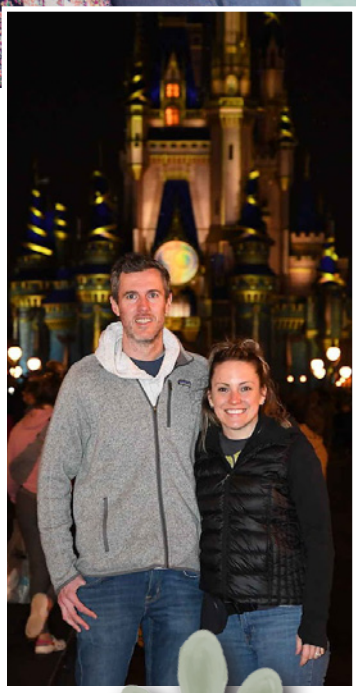
Justin and
Lauren

About Us

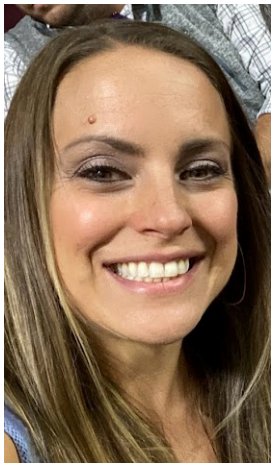
We met while working together at an insurance company. After Lauren was hired, we quickly became friends by getting to know each other at various work events. When our company relocated us both to the headquarters in Los Angeles, we became even closer. We started dating in Southern California and experienced a fun life on the west coast. Our favorite pastimes while dating were hiking, eating sushi, and going to the beach. We eventually traveled back to Ohio to get married with our friends and family, but continued to live in California for a bit. After the birth of our first daughter, we decided to move back home to raise our family.

We both value education and our careers. Lauren has a MBA and another graduate degree in Math, and Justin has an MBA. We both still work in the insurance industry. Lauren is also a part-time college math instructor. All of our professional work is primarily from home, which we love because it gives us lots of time and flexibility for family activities and any unexpected things that may come up.



We are one of those families that does almost everything together. We love to go to zoos, parks, aquariums, festivals, museums, and take day trips or vacations together. Our normal weekly schedule is pretty busy with sports, storytime, art, events, festivals and fun places to go. We do try to live a pretty healthy lifestyle and enjoy hiking, biking, yoga, and eating healthy as a family. We make it a point to eat dinner as a family every night.

About Lauren *written by Justin*



Lauren is smart, kind and an all-around beautiful person. She is my best friend and the love of my life. But, the thing that is most meaningful to her and that I get to witness everyday is that she is an AMAZING mom.

Just by doing the things she normally does she challenges me to be a better person, a better friend, a better husband and a better dad. She is the most selfless and patient person I know.

She goes above and beyond to give our kids and our family every possible chance to have fun, to learn, to be better people, to live a healthy life and most of all to be happy.

Lauren's Favorites:

Season: Summer

Holiday: Christmas

Movie: Hidden Figures, Back to the Future, Rent

TV Shows: This is Us, Downton Abbey, Virgin River

Vacation Destinations: California, Florida, New York City

Food: Tacos, Chili, Pasta

Childhood Memory: Anything on the softball field. I played from ages 5-22.

Hobbies: Reading, yoga, gardening, cooking, hiking, skiing

Occupation: Part-time College Math Instructor and Part-time Insurance Analyst

Favorite activities with our girls: Girl Scouts, storytime at library, going to the theater, playing sports, hiking

About Justin *written by Lauren*

Justin is an amazing partner and father. He has been supportive of me even before we started dating and always has been my number one fan. He was right by my side when I decided to change my career path after the birth of our first daughter. He supported me through graduate school and made sacrifices so that I could finish my degree.

He is extremely driven and successful in his own career. He is excited everyday to be in the role that he is in, but has work-life balance in which he is completely focused on our daughters when they are home from school. Whenever he is done working, you can either find him in one of our playrooms or outside with the girls. He enjoys taking them to their sporting events and has even coached tee-ball and soccer! He is "the fun dad" and is always silly and fun loving. He threw snowballs at our car this morning when we were pulling out of our driveway heading to school! He has a ton of energy, is super athletic, and is always up for running around with the girls.

Justin's Favorites:

Season: Fall

Holiday: Thanksgiving

Movie: Forrest Gump, Rounders, Blindside

TV Show: Madame Secretary, Numbers

Vacation Destination: The Beach

Food: Pizza, Steak, Ice Cream

Childhood Memory: Family vacations to the Outer Banks North Carolina

Hobbies: Running, Biking, Watching sports

Occupation: Insurance Product Manager

Favorite activities with our girls: Playing games, art, coaching sports, reading to them

Our Home

Our home is a 5 bedroom updated colonial on a quiet cul de sac about 20 minutes from a major metropolitan area. We have three playrooms in the house, including a large finished basement with a little tikes climbing cube and slide. We just completed landscaping in the backyard, which included updating our firepit so that we can have friends and family over for roasting marshmallows. We live near a nationally rated park system with many hiking trails, creeks, and a nature center. Our town features a highly rated school system, which was the driving factor for us to live here. There is a brand new elementary school opening up in 2022. We also have family members that attend the same school district. Our town features many churches, playgrounds, restaurants, a library which we frequent almost weekly, a recreation center with a new outdoor pool and slide, and various community events throughout the year. We live close to many friends and family, and our neighborhood has tons of kids. Our neighborhood has more than 10 families with kids under the age of 10. The sidewalks and driveways are filled with kids' chalk drawings and the yards are filled with toys and sports equipment. We feel that our community and neighborhood is a great place for children to grow up.

Rounding out our family and sharing our home are our two cats. They are two year old sisters, adopted during the pandemic. Our daughters named them Kanga and Luna. Kanga definitely acts like a kangaroo jumping around the house, and Luna lives by her name and comes alive at night.

Our Family *and* Friends

We have two children: a six-year old daughter and a three-year old daughter. We are lucky to live in the same town as Lauren's parents and brother's family. We see them at least once a week and enjoy having meals together. Justin's dad and stepmother live a few hours away, and we make it a point to see them every few months and every holiday. Justin's sister and cousins live out of state in a large city, which makes a fun vacation each year.

Pumpkin patch with cousins

Our children are extremely close in age to the nieces and nephews that live in our hometown. We have a niece that is less than 24 hours younger than our six-year old. They are close friends as well as cousins! We also have a nephew close in age to our three-year-old daughter, and an eight-year old niece locally. They are biracial, and if we are lucky enough to adopt a child from another race, we feel that our family will welcome them with open arms. Our other niece and nephew are older and live out of state, but it is a treat to see them over the holidays. We visit each other at least once a year in our different residences. Justin also has cousins with young children, and we make a point to see them as well each year.

Celebrating Christmas with grandparents

We also consider our friends to be part of our family. We have many friends with children the same age, and we enjoy spending time with them. The kids participate in activities together such as t-ball, attend the community events, and we love having spur of the moment get-togethers with all of them.

Lauren's birthday lunch with best friends & parents

Celebrating Christmas with cousins

Our daughter's 2nd birthday with family.

Matching outfits from Grandma!

Build a Bear with Grandparents

Visiting the zoo with our neighbors

Birthday cupcakes with Grandma

Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for taking the time to read about us! We hope that you were able to capture a glimpse into our lives and see how much love we have for each other. We know this process cannot be easy for you, but we would be honored for you to give us the opportunity to complete our family. We are in a great place financially, have found our forever home and community, and have such great support from friends and family. We are open to any gender, race, and ethnicity, and if we are lucky enough to have a child that brings diversity into our lives, we plan to celebrate and honor that fact. Our extended family is made up of biracial cousins, members of the LGBTQ community, many different occupations and backgrounds, and they would all be extremely supportive if we were blessed with an adopted child. We promise to give your child the best opportunities in life and vow to give them a childhood full of joy, love, and laughter.

Justin AND *Lauren*

Why Adoption?

After our first daughter was born, we knew in our hearts that our family was incomplete. We struggled a bit with fertility to have our second daughter, but were ultimately blessed with her birth. After she was born, we again felt that we had more to give and tried to have a third biological child. Unfortunately, that route has not panned out, but in our hearts we feel that our family is still missing an important piece. Adoption has always been part of the conversation as a potential route to building our family, and we now feel that it is our given pathway for extending our love. We are open to a child of any race, gender, and ethnicity, and we have faith that another child is out there waiting for us. We are completely ready to support, love, and watch that child grow.

Building Blocks Adoption Service Inc.