

The Vesper Family Story Script

Emily Vesper: "So we kind of fell in love with her and they asked us to adopt her and we said yes."

This is the story of the Vesper Family. Olathe, KS

Emily Vesper: "There was a news story that um, kind of changed our hearts towards foster care and adoption, about a little boy who had been locked in his attic, had Down syndrome. And we have a biological child with Down syndrome. So that really spoke to us and god used that to kind of change our hearts and say we really need to do this."

The Vespers contacted KVC in January 2011. They were licensed foster care providers by June.

Emily Vesper: "Well, the first 12 kids that we took in were respite care and they were short term. That is a little bit chaotic because they come and go and um every kid has a different need and um actually ava was our first official placement and we got her when she was two days old and that was a bit of a transition. We were not planning on taking infants, so that was kind of a surprise."

Ava was born with drugs in her system. She went straight from the hospital into the Vespers' home. She was a perfect fit for their family and they decided to adopt.

Todd vesper: "It's obviously a big responsibility, just like with any other child, but frankly, in my view and in our view, this was meant to be from the beginning. She was supposed to be with us."

Emily Vesper: "There are some hard things like dealing with the birth family, um and taking them in and know you might have to give them back. It's a huge deal falling in

love with a child and knowing that you might have to say goodbye. So you don't want to candy coat it for people. But I mean, it definitely something that's a huge need. Need to do it."

Todd Vesper: "Obviously, it's not something that everyone can do. There are situations with various things like medical issues we couldn't have done it six years ago when Logan was two because he had all kinds of health issues and we were constantly at children's mercy. Just wasn't practical for our family at the time. There are families where it's not practical for them at the time for various reasons, like that or other reasons. Maybe for them to never do it. If you are able and willing, we would definitely encourage you to give it a try."

Children have come into the Vespers' home burned, bruised and afraid. Emily says one little boy cowered at first when she tried to hug him, afraid of being hit.

Emily Vesper: "and then after a while, he leaned up and gave me a kiss and it's just the best feeling."

She encourages Kansas families to enjoy this same reward by opening their hearts and homes to a child in need.

Emily Vesper: "It's such an amazing journey, um, but you know it can be overwhelming the thought of getting started. Just don't let fear of what might happen hold you back."