

## Yasuyo E. – Japan Placed in Virginia

Yasuyo joined our family in a bit of a nonconventional way, but I am so glad that we both took the risk and plunged ahead! You see, we both had experienced failed matches and were both engaging in the rematch process. Neither of us expected to be in rematch. But, there we were, seeking something different, hoping for a positive experience.

Going to rematch is never fun. It is difficult for both parties because lives are disrupted when it happens. As a single mother to three little girls, it is exhausting preparing the children for a transition in caretakers, getting the house ready, and making all of the arrangements. Yet, it is worth it when the right match is made. That is what happened to us. And, I couldn't be more pleased to nominate Yasuyo for Au Pair of the Year. She is, without a doubt, our family's Au Pair of the Year!



Hands down, Yasuyo, is amazing in every way. She is kind, compassionate, patient, and loving. My children adore her! And so do I! Being an au pair for a family with a single mother and three little girls requires a strong sense of independence and the ability to anticipate needs and to be proactive within the home. She is all of that and more! Yasuyo is trustworthy, responsible, helpful, caring, and diligent. She is a safe and responsible driver and I can trust that she will safely transport

my children to and from school every day. She treats my children with a loving tenderness and has done so consistently from the first day she arrived. And believe me, that is not easy when there are three littles under the age of six who are struggling with the transition and testing the limits of their new caretaker. But, Yasuyo never skipped a beat. Even in the midst of raging four-year-old tantrums, poopy diapers, potty training, loads upon loads of dirty laundry, snotty noses, and toys scattered everywhere,

she encourages the children with a tenderness that is inspirational. She seemed to welcome and embrace the challenge, all with grace and compassion.

One of the unique things about our family is that all of my children joined my family through adoption. When Yasuyo arrived, I was in the process of adopting my youngest child, who had already been living with us for about a year. Anyone who has adopted children knows the ridiculous amount of paperwork that is involved. And, much of that paperwork applies to any adult living in the home. Thus, soon after Yasuyo arrived, she had to complete a round of background checks, fingerprinting, TB tests, and lots of forms in order for my adoption home study to be current and legally approved by our state. Again, Yasuyo never thought twice about helping me in this way, including getting a TB test placed...ouch! But, she not only completed all the requirements, she did so willingly and with a smile. Who smiles through a TB test? Yasuyo does, that's who! I'm so grateful that she was willing to do all of this so that I could move ahead in the process toward adopting my youngest child.

Yasuyo's collaborative and helpful spirit is a gift to our family. I'm ever so grateful that we found each other in the midst of challenging and stressful rematch situations. Our family is blessed to have her as our au pair and she will always be a part of our family.

