



A Full Service Licensed Child Placing Agency

Creating Your Picture Collage

1. Your collage should be three to five pages long, double sided and no more.
2. You can be creative by fashioning a colorful background to illustrate your pictures or simply have a slightly colored paper to print on.
3. These pictures can be collected from your family scrapbook. Another approach is to have a friend, with a good camera, take pictures of your family in the outdoors, such as a local park. Have your friend take action pictures of you sliding down the slide, sitting on the swing, or playing in the sand, etc. Try to select the pictures that show an interaction between family members.
4. Include family pictures that illustrate your interests. For example, if your husband is a fisherman, select a picture of him standing in front of a stream with his fishing rod. If your wife enjoys tennis, include a picture of her holding her tennis racket.
5. Each picture does not have to include all family members. In fact, the best balance is to have some individual pictures, some pictures as a couple, and some pictures as a family. Try not to emphasize too many pictures and captions of your children. She may feel you don't have

time for her child. Wedding pictures are discouraged, they tend date you because they are most likely a few years old.

6. Include *one or two* pictures of your family pet. Most birth mothers feel favorable towards pets, and some feel strongly that the adoptive couple owns a pet. Do not use more than one or two pictures, and please don't refer to them as "your children" or replacements for the children you don't yet have. Also please be careful of the pictures of them in your bed, this can be a turn off.
7. We strongly suggest selecting 2 of your next best family portraits setting to be in your family collage.
8. You can include pictures of your home. Make sure your address is not visible on the outside of the house. You might consider taking a picture of the yard where the child will be playing or the bedroom you have fixed up for a baby. Don't go overboard on these as well. Try not to use captions that will make the birth mother feel pressured such as "this is the room waiting for you to help us fill with your baby." Or, "our family is incomplete and waiting for you to place your child with us."
9. Try not to use a lot of pictures where you are always doing the same thing such as camping or fishing. Please, no pictures of hunting trophies, (dead deer or elk, etc.)
10. Most couples like having the collage coordinate with the birth mother letter. Remember, the letter and pictures will be together in your profile. You can consider using coordinating colors and borders.

11. Once the pictures have been selected, place them on the paper of your choice, or on a colorful mat and make them up just as you would a scrapbook page. Try not to make it too cluttered. Birth mothers don't like cluttered pages. You can then make color copies of the pages at a copy store such as Kinko's or Alpha graphics. These color reproductions usually make excellent copies. Select a *simple binding* for the collage and birth parent letter. This makes them easier to mail and handle. Please remember to *make your pages standard sizes, 8 1/2 by 11.*
12. You will need at least 5 copies of your profile. The birth family that selects you will keep your collage of pictures. When we mail these out to prospective birth parents they do not mail them back to the agency.

ALL FOR LOVE
Adoptions, Inc.
Mail your Collage's to:
All for LOVE Adoptions, Inc.
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