After holding out for 15 ½ months, Madelyn FINALLY decided she was ready to walk without Mom and Dad's help. Professional that she is, she now shows off by dancing, twirling in circles, and climbing on everything. She also loves books, singing, babies, and anything that Grace does.

Jill started a Ph.D. program in School Technology
Leadership at the University of Kentucky. Online
Saturday classes, lots of reading and writing, and weekly discussion posts mean Mommy is busy. The girls have started to learn to do things Daddy's way!

Grace and Madelyn took in 2 ISU football games with grandparents. Grace's enthusiasm for football seemed an excuse to wear her Cyclone cheerleading outfit, until Geoff attempted to watch Cyclone basketball with her. She replied, "Dad, I just want to watch football."



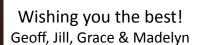
2 years later, we reveal our finished basement fireplace. Madelyn loves to help Dad build a fire and reminds us that the fire is "hot" with her newfound language skills.



Summer break meant a roadtrip to splash on the waterslides at the Wisconsin Dells, relax on the boat and do some fishing at the cabin, and visit zoo animals and aquarium fish in Chicago before helping Jinny and Justin with projects at their first house.



Grace has begun to show us all her perception of a Mommy by playing pretend and claiming she needs her coffee and high heels to go to work. She loves dressing up, playing outside in the sandbox, going to gymnastics and tennis, reading, helping Dad in the shop, and anything princess.



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The Coleman pop-up camper was restless after spending 2 years in the garage, so it made trips to Ledges State Park, Wyalusing State Park in WS, and Minneapolis. As a bonus, our Minneapolis camping trip included 45 minutes of chilling in the bathrooms when the sirens blew at midnight.