

June 3, 2005

Dear Future Au Pair,

My entire family is very excited to meet you and to welcome you to our home, our community, and our country. I would like to tell you a little more about us, about what you might expect when you are here, and what I hope we each will gain from this experience.

My name is Diana, I am 36 years old and I work three days per week, Tuesday - Thursday, as an attorney. My husband, Arno, is 40 years old and works full time as a project manager in the field of Information Technology. Arno is from Cologne, Germany, and he moved to the States in 1999, the year we were married. He is a green card holder, and he came here on a family visa, not a business visa. We only speak English with each other, although he tries to speak mainly German with the children.

My oldest son Noah will be five years old on June 18th. He starts kindergarten in the fall, which is the first year of public school here in the States. My little one is named Lucas; he is 20 months old and will be two years old on October 17. The boys have been in the same daycare since they were four months old, where they advanced with the same group of children, although they had a different teacher each year. They also have a few different babysitters and spend a lot of time with my parents, especially my mother. My parents and my sister and her family currently live 6 miles from us, and the children love spending time with their grandparents and cousins.

At the end of June we are moving to a town much farther away from them, Littleton. The pictures we have sent on line are pictures of our new house, where you will be living with us. The furniture is not ours, but we wanted you to have an idea of what your new home will be like. Littleton is a suburb of Boston, about 40 minutes by car. There is direct train service from Littleton to Boston, and many other commuting options. There are also many colleges and universities, both in Boston and closer to home. Once we get a chance to talk about what your interests are for the study requirement, we can assist you in selecting the best school for your course work.

Littleton is a small town with a rural feel. There is a great deal of open space and farm land, and we are also minutes from a major ski area. In between Littleton and Boston are several other exciting towns with many things to do, such as Concord, Cambridge, and Arlington.

Our children are very loving and get quite attached to their teachers or care givers at school. They are both quite used to being cared for by (and to listen to) adults other than Arno or myself, so after the initial adjustment period I anticipate that they will feel right at home with you.

Noah will be at school five days per week, from 8:30 until 2:00, so you will primarily be taking care of Lucas while I am at work. For these three days, Tuesday - Thursday, we are not sure how often we can leave one of our cars with you. You will be in a neighborhood filled with children and other families, and I will arrange play dates and activities for you to do with Lucas. He naps for at least two hours per day, and is still at that age where he is entertained very easily with some toys, an art project, or taking a walk. When Noah gets home from school, I imagine they will be excited to see each other and may want to play together for some time. You and I can discuss what you need to make this time with Lucas go smoothly for both of you.

We are an informal, flexible, fun-loving family and we hope you are as excited to meet us as we are to meet you. We expect that you will be a responsible adult who will help us care for, love, and discipline our children while adding an invaluable component to our family. We are eager to expose the children to another German speaker, although you will get plenty of English practice with me. (I will not make you listen to my bad German!)

And we think we have a great deal to offer you, because of where we live and also because we are an international family and understand what it is like to be away from home. (I lived in Germany for almost a year, and of course Arno is away from home and family back in Germany.) We will do our best to make this next year a fun, educational and loving experience both for you and for our family.

We cannot wait to see you!

Until then,

Diana, Arno, Noah and Lucas Mueller