai. This ancient city is called the Venice of China because of all the waterways, stonework bridges, and gondolas.

If everything goes smoothly, they should travel within two to six months to get him. Two to three months after they return, he will have a cleft palate surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital, as he has already had cleft lip repair surgery.

Sister Cassie will be four years older and is very excited about having a brother!



Su Xu Ding Benze

Funding Your Adoption(s)

Deciding which agency to use and filling out the endless paperwork for your upcoming adoption can be stressful and time consuming. However, this is nothing compared to trying to figure out how to fund your adoption. Here are just a few suggestions of ways to help pay for an adoption:

- Check with your employer to see if they offer adoption reimbursements.
- Sell items on Ebay or Craig's list
- Get donations from local companies and hold a silent auction or hold a fundraiser
- Apply for a grant. Check with your agency or friends to make sure the grants are legitimate.

Apply for low interest or interest free loans. Many agencies have information on both loans & grants.

Have a garage sale! Advertise that proceeds will be helping to fund your adoption. Ask friends or family members to donate items for the garage sale.

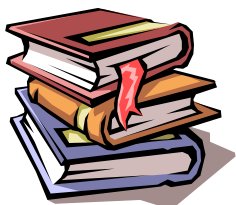
A KAG member shared that her mother and mother in law held a baby shower, but instead of gifts they asked for donations for "travel" expenses-

One site we found with various info on funding adoptions is below. Remember to check out the legitimacy of all sources first.

Gift of Adoption
www.giftofadoption.org/Resources

E-Learning on Adoption Topics

Many of you have a wide variety of resources on the topic of adoption. There are books, magazines, forums and websites to help us raise our children.



One site we found recently is Adoption Learning Partners which conducts various e-learning courses. Based on their stated mission (on their website) they will offer "highly valuable, timely, web-

based education resources for adoptive parents, adopted individuals, birth parents and the families that love them.

Adoption Partners is located at

<http://adoptionlearningpartners.org/index.cfm>

Craft Corner

Homemade Fingerpaints by eHow.com

Courtesy of eHow.com - Clear Instructions on How to Do (just about) Everything.

Ingredients: 3 cups of water
1 cup cornstarch
Food coloring
1 TBSP glycerin (optional)

Materials: Saucepan
Bowls
Extra fine glitter (optional)

Directions:

1. Pour two cups of the water into the saucepan... and bring the water to a full boil.
2. Place the cornstarch in the...bowl. Stir in the remaining cup of water. Mix until cornstarch dissolves.
3. Stir the mixture and water into the pan. Return the saucepan to the burner.
4. Stir the cornstarch and water constantly. Come to a boil once more. Boil for 1 min, until thick & clear.
5. Turn off burner & allow mixture to cool. At a warm, bearable temperature, pour solution in bowls.
6. Add food coloring to each container.... Let your child or children gently stir.
7. Get creative, if you like, and further embellish the paint by stirring in extra fine glitter. Stir the glycerin into the paint to make it shiny. You are now ready to use your finger paint.

Did You Know We're On the Web?!

kitsapadoptiongroup.com and (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KitsapAdoptionGroup/>)

You can find information about our KAG group on the web, including links to local adoption resources. We also have an online community via our KAG Yahoo Group. Our Yahoo group provides a more immediate opportunity to get questions asked, events organized, and new friends made. To join the group send an email to KitsapAdoptionGroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com **If you are already a part of the Yahoo group**, make sure your contact information is up to date on the "Who's Who" list in the "database" section of the site. It makes a great online "directory" for the group.

KAG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2008

Send \$20.00 and this form to: KAG c/o Cindy Berry, PO Box 3305, Silverdale, WA 98383-3305

New Member Renewal

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail Address _____

Child _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Agency/Country/Arrival Date? _____

Child _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Agency/Country/Arrival Date? _____

Child _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Agency/Country/Arrival Date? _____

Child _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Agency/Country/Arrival Date? _____