





An overseas flight with a young child can be a nightmare. But for Joanna Figueroa's mom, relief was a just a bag of buttons away. En route from their home in Poland to Los Angeles, Joanna's mom gave her buttons and a needle and thread. After stitching several to her own dress, little Joanna roamed the aisle. "My mother says that for ten hours I sewed buttons on anyone who would let me," she says.

While Joanna tried many crafts, her love of stitching resurfaced during her first guilting class. Pattern production followed and seven years ago she began designing fabric for Moda. She is currently working on her 20th line.

In addition to her warm color palette, Joanna is known for her company, Fig Tree Quilts. Being self-employed is familiar territory—her entrepreneurial dad enlisted family assistance with his home-based businesses, including a hair care company: Joanna's and her sister's chores included filling bottles from a giant shampoo-dispensing machine. Fig Tree Quilts brings that experience full circle: Joanna's husband oversees operations and her eldest son helps package patterns. "Eventually all three children will be involved in some way," she says.

Joanna's passing down more than business acumen: her kids share her love of textiles and stitching. "The boys won't admit it in front of their friends, but they're interested in guilting and love to pick out fabrics," she says. "And when my yardage comes from Moda, they're right there—when the Snuggle arrived it was so soft, they pulled it out and rolled around in it!"

Joanna derives inspiration from myriad sources, including the city of Paris, French travel posters, stationary stores, and vintage children's toys and books. "I drag my family to many a flea market," says Joanna. "I consider going to those part of my job."

The family also loves to explore new towns, and on weekends they'll get a map, find a town two to three hours away from their Northern California home, and hit the road, ready to try new foods and soak up the architecture and atmosphere.

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FT 875/ FT 875G Petite Fours Quilt 68"x 68"



FT 877/ FT 877G Prairie Sweet Revisited Quilt 631/2"x 731/2"



FT 882/ FT 882G Strawberry Shortcake

Dancing Dollies Sampler

FT 878/ FT 878G

Quilt 63¹/₂"x 73¹/₂"





FT 883 Sparrows



FT 881/FT 881G Raindrops





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