

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Michael Hormel ([00:03](#)):

My name is Michael Hormel.

Carrie Snyder ([00:04](#)):

Carrie Snyder and the address is-

Michael Hormel and Carrie Snyder ([00:06](#)):

631-

Michael Hormel ([00:06](#)):

Deepdene Road

Carrie Snyder ([00:08](#)):

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Deepdene Road. So it's nine o'clock. I am getting ready for work. Trying to get out the door, which is always really hard when she's awake.

Speaker 3 ([00:17](#)):

Tell me who you've got here with you.

Michael Hormel ([00:19](#)):

I have my four-month-old daughter, Piper Ren. I am now a full-time stay-at-home dad.

Carrie Snyder ([00:25](#)):

This is our bottle station. You can see the dry rack is just full of bottles. And I pump at work, which is a real pleasure, and they have to be washed every day before work. So everything has to be clean, and then I take it to work and dread every pumping session.

Michael Hormel ([00:45](#)):

Because of the nature of my wife's work, she's got a really great career going, we decided that I would be the one to stay home. And with the cost of daycare, it really was kind of a wash for my salary. But I was very excited and eager to be the one that gets to stay home with her because I thought my wife would want to do it.

Carrie Snyder ([01:06](#)):

I like to work. And we agreed that it, for my mental health, would make sense for me to go back to work. And that, if we could figure out how he could stay home, what a gift to our kid and to ourselves those first couple of years. I got to go. I got to go Stinker. I got to go.

Michael Hormel ([01:21](#)):

No, hey. It's a pretty standard day. We don't have any trips planned, so we're going to have a bath. We're going to have several nice, long, naps. And hopefully she'll sleep well today, because it depends. It depends on if she needs me to hold her or she's feeling pretty independent, so that changes on a daily basis. Sometimes I can just put her in the crib and she puts herself to sleep. Sometimes she needs help. And so I'll just pick a couple songs that I know the lyrics to, and I'll butcher that. And usually about two songs will get her to collapse into deep sleep, so (singing).

Speaker 3 ([02:23](#)):

What do you think she's going to dream about during this nap?

Michael Hormel ([02:33](#)):

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

I think right now her dreams are probably our voices. The sound of words, and the melodies that we hum into her ear, and the colors and shapes that she sees every day. (Singing).

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).