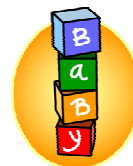


Baker Family Newsletter



Adoption Day
July 3, 2007

Happy Adoption Day

July 3, 2007 at 1:15 pm we sat before The Honorable Steven Scott Stephens and became a family legally.

We got to the courthouse very early and sat outside waiting for our lawyer (Christine Welch) to arrive and then waiting for the bailiff to call our name.

We entered the courtroom with Nana and Gramps (Holly's Parents), Gramma and Grampa (Troy's Parents), and Uncle Denny. Troy, Erik, and I sat at one table and the lawyer at the other.

Erik was surprisingly well behaved. He started pounding on the table the moment we sat down which entertained the judge and set a good mood for the proceedings.

Our lawyer put Troy on the spot by

Family Time

Now that we're a family of 5, we spend a lot of time at home. Erik loves the pool, he recently learned to splash so our pool time consists of countless minutes of splashing mom, dad, himself, and of-course Ginger when she's in the pool. The splashing has also become the main source of entertainment during bath-time as well.

asking him questions such as what his job was, did he feel he made enough to support a family, and if he remembered when Erik came to live with us. Of course Troy remembered but when asked the exact date he said January 29, cause he got confused thinking Erik was born the 27th even though he knew his birthday was the 21st.

The judge asked several times if we were sure we wanted to go through with it as it was an irreversible decision. Then Finally the moment came – he signed the paperwork and legally Erik Troy Baker was born.

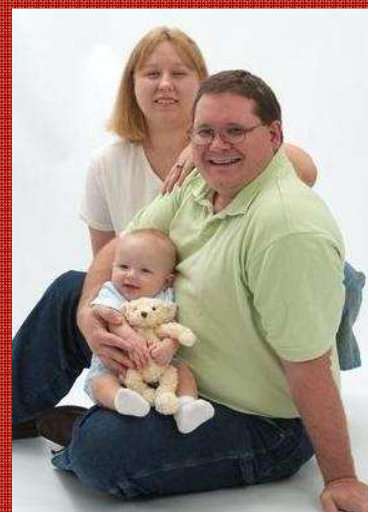


Erik loves the dogs and they love him, especially Freedom who licks him incessantly. You would think Erik would get tired of being licked, but that is not the case. He will turn his head and open his mouth to get licked, then turn away to catch his breath, and turn right back for more licking. And if that doesn't work, he giggles until Freedom licks him.

Special events in our family's life

- We are legally a family now!
- Erik sat up by himself
- Erik gets his first taste of rice cereal and carrots

"It is not flesh and blood, but the heart that makes us a family."



Family Photo taken July 1,
2007



Our Little Angel

Our Little Angel / Devil

Whether he's an angel or devil changes by the minute. We refer to him as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. One minute he'll be smiling at you and the next screaming.

Erik has long lashes and big blue eyes that just rope you right in to doing whatever he wants. He loves pretty much anything outside – swimming, stroller walks, swinging. He also loves to walk himself – assisted by mommy or daddy of course.

He loves to be tickled. His arm and leg pits are the best spots. But his neck and tummy are also very ticklish.

As far as naps go, it really depends on the week. One week he is relatively easy to put down for naps,

the next he fights every single one. The 7pm nap is the worst. He generally takes 2 or 3 short naps during the day and then when Troy and I get him home at night he is so tired and cranky by 7pm we have to force him to take a nap.

We wrap him in a blanket and put the binky in his mouth and take him into his nursery and rock him until he falls asleep. He struggles to try and squirm out of your arms and he does sit ups (he's going to have rock hard abs one day) and eventually he gives in and becomes a beautiful, peaceful sleeping baby.



A Big Day – 2 Milestones

Our little boy is growing quickly. He was almost 15 lbs at his 4 month checkup. The pediatrician warned us that it can take as many as 10 times of a baby tasting a new food before accepting it, and that Erik would probably be one of those that took 10 tries.

That was definitely true when it came to feeding him rice cereal. We followed the instructions on the box which said to add 1 tsp cereal to 4tsp formula. That made it so runny that it was like eating formula off of the spoon. We tried for 4 weeks to get him to eat the cereal that way, but he screamed whenever he saw the spoon coming.

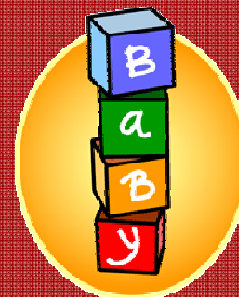
Leave it to Nana and Gramps to solve the problem. They made the cereal thicker and Erik ate the entire tsp of formula. His Gramma was feeding him cereal a week ago and he refused to eat it. Mommy threatened to not let him try carrots if he didn't eat and 2 minutes later he ate all of his cereal in record time. Now he is eating 3 tsp of cereal once or twice a day.

We were really worried about how he would accept new foods. We decided to start with carrots. Troy pureed carrots with his formula and he ate the entire amount we made for him the first time with no problem. We tried the next two days and he fake choked each time we fed him. So mommy said making the food ourselves is too much hassle when he's not going to eat it. We opened a jar of baby food July 5, 2007 and he ate 3/4 of the jar. Cross your fingers, we're hoping it wasn't a fluke.

Oh, and he had a second milestone on the day he ate carrots for the first time. He sat by himself for a few minutes, daddy has the proof on video!



Erik eating carrots for the first time.



4th Of July

