

IDAHO DADS MATTER!

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The Philosophical Dad

...He Shares His Love for Life

SODA SPRINGS—Michael Ballantyne's love for learning and passion for exploring are among the assets the proud father of one-year-old Chloe brings to parenting.

"There's a lot of things I take for granted, but I'm going to get to present those things to Chloe when I can when



she's old enough to understand them," he says. "Sharing new experiences together, that's something I look forward to, says Michael who takes his daughter hiking and swimming—in small doses these days—and who looks forward to longer walks, kicking a ball in the yard, fishing, and to the day Chloe finishes a book.

"We love reading books," Michael explains. "Sometimes that's reading them one time (and) sometimes it's five or six times with the same book, notes the devoted dad who says he adapts his parenting philosophy to Chloe's personality, thus changing his plans as his daughter changes.

"Every person is unique. I'm just trying to figure out who she is and help guide her. I find myself trying to refrain from influencing or tainting her view of how she's seeing the world right now," he says. "I'm trying to adapt to her, and (to) her personality and instill some of the good things that I think I have."

Michael suggests parents would do well to practice patience with their children. "Whatever level of patience you think

you have, up it," he says. "Love your kids for who they are. Try to enjoy and see the world through their eyes because they see the world differently than we do."

Michael and his wife—Chloe's mom, Ludim—speaks Spanish at home to ensure Chloe is part of the lives of her relatives. "Keeping those relationships is important to us," Michael explains, noting the family celebrates special events like Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) to instill the importance of Mexican heritage in their household. "It's something small, but we try to incorporate some cultural events and give her exposure to them. My wife is amazing. The small moments with Chloe that I get are only possible because of how amazing my wife is," Michael said warmly.

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see the world
through their eyes."**

— Michael Ballantyne