



**Alyah**

# Dear Expectant Parents,

I want to thank you for taking time to learn more about me (Alyah), my dream of becoming a parent, and my support system by reviewing my profile book.

As I hope you gather from these pages, I am prepared to provide a child with a loving and accepting home. I believe that no child can ever be loved \*too\* much, and I honor and respect the connection my child will have with his/her birth parent(s). I can't wait to become a parent and share this beautiful life with a child. I am grateful to you and wish you peace.

With Love,

*Alyah*



My family and support system



My nephews, niece, and my dog Cash

# About Me

I am a caring, hard-working, and socially-conscious person. I consistently show up for my family and friends. And, my career is dedicated to making the world a better place. I love that I make people laugh, listen with intention, and treat people with compassion.

I enjoy exploring new places, especially places with natural beauty. I am creative, physically active, and organized. I prioritize experiences over things and value creating memories with the people I love.

I love to build community and support my family, friends, and neighbors in living their fullest and most meaningful lives.



Perfect walking weather on my favorite trail



My sweet pup Cash



My nephews and niece + Cash



With the kids and my mom in 2013

## Becoming a Parent



My oldest sister had my first nephew, Zayd, when I was 17. I formed such a special bond with him. It was unlike any other relationship I had ever had, and a brand new kind of love.

That feeling of love was compounded when my second sister had her two children. I was in my late twenties and I spent every waking moment when I was not at work with my new nephew, Milat, and niece, Amaya. I was an extra support system to my sister and her husband, like a third parent. I love my nephews and niece more than words can express, and I have wanted for years to have my own child.

I am ready to provide a child with a loving, stable, and accepting home. I want my child to feel supported, heard and free to be their truest self. My heart is open and I am excited for what comes next in my journey to become a parent.



Our favorite: storytime



Cute visitors eating breakfast

Cash enjoying the dog park

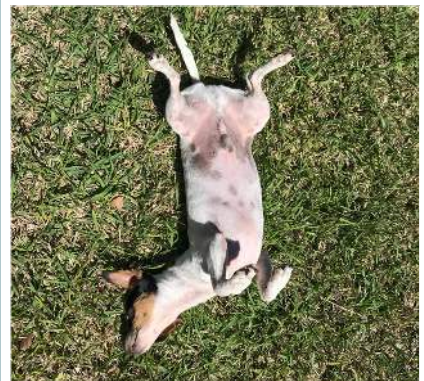
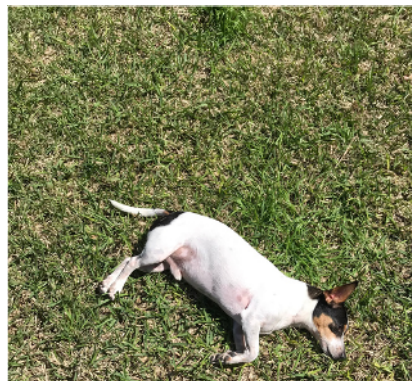


## My Home

My home in Austin is filled with love, light, books, and art. My 8-year-old rat terrier, Cash, loves babies and kids. My nephews and niece are best friends with Cash. My home is a place of peace for me. My family and friends visit often. I want every person who comes into my home to feel welcome, taken care of, and comfortable. I have planned my home in a way that I can grow my family.

I live in an apartment in South-Central Austin, nearby a good school district and within walking distance to beautiful parks and nature trails. My home is cared for with love.

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# My Work

I started my professional career as a journalist in Washington, D.C. After a few years of reporting, I decided I wanted to work directly to support people and communities that are often overlooked. I began my nonprofit career in Austin at an affordable housing organization and then fighting to protect women's health and rights in the Texas Capitol. Now I work for a global nonprofit that strengthens gender equality around the world.



Fighting for women's health in the Texas Capitol



With my current colleagues from around the world working to advance gender equality for women and girls



Working at an affordable housing fundraising event, my parents attended in support



In Washington, D.C. as a young reporter

# Hobbies & Interests



I am an avid reader, writer, art-lover, and traveler who thrives on music, dancing and documentaries. I find solace, joy and energy being in nature - whether it's daily walks with my dog, long winding hikes on the trails in Austin or in a far off place, or a swim in a body of water. My child will know and share in these joyful and uplifting experiences with me.



I love music. I went to Beyoncé's Renaissance tour with my sister



Spending time outdoors, hiking and swimming with friends

# Education & Extracurriculars

Education has always been important to me and my family. My mom was a Montessori teacher for more than 20 years, and my oldest sister is a former elementary school teacher and a current university professor in the field of education. The Montessori school where my mom taught was the first school I attended.

I went to the University of Missouri-Columbia, one of the nation's top 10 journalism schools, and I earned a Master's degree at American University in Washington, D.C. Outside of school, some of my favorite extracurricular activities while growing up were soccer and theater. I also spent my summers as a teenager teaching toddlers and young children how to swim. I will support my child to excel in his/her own education and pursue activities of interest to become a fully-rounded person.



High school graduation with my parents



I can't wait to teach my child how to play soccer



Sharing my love of theater by attending a local performance of *The Sound of Music*



# My parents



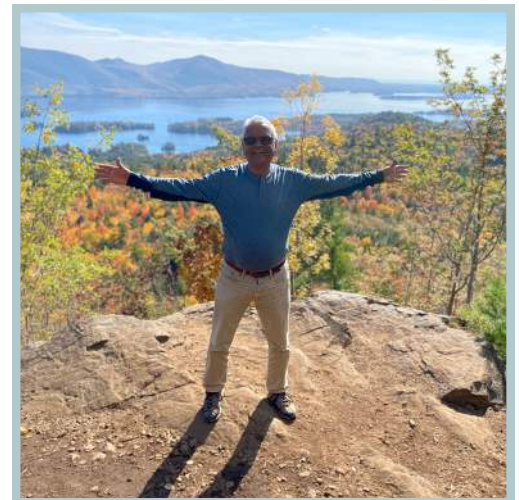
I come from a tight-knit, loving family. My parents are an extraordinary support system and my biggest champions. They grew up in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. They currently live in Plano, a suburb of Dallas.

**They are the absolute best grandparents.**



My Mom, Amina, is one of my best friends. She was a Montessori preschool teacher for more than twenty years. She enjoys gardening, cooking delicious food, sewing and knitting and going to the theater. She is the heart of our family.

My Dad, Atiq, is one of the funniest people on the planet. He is so optimistic and takes such good care of his entire family. He enjoys long road trips and going to our family farm.





Hiking in California

Saba, my oldest sister, is a university professor in Iowa and a former elementary school teacher. Dan, my brother-in-law, is an architect. Zayd, my nephew, is in college.



## My sisters



On my most recent visit to the U.K.

My second older sister, Sadaf, works in foreign affairs and her family currently lives in the U.K. Patrick, my brother-in-law, is an attorney. My nephew, Milat, is 12 and my niece, Amaya, is 11. We spend many weeks a year together over the holidays and in the summer.

**Both of my older sisters have taught me so much about parenting and provide incredible support to me on a regular basis.**

## SPECIAL TIME WITH THE KIDS

It has always been my priority to spend time with my niece and nephews and make memories. My child will have every opportunity to explore and celebrate big and small moments with family.



Going to the museum



Spending time every year at the beach



Going to the park



Celebrating milestones



Swimming in the summer



Walks with Cash



Playing sports



Cooking family meals



Halloween!

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...



### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ALYAH KHALA? (KHALA MEANS AUNT)

**From Zayd (age 21):** *“Alyah Khala is attentive, caring, devoted, and selfless. If Alyah Khala was a parent, I imagine she’d be incredibly thoughtful and aware of her child. She’d always want to know what her child was thinking about and how they were feeling. Alyah Khala asks a lot of questions and always cares about the answers authentically.”*

**From Milat (age 12):** *“There are many ways I could describe my aunt. Alyah Khala could be described as kind, active, and engaging. Alyah Khala could be referred to as funny and fun to be around. Many would say Alyah Khala would make the perfect mother. I have heard this sentiment echoed many times. It is a sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with. It is also a sentiment I wish to see materialized into a reality. Alyah Khala is everything a good mother should be. She is empathetic and understanding as well as logical. Personally, I love it when Alyah Khala takes us to the park, the movies, or the museum. However, recalling my memories, I cannot think of a single time when any activity Alyah Khala arranged for us has gone poorly. This part about Alyah Khala is one of many I think would make Alyah Khala an amazing mother.”*

**From Amaya (age 11):** *“You want a word about my Alyah Khala? There are so many. First things first, you always have something to do with Alyah Khala. She always makes sure you’re never bored and have something to do. Movies, ice cream ... anything. Second, Alyah Khala can make fun out of anything, even at the most spontaneous moments! Once she made up a whole saga of funny, suspenseful stories on the spot, which we still love to this day. In addition to that, she cheers you up when you’re sad and is excited with us when we’re happy.”*

# ***Culture and Traditions***

I am the proud daughter of immigrants. My family is South Asian, and I make every effort to stay culturally connected to my roots through delicious food, holidays and events, clothes, music, movies, art and my extended family.

I am also part of a multiracial family and, each year, we celebrate Christmas with the kids - looking at Christmas lights, going to fun holiday events, and exchanging gifts. We also commemorate traditional American holidays like Thanksgiving with a big meal and the 4th of July with family barbecues.

My child will learn about my culture and participate in these family traditions, while I honor and celebrate my child's heritage.





Annual Christmas visit



Getting Henna put on for a special holiday



Visiting the Christmas farm



Attending a family wedding



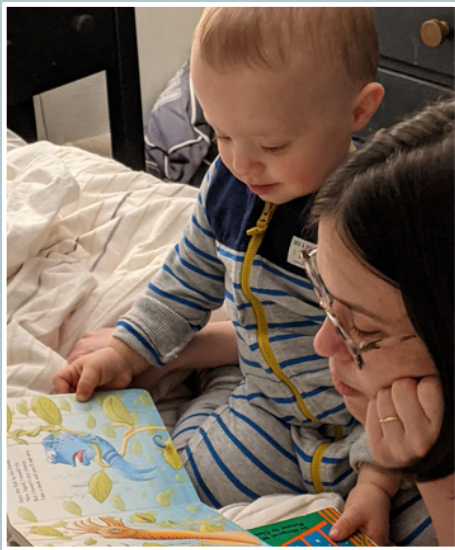
July 4th barbecue with the grandparents

# MY FRIENDS

I have a strong support system of friends who come from various backgrounds. Many of my friends have been in my life a long time, including friends I have known since childhood. The majority of my friends are raising young children and are ready to offer support (as I have done for them) when I become a parent.



# MY FRIENDS

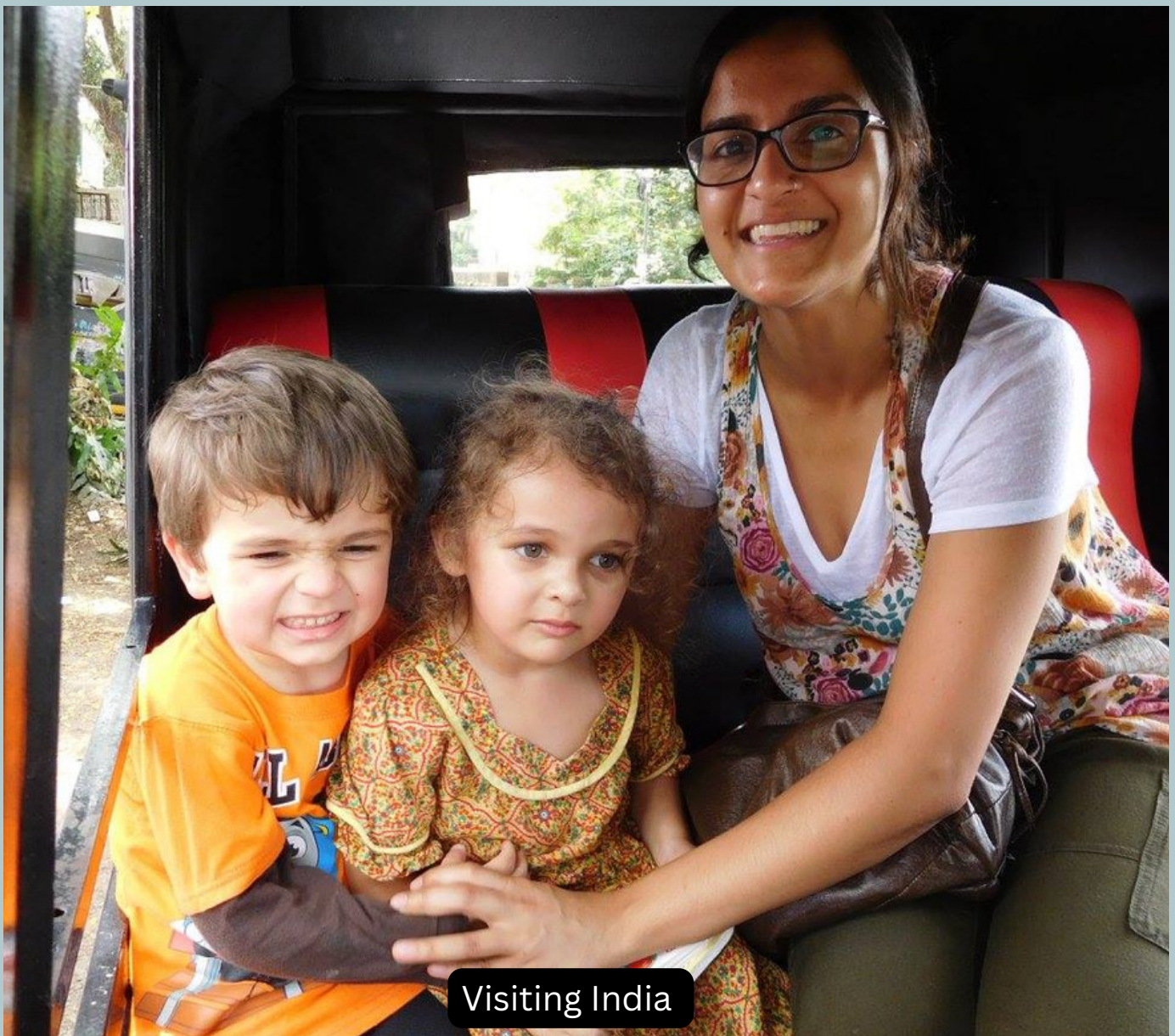




# *Travel and Adventures*

Exploring new places has always been a passion of mine. I have been fortunate enough to travel to different parts of the world and within the U.S. with family and friends.

Some of my favorite places to visit are U.S. National Parks. I love traveling because it gives you a fresh perspective and you get to enjoy entirely new scenery, food, culture, art and people. My child will go on many adventures, near and far, and I hope that he/she will learn to love seeing and experiencing new places as much as I do.





Marfa, West Texas



Crater Lake National Park



Mexico City



Acadia National Park



Iowa



Northern Ireland

# *Our Family Farm*

My parents have owned farmland for about 14 years in Greenville, Texas. My parents used to raise chickens, but now they grow fruit trees.

The farm is about a one-hour drive from my parents' home in North Texas. It is one of my family's favorite places to gather for fishing, collecting wildflowers, hosting family reunions, and watching our dogs run free. It is a peaceful place where the sky feels infinite and the converted barn is a lovely place to rest your head. I can't wait to share our family farm with my future child.







## What we want to say to our future cousin

**From Zayd (age 21):** *"I would tell them hello and give them a hug. I would tell them that if they ever needed anything, they could always ask me or my parents or grandparents or aunts or cousins, and the answer would always be yes. I would tell them how lucky they are to be a part of a family so devoted to each other's well-being and happiness. It is very rare to find a family this conducive to flourishing."*

**From Milat (age 12):** *"There are many things I would like to say to my future cousin. As of now, I have not been blessed with the opportunity to grow up with a younger cousin, but I have always imagined what I would say. I would ask if they wanted to play outside. I would ask if they would like to hear a story. I would tell them about all of my adventures, all the things that we have done, all the things that we will do. I would teach them how to kick a soccer ball. I would show them how to play catch. I would teach them how to read and how to write. I'd play tag with them. I would draw pictures with them."*

**From Amaya (age 11):** *"Hello! My name is Amaya, YOUR future cousin. I'm really excited about the prospect of you coming into our family, like you wouldn't believe. My Alyah Khala will be a fantastic mom for you, and just wait 'till you meet the rest of our family! I am really excited to meet you. So are my Saba Khala and my mom, your Sadaf Khala. I would read to you, and my brother could teach you a few basic things, too. Can't wait to finally meet you!"*

# My Promise to My Future Child



To my future child, I promise a life filled with endless love. I will take you on long walks in nature with Cash, read you stories every night, play make-believe for as long as you want, and be waiting with hugs and your favorite snack after school. I will be there to celebrate every special moment of your life, and your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins will be your biggest supporters.

We will talk about everything, and I will always listen. I promise to be the person you can count on. We will learn how to deal with difficult situations together, and we will rely on our incredible family and friends to support us. I will introduce you to all my favorite songs and we will sing them together and dance endlessly. I will teach you how to tell stories, swim, ride a bike, and we will belly laugh together. I will encourage you to explore and embrace your passions. We will travel to places near and far, and we will be constantly learning about the world around us.

I promise a life filled with family, wonder, joy, and love.

