



## *Meet The Watts*

"Committed" is the word most often used to describe Philip and Rachael Watts. They began their foster parenting experience by caring for two energetic young children, ages 18 months and 5 years old. When the children came to them, Rachael took time off from her job to arrange for childcare, enroll them in school, and coordinate doctor's visits. "As first time parents, caring for two children at once is challenging but something we felt called by our faith to do," says Rachael. "We enjoy being foster parents and we want to adopt children as well."

Rachael works full time for the State in Disability Determination Services. Philip works for Pro Marketing. The couple shares a deep faith and they are very active in their church, including the children's ministries. They also love reading and Philip is a big sci-fi fan. They are animal lovers and Philip is attending school to become a veterinary technician. They share their Abingdon town home with a dog and two cats.

"We're definitely enjoying being foster parents," says Rachael. "We're enjoying the kids. It's exciting when we see that they understand a concept that is new to them, like saying the alphabet or counting by 10's or seeing them do an activity they really love like dancing or making music." Lori Stephen, a social worker for the Treatment Foster Care Program, notes that "Philip and Rachael are wonderful parents and they work hard to make sure their children's needs are met." But it isn't all about hard work. Philip comments, "We are committed to giving children a stable home where they can grow up learning but having fun as well."

The Watts attended an information session at The Abingdon Library last summer, and then they attended the October 2007 training session. From there The Arc completed a homestudy that consists of interviews by the program's social workers and extensive background checks. In December Philip and Rachael began their journey into parenthood by accepting two young children into their care.



**The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region**  
*Advocacy, Resources, and Community Building*  
*For People With Developmental Disabilities*

[www.arcncr.org](http://www.arcncr.org)