

Down Syndrome Case Study

Lisa is an eight-month old girl who is living at home with both parents. She is the youngest child with two older brothers and one older sister. The closest sibling in age is 10 years older. This is a prominent family in the community whose history and wealth go back for generations.

Lisa and her family are involved with Peel Infant Stimulation Program and have been so since Lisa's birth as she was born with Down Syndrome. One month after birth Lisa had heart surgery to repair a hole in her heart. As she grows she will have to have additional surgery. Lisa has had ear infections and the doctors are monitoring these so her hearing will not be affected.

Lisa is beginning to sit on her own yet has limited strength or muscle control. She needs to be set in the sitting position in order to hold it. Lisa seems delighted as she sits and observes the world around her. As she gets excited she loses her balance and smiles. She is capable of lifting her head and of rolling over on her own. Lisa can reach and grasp for toys and she recognizes her favourites. Lisa enjoys taking a bath as long as she feels secure and there is no splashing.

Lisa responds to her name and recognizes family members. She becomes distraught if she is left with a stranger or a new therapist comes into the home to work with the family. When Lisa is at ease she will coo and laugh when you play games with her such as peek-a-boo. She enjoys songs being sung to her and this is a good way to relax her as well as rubbing her back.